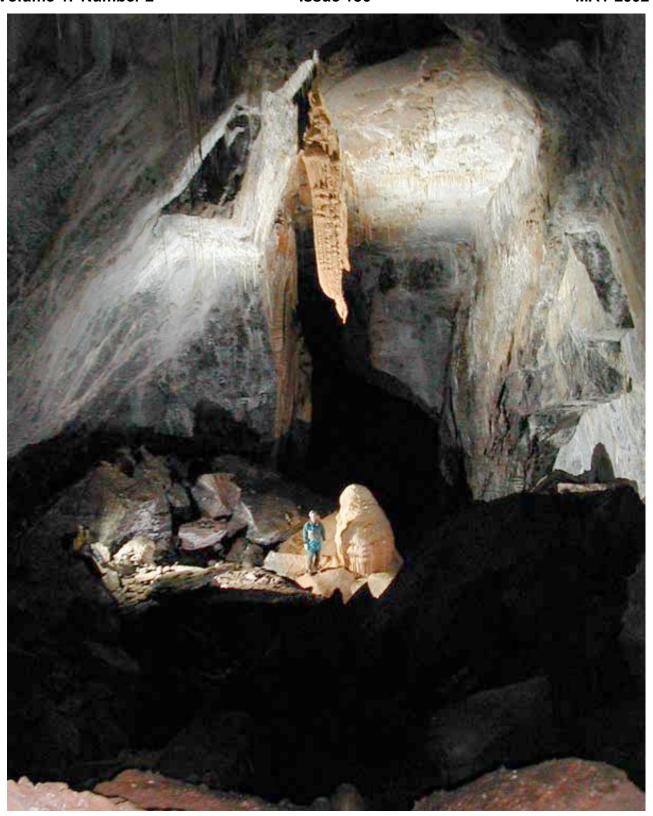
# **CEGSA NEWS**



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

Volume 47 Number 2 Issue 186 MAY 2002



# **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: Genghis Kahn Cave, Tasmania. Photo: Marie Choi.

MAY 2002

## **CONTENTS**

Volume 47 Number 2

Volume 47 Number 2	ISSUE 186		MAY 2002
CONTENTS		AUTHOR	PAGE
Presidents Spot		Marie Choi	33
Training Courses		Marie Choi	33
Stock Take		Paul Harper	33
TRIP REPORTS			
Tasmania Dec 27 <sup>th</sup> 2001 – Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> 2002		Marie Choi et al	34
Easter @ Naracoorte		Adam Branford	47
Through the Eyes of a Visitor		Rob Garrett	50
Flinders Ranges 22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 1 <sup>st</sup> April	E	ddie Rubessa & Bill Bi	nks 52
Corra Lynn 24 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> April		George MacLucas	55
Corra Lynn May 4 <sup>th</sup> Caving and BBQ social da	ay	Marie Choi	55
Corra Lynn May 12 <sup>th</sup>		Marie Choi	56
TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES			
Membership		Chris Gibbons	57
Membership Fees		Chris Gibbons	58
CEGSA Approved Trip Leaders		Committee	58
Library and Records		George MacLucas	58
Journey Into Amazing Caves		Adam Branford	59
Calendar of Events			60

Issue 186

## **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 47 Number 3 (Issue 187) must reach the Editor by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2002. 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

Well we are almost halfway through the year and although things got off to a slow start because of Insurance they are starting to pick up again. One of our biggest problems has been visitors and insurance. The ASF has helped come up with a short-term membership that gives what used to be visitors an opportunity to try caving at a relatively small fee before they commit for a full years membership. Initially set at \$20 this has now been increased to \$25 and gives those people 3 months membership with insurance protection. Please check with the committee before confirming costs and details as these may change again, but we will do our best to keep you informed.

We have had 2 Social Caving events this year so far. 28 CEGSA and CCV cavers got together for an enjoyable Easter at Naracoorte and about 20 people turned up at Corra Lynn including 6 new short term members and 5 new associates. Plans are afoot to hold a few more of these events through out the year keep posted and keep caving.

Marie Choi

## TRAINING COURSES

FINAL CALL - Only 1 Grant Left.

Congratulations to Linda Deer who has been awarded the first Grant.

CEGSA recently obtained a small grant to train some of its members as accredited trainers and assessors. If you are a full member with at least 2 years membership and have had some training involvement, any level or already have train the trainer please contact Marie Choi for more details. These courses can cost up to \$1000 and are recognised in most work places.

## <u>APPLICATIONS CLOSE WITH MARIE ON JUNE 10th</u>

# STOCKTAKE

The Quartermaster wants to update the register of all CEGSA assets.

Would any member who has CEGSA property in their possession, or who knows where property is please contact the QM so that its location can be recorded.

This includes caving equipment, survey equipment, digging gear, keys, radios, Cave tags, stretchers/dragmats and anything else that belongs to the club.

If you have books, maps or records contact the Librarian / Records Officer.

#### Paul Harper

Quartermaster / Key Holder

## TRIP REPORTS

# Tasmania Caving Trip: Mole Creek and Ida Bay December 27<sup>th</sup> 2001 – January 13<sup>th</sup> 2002

Participants;

CEGSA: Marie Choi, Dave Glowacki, Paul Deer, Amanda Grindley, Kathy Binks, Reto

Zollinger

VSA: Yvonne Ingeme

OVERSEAS: Mark Scott, Scott Smith, Mick Fingleton, Olly Betts

OTHER CAVE VISITORS: Paul Kemp UTAH, Bob and Pru Wellington NEW ZEALAND, Ian

Marrin HOBART, Bella Donna HOBART.

Tassie Cave Leaders: Dave Buttler (Prohibition Cave) Janice March (Kubla Khan Cave) Arthur

Clarke (Exit Cave)

#### **TEAM PROFILES**

Name: Marie Choi

Memberships: CEGSA, FUSSI, ASF, BCRA.

Home: Adelaide

Claim to Fame: Least amount of Caving done In Tassie because she falls

over a lot and stuffs her ankle. Mummsys getting Old



Name: Dave Glowacki
Memberships : CEGSA, ASF.
Home: Naracoorte

Claim to Fame: His Butt appears in more photos than even lan from CCV.

He also has to be one of the least successful fishermen in

Tassie.

Name: Paul (Twiggy)Deer Memberships: CEGSA, ASF. Home: Adelaide

Claim to Fame: Champion Twiggy Stick eater. Has the worst Irish accent

when he's drunk and tends to fall down a lot. Also will do

almost anything for \$20 US.



Name: Kath Binks Memberships : CEGSA, ASF. Home: Adelaide

Claim to Fame: Fits into Amanda's Trog Suit for last minute visits into

Kubla

Name: Amanda (I'm Driving)Grindley

Memberships: CEGSA, ASF.

Home: Sonoma County, California Claim to Fame: Blonde Champion Waterless

**Egg Boiler** 





Name: Reto Zollinger
Memberships: CEGSA, ASF.
Home: Hamilton Victoria

Claim to Fame: The brightest caver in Australia. Where did he get that suit?

Name: Yvonne Imege
Memberships: VSA, ASF.
Home: Hamilton, Victoria
Claim to Fame: Champion of Tree Rights





Name: Mick (Paddy) Fingleton Memberships: Crackpots, SFBC, LEARN.

Home: Sunnyvale, California
Claim to Fame: Claims to be an Irish an

Claims to be an Irish and that he really doesn't live in the US



Name: Scott Smith

Memberships: SOCAL . NSS, LEARN
Home: Los Angelous, California
Claim to Fame: Really loves Australian Emoos

Name: Mark (Skid Mark) Scott
Memberships: SFBC, LEARN, CUCC, NSS
Home: San Francisco, California
Claim to Fame: British Born American

Methane Champion



Name: Olly Betts

Memberships: Red Rose, CUCC.

Home: Sonoma County, England
Claim to Fame: Falls asleep a lot even when he's

being chatted up by young

women in miniskirts.



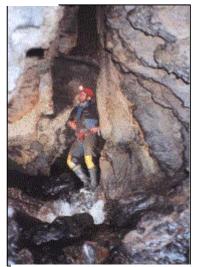
Day 1: Friday December 28th 2001

#### MY CAVE MC 141

This was the first cave for the CEGSA 2001-2 Tasmania trip.

The members of the group were Mick (Paddy) Fingleton, Amanda Grindley, Kathy Binks, Scott Smith and Paul Deer, Ian Farhall (Pom 2), Dave Glowacki and Marie Choi.

We spent a while trying to get in touch with the land owners to get permission to cross their property. Then we took a while finding the right track to the property, giving the rental Magna a work out in the process. Once we found the right gate we headed up to the farmhouse to sign in only to hear on their radio system a message from the farmer out in the field that "the tourists have arrived", we presume that he was referring to us.



Ian Farhall in Mv Cave

The next trick was finding the cave, no problems with Marie's GPS! It got us within 10m of the cave entrance. Not bad for the GPS's first use.

We explored the cave for a couple of hours. Headed down to the end and took some photos. A couple of us went in a smaller squeeze with some real pretties. We ended up heading out in dribs and drabs, through a slightly different passage.

A good little explore for our first cave. Good practice in finding them anyway, we will see if we get any better at that side of it all.

#### Kathy Binks CEGSA

## Day 2: Saturday December 29th 2001

#### Prohibition Cave MC 125

We got the message that Dave Butler was going to be at the campsite at 8:30. It was 8 am already and we were just waking up from a long nights sleep.

When Dave showed up we were still eating breakfast (consisting of coffee and cereal) and we had many questions. How long is the trip (3 hours). How much of the cave is unexplored, where is the connection to Mammoth Cave, all the usual questions.

The members of the group were Mick (Paddy) Fingleton, Amanda Grindley, Kathy Binks, Scott Smith and Paul Deer. Reto Zollinger and Yvonne Ingeme were coming along to look at the cave entrance and see the top of the drop that was rumoured to be in the cave.

We finally packed up the gear and set off. Dave had a truck and the rest of us drove in the rental car. We drove up the dirt road towards the cave. We reached a gate and we parked the rental car and Paul and Scott climbed. As we were passing this one hermits house, we stopped to converse with him. He wanted us to know that he was going to lock the gate and that the crown was going to change the way he lived because the neighbour wanted to log their land and they changed the law specifically so they can gain the right of way through his lamb, blah blah. He was doing the usual Aussie mumbling so it was hard to understand him anyway. Amanda seemed interested in talking to him and we must have sat there for an hour and I don't think she asked for his phone number. And we haven't even gotten in the cave.

After we escaped from the landowner, we drove down this really bad road towards the cave. Then disaster struck. A tree had fallen across the road and it appeared that we could go no further. Dave jumped out of the truck with his trusty handsaw, and we went to work. We huffed and we puffed and we cut up the dead tree. For the first time since I have known Mick, he actually did some work, although I think he quit before he broke a sweat. This 20 minutes or so of cutting saved us an extra kilometre of walking.

We drove though the bushes and mud and finally could not go any further. We picked up our packs and off we were, looking for a cave. Since the trail was pretty much overgrown, we were walking through brush and other (expletive deleted). I must say, tree tastes pretty good after a few samples.

We took about 30 minutes to find the cave and Dave led us down this really muddy, slippery slope to the cave entrance. We rigged up and entered the cave (finally)

We then went into the cave and got out.

#### **Scott Smith**

#### San Francisco Bay Chapter

## Day 3: Sunday December 30<sup>th</sup> 2001

#### Party 1

#### **Croesus Cave MC 13**

Today we all jumped out of bed at some ungodly hour (not easy for cavers!) to be geared up and ready for Kubla Khan at 8am....all was well though we were all stuffed from the previous days caving in Prohibition Pot Cave.

Note: don't plan Kubla after Prohibition

Because of this I decided that due to the way I was feeling, a less strenuous cave was in need and relented my spot to Kathy (lucky @#\$%\$).

Kubla I've been told is gorgeous and the Mecca of caving in Tassie and I wanted to really enjoy it so ...next time.

So off to Croesus with Dave G, Yvonne & Reto Zollinger and Paul Kemp.

Brilliant cave, absolutely brilliant, will have to go back again and again. The staircase of rim pools was stunning and I recommend this cave for anyone as an introduction to Tassie caving. Things of interest

Lots of Platypus poop deep into the cave.

Entrance had some cave spiders...that were rather large glad I didn't see them on the way in.

Ooooooolites too

Gypsum .....and loads of decoration

Also Mark Scott arrived minus luggage but was able to go caving anyway!.....luggage ended up in New Zealand.....figure that?

#### Amanda Grindley CEGSA

#### Party 2

## Kubla Khan MC 1, MC 29

The members of the group were Mick, Amanda, Paddy, Kathy, Scott, Paddy, Sheila, Paul, Oliver, Janice, an Irish man, a dancing baby and a couple of dozen more who's names I can't remember.

We started the day by testing the paint job on our brand new rental – 10 Km on the clock when we got it. We had some nice scraping sounds on the track towards the cave but hopefully they only check the sides of the car when we return it and not the roof or the underside.

We then unloaded the tour bus and all 37 of us started to kit up. There was one refusal at the first fence – a young blonde (yeah right) Aussie filly got her kit on but then, as she tends to, she whipped her kit off as soon as she could. After kitting up I ran into a local lad who taught me some native dances. It was a bit similar to Irish dancing except there was a bit too much upper body movement. Basically you stretch your two arms out and up a bit and stomp your right leg.



Washing ropes after Kubla

Dave Glowacki (f#%\*#n' superstar) headed off and rigged the exit pitch for us as our wonderful guide Janice was in a bit of a hurry – she has a child who's very fond of her breasts and wanted to exit the cave before watering time. We did the usual tramp through the Tassie undergrowth looking for the upper entrance – not bad on this trip as we found the cave within 5 hours.

OK – here's the bit you're waiting for – we got into the cave. Unfortunately one of my slaves got dropped on the first pitch and hasn't been seen flashing since – his name was Twiggy and I've got to

say he was a good slave – well known for cleaning the bathrooms in the campground. No worries though mateies since I had 4 other slaves with me on that trip.

After dropping the first pitch we had a bit of fun trying to pull the rope down – not a chance. We had to send Ollie, the English Man, back up the pitch to sort it out – who said they were good for nothing. After a quick footbath and a manicure we carried on through the cave.

I do have to say that Kubla is one of the best caves I've ever been through. The pretties were amazing and I was very impressed with the efforts to preserve the place. I reckon a good hour of the trip was spent washing feet – we could probably even add a new chapter to the bible with the amount of foot washing that went on.

I wont rant and rave about the beauty of the cave as you've probably heard it all before – suffice to say we bopped around and saw all the good stuff and took the odd piccie here and there.

Having such a large group meant we didn't race through the cave but also meant we had some characters. An example is Twiggy who went into the cave wearing trousers, switched to a skirt and then whipped that off before the exit swim. We had Scott, the seppo, who spent the day gathering souvenirs. He found some very nice white bits growing out of the walls and reckoned he'd bring them back to the USA. Ollie, the English man, was on a mission. Spent the day racing through the cave. Not sure if he even noticed the pretty stuff or if he was just looking for somewhere new to claim for the queen. Kathy, a local lass, seemed to enjoy bursting out of her suit. Me myself spent the day acting like my Japanese ancestors – camera here, camera there – guess the only difference is it takes me a bit longer to get a head after a glow worm when I drink.

Time for lunch now so I guess this is the end.

Thanks to everyone who made this trip possible. Marie Choi – super organized which I would have never believed. Janice our guide – good fun and didn't mind us climbing the formations. Janice's husband, the gatekeeper and minder of the dancing baby. Dave Glowacki who not only rigged the exit pitch but also fed us when we got back topside.

Got to say that this is a great country with really cool people – hope we can return the hospitality sometime.

#### G'day Mick the Paddy. San Francisco Bay Chapter

## Day 4: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001

#### Genghis Kahn MC 38

On the trip were David G., Amanda, Kathy, Yvonne and Reto and Paul from Utah

Got lost on the way up and had to spread out and scout around to find the cave entrance. In the process Reto found another cave, possibly an exit from Kubla. Dave at last found the cave and with a series of requests for calls we bush bashed our way to the cave entrance.

As the previous trip had had trouble unlocking the gate we took the added precaution of taking the WD40 with us just in case, but it was not required.

The rope was rigged and we started climbing down. Two humungous cave spiders were there to greet us on the way down, hanging out upside down in strategic handholds.

Safely off rope we continued to descend down over the rock falls. Some of the rocks were more like huge boulders which were to present their own little problems.



Genghis Kahn Chamber

boulders which were to present their own little problems when it came time to go back up.

Once down into the cave we found it to be nice and dry, no cold water to wade through which made a relieving change to the previous few days caving. No icy cold nuts for the guys on this trip!!!

The cave had fantastic formations, especially aragonite needles/flowers/clusters and it soon turned into an intense photographic trip. There was the constant sound of "oohs", "aahs", "wows" and "look at this one!!!" There were constant calls of "wait a minute", "poof there", "all lights off" and "1,2,3" buzzing throughout the cave, with flashes going off all over the place.

Amanda, unfortunately, was the only one without a camera and so was allocated the chief flash slave and was accordingly sent in all directions with the associated \*#\$@%!! Can we go now!!

A few rolls of film were changed in cameras and we were on our way again further down into the cave. We ended up in a heavily decorated chamber. David was sent on to scout out a way but reported back that it was too good to trog through.

So we partook in a bit of an energy boost and had a bit of a chocky fix! A few more photos and then much to Amanda's delight decided to head back but via a slightly different route, completing a small circuit. And what did we find but more specky decorations and the cameras were out yet again.

There was a fantastic white column with a bit of a flow stone waterfall happening behind it. Hopefully the photos will turn out! Lots of Helictites hanging off straws. This part of the cave certainly had a bit of a WA feel about it.

A few more aragonite needles were begging to be photographed and then it was time to try and climb back up the rock fall. A bit more difficult than coming down, then back up the rope, past the spiders and back out the gate with the leaches.

This time we followed the track back to the cars. Ah! That's where the path goes!!!!

#### Yvonne Ingeme VSA

#### **NEW YEARS EVE:**

Due to the lousy weather the BBQ and Bonfire at Deb Hunters was cancelled so CEGSA and Visitors headed off to the Mole Creek Pub for what was an excellent meal. We hoped the Vics would join us when they got out of Devils Pot cave. The Mole creek pub has a secret recipe for their chips and I must say they were the best any of us had ever tasted. After our meal we retired to the front bar to mix with the locals and to enjoy a few rounds of 8-Ball. Dave and Amanda tended to hog the table a lot and the drunker they got the better they played no matter what distractions others made. Oh and Ollie had his usual Nap. As the Vics hadn't joined us by 11pm we decided to head back to camp to join them only to find very few people there, as the Groups in Devils Pot were now several hours overdue.



Paul enjoying New Years Eve too much.

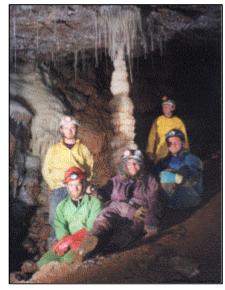
I have never seen a bunch of drunken cavers sober up so quick when the thought of a possible search was announced. Fortunately there were a few sober Mole Creek cavers around who started the ball rolling. Luckily it wasn't needed as the missing groups turned up shortly after. Apparently they underestimated the time it would take and the cars are a little harder to find in such thick Scrub. (Just ask Motty how easy it is to loose your cars.) Our group quickly reverted back to its original state and we all saw the New Year in happy that everyone was safe.

#### Marie Choi CEGSA

## Day 5: Tuesday January 1st 2002

## **Genghis Kahn Cave and Rest Day**

Whilst many recovered from the previous night celebrations a few brave soles namely Marie C, Scott, Mick, Paul and Reto ventured into Genghis Kahn Cave for a photographic trip. We made our way to the car park and recorded the location on GPS, as we knew because of the late start we would not be venturing out until after dark. We made our way quickly to the entrance and watched amused as Mick attempted to remove a few squilian leeches. (I don't think he likes them!) . We made our way quickly to the 1<sup>st</sup> large chamber where Mick proceeded to set up with array of firefly slave units for his photography. I had a good opportunity to try out my new digital camera and was greatly impressed with the results and if our film shots are half as good I will be very happy.



2<sup>nd</sup> Chamber in Genghis Kahn Cave

#### Marie Choi CEGSA

## Day 6: Wednesday January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2002

#### Lynds cave MC 14

Paul (Twiggy), Mick (Paddy), Scott (Seppo), and Bob the New Zealander.

With a full team the group headed off down the Mersey River. The walk down was rather chilly and very slippery. Scott managed to fall in at one stage, pity no one else got to see it. Once we finally got down to the cave the water temperature dropped again and feet were starting to get chilly. The gate was easy to unlock and we were in rather quickly and heading up the cave. Inside the cave the temperature dropped again. Just to make us even more comfortable.

The waterfall near the start was an easy traverse for all and no one fell in. Next came a nice passage way with a lovely cold stream going down it. Some one should really invest in some water heaters for that cave. After a small rock to climb over we came up to some impressive flowstone banks. It is a pity that they have cracked severely. In some points the banks have dropped by about 6 centimetres. The reflections of the flowstone in the slower flowing water were rather nice too. As we got further into the cave the passages got a bit trickier to navigate but it was still standing passage even though it was on a fair bit of a slope. We came out into a bit of a chamber with a really nice column surrounded by flowstone banks. Mick decided it was a nice spot for a photo so the slave bunnies were sent forth to light the way.

Just past this section we got to the rock pile that we were told of and this turned out to be a little bit tricky to navigate. We went up through a hole out of the creek and came out onto a "dancing floor" as it was named by the group. It was basically the top of the flowstone banks that paddy had just taken a photo of. Many people had been there before us. This let us see the big column from a different angle and it was just as impressive as before. There was a nice stalagmite on the floor surrounded by rim pools that was photographed numerous times. We then decided that we would have to go back down the hole and grovel about in the streamway to progress further. This made us all a tad colder as the stream reached critical depth. The taller folks managed to stay a bit dryer. It was a bit hard to navigate through this pile and a few times paddy and twiggy had to wait for the others to find the right way.

Once through the rock pile the tunnel was pretty low to the water for a while with decoration scattered about and eventually opened up to a chamber with some nice decorations that mick just had to photograph. Bob started to zoom ahead into a crawlway filled with pencil thin columns. The other three decided it was probably time to head out since we were meant to be cooking tea for the other group. Once Bob returned we made our way out and locked the gate behind us. After a nice cold

slippery walk up the Mersey we were greeted by other members of the party and had a chat before heading back to camp.

#### Paul Deer CEGSA

## Day 7: Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2002

#### Marakoopa Cave MC 120

Marakoopa - Wild section.

Paul, Mick, Scott, Bob.

After a quick run through the tourist section, the group headed to the start of the wild section and sent Scott across the traverse first with a tape in hand to set up a belay line for the others. Paul followed without

too much trouble, and then bob came down and made it look awkward. Mick followed and after making sure the tourists couldn't play with the tape, we headed into the cave. After passing the water tank, which was the only thing we were told about direction, we were on our own and went under a bit of a crawl into a big chamber. Here we followed the main footstep path in a circle and looked at the pretties, after a bit we decided on another route and found another chamber filled with decoration.

Mick put his camera away and we headed off down a side passage and found the water and some nice reflective track markers. Following the creek up got us to a sump, and then up to a room with some nice flowstone turning into a row of shawls at the bottom. There was even a rock that looked like a starfish with the shawls hanging off it. This was the end of this passage so we though we would turn back and head out.

On our way back someone with keen eyesight found the highway of track markers going up a slope, so we followed and found some lovely pools with lots of calcite rafts that are slowly being damaged. This was noted on the trip report and hopefully will be marked shortly so it doesn't get damaged more. At the end of this passage we found the room with all the Helictites and aragonite and lots of other great formations. In this room there was supposed to be some selenite needles, but we were a bit rushed for time and were unable to locate them. We headed out after Mick had taken a few rolls of film and we all managed to do the traverse up with no difficulty at all. It looked much easier than the abseil the other group had to do and required much less rigging. I recommend this way if all your party members are happy with it, It saves a fair bit of time.

#### Paul (Twiggy) Deer CEGSA

## Day 8 Friday January 4th 2002

Moving Day

Well after quite a late night for some as it was Kaths last night with the group (or so we thought, She rejoined the group at Ida bay) we managed to get all the gear packed for the move to Hobart. Mark and Olly gave a Kath a lift to Launceston, whilst Amanda decided to go with Dave G so they could catch up. That left Paul and I with The Yank and the Irishman (Scott and Mick). First Stop was the Mole Creek animal sanctuary so the Yank could see an emooo!!!. Disappointment came as there were none, as we have come to find out that the native emooos were wiped out some time ago. They did get to pat a Koala and cuddle a wombat and to see a number of other native animals up close.

After some time at the park we headed off and had a late lunch at the Historic St Andrews Inn were Mick got a chance to sample some local Irish Soda Bread, which met with his approval. We were due to meet the rest of the group in Hobart at 4.30pm to then go on to my friend Bella's unit. Amanda decided that she needed a shopping fix and maxed out her cards. We all had a quick look around the shops before heading to Bella's at Blackmans Bay.

At Bella's we were greeted by her and her 2 lively kids Reef and Sage who love a large audience. Sage proceeded to give Mick some fashion advice and promptly added a blonde wig and scarf to his attire. We all then headed back into Hobart for a meal at Sals at Salamanca Square and strolled around for a while before heading back to Bella's for an early night.

Marie Choi CEGSA

## Day 9 Saturday January 5<sup>th</sup> 2002

#### **Shopping, Market Day & Dancing**

The early morning alarm of the kids jumping on full bladders worked well (I love it when kids do what I ask), gradually everyone got their act together to then head off to the Markets. We met up again at 1pm for lunch and to catch up with the Victorians and plan our assault on the Hobart nightlife. We headed back to Bella's for a clean up and then back to Salamanca Square for dinner at Mammarlukas. We met the Vic's at Nock woods pub for a few drinks then headed to The Irish pub for some more drinking and dancing to some funky Music. It's amazing how many cavers say they don't dance that is until they get a few drinks into them. Mind you after observing their styles I'm wondering if a few of them forgot to mention if they suffered from seizures!! The group was also a little jealous when Stud muffin Ollie who was sitting down asleep was approached by a young lady in a mini skirt.



The Irish Pub and Olly's new Girl!

Bella and Doug then suggested we head off to another nightclub

across the square. After some more dancing and drinking we headed back to Bella's at 4am, the
Victorians headed off to the casino nightclub. (Well they did have a lower average age and some of
us oldies need our beauty sleep).

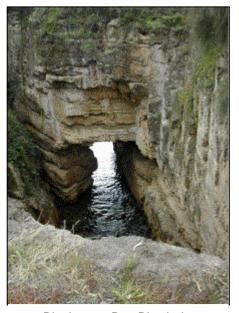
#### Marie Choi CEGSA

## Day 10 Sunday January 6th 2002

Moving Day to Ida Bay

I was woken by an 8am phone call about picking up the key for exit cave after getting the new details I went back to bed for a few hours like everyone else. We finally all got up to a late breakfast. A few headed into Hobart for last minute errands whilst Dave head off for some fishing and actually caught something, although he reckons the big one got away when it broke his rod!! Paul, Bella and I headed to a beach side café where we were met by Scott and Mick and then walked up to a look out over a large blowhole. At that point my phone rang and it was Arthur Clarke from Dover. As I tended to that the others couldn't resist entering the bottom level of the blowhole. We then packed up and headed to Arthur's house at Dover.

Arriving at the house in daylight there were many ums and ahhs as they took in the beauty of Arthur's place. We then headed for the awesome rope swing, which everyone without brains had a



Blackmans Bay Blowhole

go on. Arthur and Robyn rocked up around 10pm as I was preparing a very late dinner of soggy noodle stir-fry. Those of us with stamina then went over the exit Cave map and location details.

#### Marie Choi CEGSA

## Day 11 Monday January 7<sup>h</sup> 2002

We were woken early by a call from Dave G who had left his car keys in one of the hire cars and was now stranded at Bella's. Amanda volunteered to take Dave his keys and miss the Exit Trip.

The rest of the group gradually awoke to head off to Exit the rain came down heavy within in half an hour of their leaving, and with a 2-3 hour walk ahead of them and with me leaving my Gore-Tex in Adelaide I'm glad I decide to sit it out and work on the trip report. Arthur and Robyn then informed me that this has been the coldest and wettest December in recorded history in Tasmania.

#### Marie Choi CEGSA

#### Exit Cave IB 14E



Scott after returning from the hike to exit

After collecting the key the previous night we set off real early (around 2pm) in order to get a good trip in Exit. Five set out for the cave — myself, Scott, Mark, Ollie and Twiggy. None of us had been to Exit before so we were a bit more concerned about the above ground route finding than we were about finding out way through the cave. We set off with detailed directions from Arthur — park the car, walk up the hill and you'll meet a downed tree, step over the log and walk 30 paces where you have to pass around the right side of another log... I had the instructions written. It took three rolls of toilet paper to write all the instructions since they were so detailed. Having the toilet paper proved real useful as Twiggy's overactive bowel started rumbling 30 minutes into the hike. With all three rolls consumed Twiggy opted to go wait in the car and we carried on beating our way through the soggy jungle.

We finally reached the cave where the large entrance chamber proved a nice resting place from the Tasmanian Monsoon. Ollie "I'm First" headed up to open the gate. He returned after a couple of minutes unsuccessful. We initially assumed Mr. Muscles just wasn't strong enough to turn the key so we dispatched the next victim to sit in front of the drafting gate and try to open the lock. After an hour of rotating goes at the gate we decided that either the lock was @#\*\*!# or we had the wrong key — it turned out we had been given the wrong key so we tramped back through the undergrowth to the car.

There we found Twiggy engrossed in a book that he found so good that he pretended to have the runs for the remainder of the week so he wouldn't have to go caving and miss out on finishing his book. Needless to say we jumped in the car and headed for the Dover Hotel to celebrate our great caving adventure.

Mick the Paddy. San Francisco Bay Chapter

## Day 12 Tuesday January 8th 2002

South Cape Bay Walk

We walked to South Cape Bay and had an ace time except Marie who fell off the board walk and did her leg in. Took about four hours return as the signs suggested, including some sitting around on the beach. Mark walked bare foot over the dead little blue jellyfish and got his feet slightly stung. It was the furthest South Mick had ever been.

#### **Olly Betts**

## Day 13 Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2002

Midnight Hole, Mystery Creek Cave IB 11E, IB 10

**Participants:** Amanda Grindley, Mick Fingleton, Kathryn Binks, Mark Scott, Olly Betts, and sort of Scott Smith, and Belladona

After getting off to a slow start with much prattling about and dawdling the gallant crew headed off to the cave. The intrepid party was joined by Bella who had been promised an easy caving trip by Marie but due to Marie's inability to stay on the surface of the planet as demonstrated during a walk the previous day which rendered her unable to walk let alone cave was left to join the planned pulldown group. There was some concern by the largest of the crew about the Matchbox Squeeze, which connects the bottom of the pulldown pitch sequence from the horizontal stream section of the cave system. Thus a preliminary party of Olly, Scott (the afore-mentioned fat bast@rd) and Bella set off to find the squeeze from the lower stream entrance to see if he could squeeze his flabby American belly through the tight bit. Due to the rather slow start and some residual effects left over from excessive alcohol consumption the previous evening the longest rope was left behind and thus while the scouting party went in Mark headed off to retrieve it from Arthur's garage and proved that the hire cars can do a proper rally drive with substantial four wheel drifts.

Upon the arrival of the rope the remaining group set off to meet up with the fat filter check party. They had not yet emerged from the cave and so Amanda, Kathy, Mick and Mark entertained themselves with fern sword fights, and rock target practice into holy underwear for the better part of 3 hours. Once the fat filter party finally returned being wholly unsuccessful in finding the squeeze (they were within 10 metres of it but were too slack to do the final climb up) and it was decided by the aforementioned gravitational anomaly that he would refrain from attempting the pulldown thus meaning that the previous 4 hours of waiting had been wasted. Thus Amanda, Mark, Mick, Olly and Kathy set off up the hill to the upper entrance. A very successful and almost incident free pulldown decent thus occurred. At one point one of the party had a wee bit of a problem with a rope, but it was sorted out without any accident or injury.

Many photos were taken and lots of comments along the lines of "Bugger project caving, Bugger Lilburn" were heard echoing up the pitch as the party enjoyed the fun of dropping the multiple 50+ metre free hanging pitches. At the bottom of the sequence the Matchbox Squeeze failed to live up to it's reputation as the party easily slid through (although the packs full of rope were a bit recalcitrant).

A leisurely stroll out of the cave with some stops for photos followed with some splashing about in the stream and a stop to observe a fantastic Glow Worm display in the Mystery Creek entrance area. It was decided that we wouldn't lynch the fat filter checking instigator since the glow worms had come out in full force for the later time of day and would not have been nearly as spectacular several hours earlier.

All in all, a really fun sporting through trip, highly recommended!

Mark (Skid Mark) Scott San Francisco Bay Chapter

## Day 14 Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2002

Nothing specific was planned for this day so it was spent helping Arthur around the property, Scott and Paul help replace the rope on the rope swing as the old rope had seen better days, it had a



Testing the new rope.

knot in it a few metres from the top and some nice green mould along it. The others helped Arthur with his plumbing system from his dam and also took a look around the back of his property where he has some lovely cliff overhangs and small caves that contain glow worms.

As most nights we headed down to the Dover pub for a meal and a few rounds of 8-ball, as Dave was not around it was now Mick and Amanda who dominated the pool table although they did loose a few times..

## Day 15 Friday January 11th 2002

#### Exit Cave

On Friday four of us set off accompanied by Arthur Clarke to do a bit of Tassie Tree Hugging on our way through the World Heritage Area above the cave. Myself, Mark, Scott, Ollie and Arthur hit the trail around 2pm again brandishing equipment to help clear a few fallen trees off the track.

We slashed our way through to the first fallen log where Arthur proceeded to make sawdust. We entered the cave and decided to bolt for some of the near pretty areas first as I hadn't really played with my camera much this week and was getting withdrawal. We found 'The Ballroom' where I first photographed some classy formations including 'The Pendulum'. After a bit of calcite harvesting we moved on. If you'd like to see the photos try <a href="https://www.ebay.com">www.ebay.com</a>

I returned to gather a few more pretties and when I returned I found the group had decided to leave the cave. I think that Ollie wanted to get back to the car park and paint the sign for the invalid parking now the trail to the cave was paved. We missed the last of the food places closing so figured we had to go to the pub instead. Ollie was too hungry to go drinking so while he returned to Arthur's alone to amuse himself (can't imagine how), we sat in the pub and ate toasted sandwiches.

Another day of fun despite the fact our caving trip wasn't as long as we may have liked. Seems we'll have to return to Tassie to get the Exit trip we'd really like.

#### Mick the Paddy. San Francisco Bay Chapter

#### **Tahune Walk**



Paul & Amanda at Tahune Air Walk

Kath, Paul, Amanda and I headed down to Hastings cave to visit the hot springs only to be very disappointed, it was not what we expected, we stayed for lunch and as we were seeing Kath off who was due to meet up with friends in Hobart a few of the Vics rocked up. Bryn was sporting a very bright hair colour whilst Phil was sporting stiches from a spill he took whilst ice skating in Hobart.

Amanda, Paul and I decided to head off for some more sight seeing and decided to check out the airwalk. When we arrived we found there were a lot of steps so as I was still in a lot of pain and limping severely I caught the little electric courtesy car to the start of the air walk. This is an impressive feature and if you suffer from vertigo you may find it a challenge, as its floor is steel mesh so you can clearly see the ground 48 metres below. It tends to move a lot especially when you have two people

walking behind you jumping up and down. Near the end of the walk it has a cantilevered section that hangs out over the river. You don't need to bounce on that section just walking on it gives plenty of movement.

As we admired the view we discussed what an excellent abseil it would make only to find out from one of the workers that they plan too introduce abseiling off of it as well as a giant flying fox that will cross the river. As we were heading to the car park we were treated to a visit by a very young echidna. It's a pity the guys from OS weren't with us but they were enjoying themselves at Exit cave

with Arthur. We headed to the Pizza Place in Dover for tea where we ran into the Vics as we were leaving, but met up with them at the pub to await the return of the cavers

## Day 16 Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> 2002

#### **Back To Hobart**

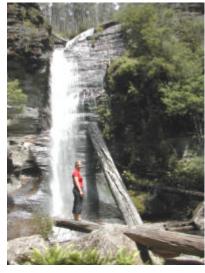
Well it was a very late start to the day as many in the group were hung over. We made our way back to Bella's place by late afternoon and all headed out to dinner and then the Irish pub. Most were still a

little worse for wear so it was a pretty early night as Mick, Scott and

Amanda were leaving the next morning.

# <u>Day 17 - 20 Sunday January 13<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2002</u>

The next few days were low key as Amanda Mick and Scott packed up and left early Sunday. The rest of us spent the next few days Sight seeing, and relaxing. Ollie left early on the Tuesday to join a weeklong tour around tassie. We were rejoined by Kathy who spent the day with us as we headed out to Margate and had a decadent brunch of pancakes, fresh berries and cream. This did not help Paul's Gastro any. Next stop was Sung Falls, a hour walking (limping for some) I found us at a picturesque pool and waterfall, although I think we may have cramped the style of a young couple. We spent an hour or so taking in the scenery and lots of pics before heading to Cygnet for another tantalising meal then back to Bella's house.

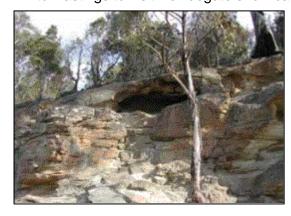


Kathy at Sung Falls

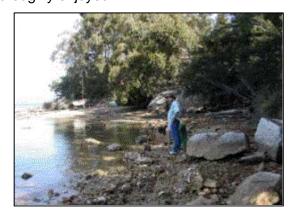
Whilst they went out for tea I met up with Belladonna at the movies. We then joined the others at a café where Paul proceed to receive a phone call from his mum inquiring what time his bus was due to arrive in Adelaide. (That's right Paul got his dates mixed up and should have flown out that morning to then catch a bus from Melbourne to Adelaide). A quick trip back to Bella's so he could make a new booking. The rest of us followed a few hours later.

## Day 21 – 29 Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2002

I spent most of the rest of my trip trying to get my laptop fixed as well as looking for property to set up the Tasmanian chapter of CEGSA. Bella and Doug also spent a weekend showing me around various picturesque sights south of Hobart such as Oyster Bay where you can pick the oysters straight off the rock to eat. Or Conningham beach which is a secluded little cove with a sandy beach and impressive sandstone cliff where we found a cave. As Doug had never been in a cave we took him to Hastings to visit Newdegate show cave which he thoroughly enjoyed.



Conningham Beach cliffs and cave



Oyster Cove

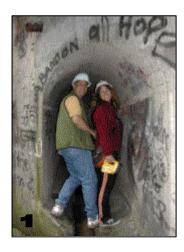
I also arranged to do one of the councils under Hobart Tours on my last full day in Hobart. Belladonna and her boyfriend Doug joined me. The tours happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays with

maximum 8 people per group for \$15 per person thy go for almost 2 hour and are very interesting and informative. It was frustrating not to be able to wander down some of the old side tunnels. It was interesting to note that the path we take, during past flood, have been over 3 metres deep with water, although it hasn't flooded over the top since the sixties.

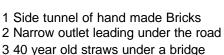
We also spotted 2 areas were straws were growing. At one point where some work had been done in the sixties the straws were at least 10 inches long . This is a well worthwhile trip to do as you learn so much history about that area and see things that you would have overlooked without the informative narration of the guides. At the end of the tour each person is presented with a certificate as an Honorary Sewer Rat.

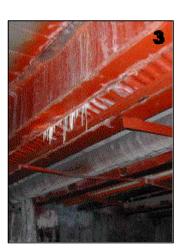
This was my 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Tasmania and 1 of the best it just gets better and better each time I head over and a fun group makes it all the better.

#### Marie Choi CEGSA









## **EASTER @ NARACOORTE - 2002**

Easter this year saw numerous members from both CEGSA and CCV come together at Naracoorte for a weekend of caving and chaos. As there were so many of us and because we were all doing different caves and activities, I can only speak from my experiences. This report is my interpretation of the events of the Easter weekend. Apologies to anyone whose name I've omitted or forgotten. You all know who you were.

I arrived in Naracoorte early on Friday morning with Brigid, a Mount Gambier venturer, who is commencing her Queens Scout award. (I am the Venturer Leader in Mount Gambier for those who don't know...) After the usual session of morning introductions, we all sat down to plan what the activities would be for the day. This should be an interesting weekend I thought to myself.

Brigid and I elected to follow Marie for the first day. After breakfast and recovery time, most people headed straight for the Wonambi Fossil Centre to sign in, get keys etc. Our group of 8 donned the overalls and helmets and made for Little Vic Fossil Cave. I had never been in this cave before so I was quite looking forward to it. We entered a little rocky crawly passage that took us into a small chamber that seemed to be divided in two by a wee slab of rock. Although I didn't think much of the cave it was a good one to start with as we had at least two people in our group who had never caved before in their lives. After sitting around and chatting for a while we headed out. So far so good - No panic attacks and my spare tyre had not inhibited my caving prowess.

After emerging safe and sound we made our way down to the area that was supposed to be home to Appledore cave. "Just behind the road sign", Marie had told us as we searched high and low in the scrub. After hunting around for a while we finally found the entrance, to comments of "I don't



Rob Garrett in Appledore Cave Photo: Marie Choi

remember it being here... and ... I thought they meant the other sign" It was in this cave that someone had recently been stuck to the point where a rescue had to be performed, requiring a little interior modification. Maybe this person also was carrying around the dreaded spare tyre like myself. Still, I was keen to have a look at where this person had been lodged. We all crawled through into the back of the cave and took it in turns to examine the cave clutches that had, for a brief moment, made someone feel decidedly uncomfortable. The act of merely sticking my arm down this little passage broke me into a cold sweat. Why would anyone in their right mind even attempt to enter this grotty little space? No sooner had I mentioned this, and Rob (Pom 3) thought that it would be a nice challenge to see where this little grotty went. "Oh great, I'll finally be able to see a real rescue in action" I thought to myself. Not so. Totally relaxed, he crawled down into the passage, had a look around, turned around and popped back out, without the slightest bit of forced pushing, pulling or grunting. Liz then decided that she too should have a look down this hole that had just released the worm like Englishman. In much the same way, she did the same as Rob, emerging satisfied that she had completed the challenge. Someone foolishly asked me if I was going to

do likewise. After pretending to actually give it some thought, I think I used my sore back excuse. It worked.

We all emerged safely from the cave, handed keys back and went back to the hall to shower and freshen up after the day's subterranean activities. The evening brought the prospect of sitting through a narrated slide show on the computer. After about an hour, I went outside leaving most of the remaining group to endure the other 3 hours of cave photographs. I had a wonderful peaceful sleep in the tray of my Subaru, devoid of the freight train like snoring sounds emitting from the scout hall.

As with any outdoor snoozing, I was up as soon as the sun came up. Following breakfast and the usual morning pleasantries, we broke up into our groups again and headed off in our varied different directions. Our group was to go through Beekeepers first. Fantastic I thought. Time to try out my snazzy new caving harness that Santa gave me. So I went over to the Subaru and turned it upside down in my fruitless search for my harness. Damn...I must have left it in the hall. I raced back into town to discover that it was not there either. Oh well, I must have left it at home somewhere. A little too far away to go and get it. I went back to Beekeepers to find that some of our party were already in the cave. I went to the back of the car to get ready, and promptly found my harness, still in its plastic bag, smiling at me from the bottom of the first bag that I originally checked. Feeling like a total goose, I got ready and made my way into Beekeepers.

I hadn't been in this cave for quite a while now and was surprised to find that the entrance had in fact shrunk. Seriously, it certainly was not this tight the last time I passed through this tube. After much kicking into thin air, swearing and grunting, I managed to plop onto terra firma like a chunk of lard in a frying pan. I always find Beekeepers an amazing cave for its size. In my rather limited caving experiences, this cave is certainly one of the largest that I've been in. We descended down the rock pile and into the main chamber. Remembering the small crawl that connects the two main chambers I pointed the way on. When it was at last my turn to go through, I was once again astounded to find that this section of the cave had also shrunk. Quite amazing phenomena are these shrinking caves. I wonder why they are not mentioned in all of the scientific journals.

Emerging into the second chamber while drowning in my own sweat, I had a seat as some others did some exploring. Eventually we made our way up to the junction where the cave seems to lead of in a few different directions. Never one to miss an opportunity to rest, I chose this site as a great place to have a bit of a lie down as others went off for a little exploration. After a while, everyone converged back into the junction chamber and we made our way out of the cave.

Lunch by the roadside was pleasant as we all munched in the shade of the trees, listening to the music of the local bird life. I 'd heard about the notorious Brown Snake cave and was keen to go and have a look at what all the fuss was about. Ian and myself hopped into the Brumby and went off in search of the entrance. About four others followed on foot. Finding the entrance was fairly straight forward, as it was exactly where it was supposed to be. Looking down into the entrance made me at last appreciate my size. There was no way known that I would fit into this chimney, even if I lost 30 kilos. At last the spare tyre had given me reason to rejoice. I didn't have to make up any excuses this time. I returned back to the lunch site with a smile on my face and a pile of people in the back of the ute. The rear shockers haven't been the same since.

We broke off into small groups again and went off to do some more caving. Our group headed off for Cave Park cave. While setting up for the descent, a couple of others showed me the small crawly entrance that quickly joins up with the main chamber. I watched in awe as two of the Victorians popped through a slot that a rat would struggle to get through. In no time at all, they were below us as we continued to set up a safe way into the cave. Finally we all managed to get into the cave and have a look around. We went up to the section near the slot, and saw where the Victorians had crawled through. The chamber that we were sitting in was nice and soft and had an interesting collection of decoration in it. Getting out of the chamber involved a soil based slide that snaked its way down through to the main chamber. It really was good fun. Next we went into the other side of the cave where some searched for bats whilst others chatted about God and the importance of Australian Teenage soap operas in today's mainstream society. This certainly made for interesting verbal interaction. We then headed out of the cave via the rubbish pile and made our way back to the scout hall for showers etc before tea.

We all went and had dinner at one of the local hotels that already had about half the population of Naracoorte in it. Dinner was good although I was saddened to see my footy team get thrashed on the TV behind the bar. Following tea and a few drinks, a few others and myself went over to the other pub to try and find Pom 3 a squeeze. No luck.

What is it with cavers and their ridiculous fetish for coat hangers, broomsticks, tables and chairs? The evening saw a plethora of idiots trying to traverse tables, become intimate with coat hangers and fit through other spaces that were never designed for the human body. I must admit, I watched jealously as all manner of individuals slotted themselves through chair backs and coat hangers. I tried to use the "it's too small", excuse, but in reality I was simply too big to complete any of these feats done by smaller, more nimble folks. It really was great fun to watch and I curiously admire the lengths that some people will go to just to complete a mindless challenge.

Following the feats of athleticism Marie decided that it was time to do a bit of dancing. So the stereo was cranked up, and some people boogied the night away to Don McLean and the Nutbush. It was at this time that I selfishly decided to go to bed to get some sleep. As you would expect, I was disturbed a few times but soon managed to drift off into a deep sleep.

Sunday morning and remarkably Easter Bunny had managed to stumble around dropping some eggs around the place without tripping over any of the bodies that were scattered around the floor. Some of these bodies, as they rose, looked very second hand. Following breakfast and the usual morning formalities we again went off to do some caving.

This morning our group was to go through Cathedral Cave with Steve Bourne, the big kahuna of the cave reserve. We went to the entrance to find that the usual ladder / abseil entrance had been filled by a gargantuan steel tower that offered safety and security as you made your descent to the floor. A lot of work has been done in Cathedral Cave to try and restore the cave to its former glory. All of the rocks on the bottom of the cave have been moved and you can now only walk between two lines of string. The result of this is the regeneration of mosses and the early signs of formation again being allowed the chance to slowly grow. It is a huge improvement on what the cave used to look like.

We went on our way through to the flattener that leads onto the main sections of cave. I was soon to find that amazingly enough, this cave had also endured some shrinkage, particularly noticed by myself as every square millimetre of belly, back and bum was scraped across the rock. Eventually I popped out into the next section where I was torturously forced to watch the others in the group work their way through as if the crawl was lined in Vaseline.

After much of the same we popped up into the main chamber and had a look around at some of the decoration that was on show. We also found a preserved rat in the flowstone that lined the walls. Steve then took us on into the rear of the cave where a fossil dig is slowly but currently in progress. After a small look around and chat, we headed back into the chamber where the decoration was. At this point, Lance and myself helped Steve try to make a chain gate to stop those who have trouble with marker tape and clear instructions from entering the dig section. Rob, Ro and Brigid went off for a little exploration down some passage pointed out by Steve. We didn't really have much luck with the chain gate as the soil was too deep and the bolts not quite right to make any secure fastenings.

Ro soon returned minus the others, as she had become slightly geographically embarrassed in a way that only cavers can do. With fading light, shrinking passage, panic and the fear of being totally lost as only other cavers would understand, Ro found her way back into the main chamber where the rest of us were working. I must admit, she did look a little frightened; a look has been reflected on my own face from time to time in this sport. Ro and I quickly made our way out and waited for the rest to emerge. We all exited the cave, tired but happy.

It was at this point that I had to leave the group as I had work to do on the following day. In all it was a great Easter, with a great group of people who were friendly and fun to be around. I must thank Marie for organising such a great weekend. I look forward to next Easter at Curramulka, somewhere I have never been caving before. Hopefully the spare tyre will have deflated somewhat and my movement within caves will be a tad easier.

Adam Branford.

#### THROUGH THE EYES OF A VISITOR

Before coming to Australia I'd been told that the caves here weren't very interesting and that if I did go caving I should view it as an opportunity to explore the country more than the cave. On the face of it South Australia seemed like a poor choice even by Australian standards. My very first trip here seemed to confirm my worst fears, as the cave was simply an underground chamber filled with breakdown which made small "passages" which could be negotiated but which only went round in circles. That cave was in Naracoorte but I can't even remember its name. However, the next few caves we visited were a pleasant surprise with a mixture of decent sized chambers separated by fun little bedding plane crawls or flat'ners as I've now learned to call them. That most of the caves were well looked after with plenty of pretties to admire all added to the experience. However, the biggest difference from the caves back in the UK was the temperature. For years I used to dream of warm caves while putting on wet caving gear in a blizzard in the middle of a Yorkshire moor and here they were. The added bonus of warm caves is that people can sit around and be sociable without worrying about hypothermia.

For the weekend I was there I had a very good time but the caves were little more than appetisers, perfect for introductory trips but without much scope for pushing back the limits. Even back in England I had heard rumours of vast cave networks hiding beneath the Nullarbor Plain and had naively assumed that a caving trip there could be organised much as any weekend trip in Britain, on the spur of the moment. It didn't take me too long to realise my mistake but by that time good fortune had already intervened with my arrival in Adelaide perfectly coinciding with a previously planned trip courtesy of Graham. So, a couple of weeks later the two of us set off to Old Homestead Cave. The route we took there encompassed a whole host of surface karst features across Eyre Peninsula as well as the Nullarbor and gave me a



The Woolshed, Eyre Pen.

Photo: G Pilkington

full appreciation of the sheer scale of the place not to mention the fantastic scenery. The abundance

of surface features and the extent of cave already found in Old Homestead Cave leave little doubt that thousands of kilometres of cave passage must be hidden beneath the Plain waiting to be explored. The trick, of course, is finding a way into the system. As Graham explained to me the caves are formed by in situ water seeping through the rock down to the water table and then dissolving out big cave passages. Just about everywhere else in the world caves are formed by a river flowing from A to B. One of the consequences of this is that unlike caves almost everywhere else in the world there is absolutely no reason why the caves on the Nullarbor should have an entrance, as they need neither a sink nor a spring. The only entrances are likely to be through collapse features and by their nature



Clay Dam Sinkhole

Photo: G Pilkington

these are likely to be blocked by the collapse debris which doesn't even have a river conduit to wash away the spoil - just surface run-off which brings in more clay than it removes. Nevertheless, OHC has an entrance and a lot of passage. Better yet, it has much more passage just waiting to be mapped. Coming from England where people get excited about a two year dig project which finds a few hundred metres of passage if you're lucky I was slightly puzzled at the seeming lack of interest in exploring the far reaches of OHC. Even close to the entrance we found one draughting passage heading off into uncharted regions. Admittedly the passage was small and would require maybe an hour's digging to get through but the prospect of finding another trunk passage heading off into the void has me almost tempted to go straight back there. The cave itself was very pleasant from the variety of passage to the temperature and very impressive aragonite formations. The hut standing all alone in the middle of nowhere also came as a very pleasant surprise.



Old Homestead Entrance Doline

Photo: G Pilkington

With just two of us to do the exploration we were very limited with what we could sensibly explore but we still mapped several hundred metres of new passage without too much effort. We were not the only cavers in the vicinity, however, as there were a dozen others looking for new entrances to the Nullarbor's underworld. In my experience the best way to find new cave is by making the most of the entrances you already have. Finding new entrances is a necessary task which has to be done in readiness for the day when the old caves dry up but OHC is far from dry and I was surprised at the apparent lack of interest in OHC compared to surface work. Perhaps this is a difference in attitude arising from UK cavers being exploration starved? Certainly I had an excellent time crawling off into the darkness not knowing what would be waiting round the next corner and the sandy floors of OHC are a definite advantage when it comes to crawling (I shall be recommending that the feature be included in all new cave discoveries in the UK when I get back there).

It was a Texan caver who once explained to me his theory that cavers are a different species from the rest of mankind. Wherever you go in the world cavers are cavers and in my experience this certainly seems to be true. An important part of any trip is the company you take along and the fun I've had in my brief time caving in Australia owes much to the people I have been lucky enough to cave with.

Thank you, CEGSA. Happy Caving **Rob Garrett** 

## **FLINDERS RANGES**

#### 22 March - 1 April 2002

Party: Eddie Rubessa, Lynette Height, Bill Binks and Emma Beare.

#### Friday 22 March.

After a typically late departure from the big smoke, and having no success looking for a campsite near Wilmington, we ended up pitching our tents in the outer suburbs of Quorn at about 2 am.

#### Saturday 23 March.

After a leisurely hour or two doing the newspaper and coffee thing at the Hawker general store, we pointed the Land Cruiser north and departed for Copley. Unfortunately the rear left tyre had other ideas and we found ourselves returning to Hawker after only 10 km, to spend another couple of hours replacing a badly mangled bit of rubber with a new one. On the way north again, we dropped in at Edeowie HS, at the western end of Wilpena Pound, to introduce ourselves to Leonard and Sharon Nutt. We discussed exploring the low limestone hills on their property, and invited them to go caving with us the following weekend. Finally we made it to Copley for late lunch, then continued east into the Gammon Ranges National Park. Our goal was a band of Wilkawillina limestone shown on the geo map south west of Mt McKinlay. Our toiling efforts to follow a pitiful track north from the old Occabollina HS eventually lead us to a reasonable campsite a few kilometres away from the start of the limestone, on the track we were supposed to be on.

#### Sunday 24 March.

It was hot, 35° to be exact. Just the sort of weather you want to do a walk over bare limestone hills looking for caves, not! Although it was of the Wilkawillina variety, the limestone wasn't showing any signs of cave development – it was a bit too fractured, with not enough of the large rock slabs we generally get more excited about. About the most exciting discovery was a spent .303 rifle cartridge. While there were plenty of hills to walk and the views were good, we decided karst features were unlikely to be found and returned to camp for a tree-shower.

#### Monday 25 March.

We packed up and headed east, aiming to then head for Wirrealpa that night. However we were distracted by the same limestone band we looked at on Sunday, where it crossed the Copley road just south of Italowie Gorge. Another hour of walking yielded no caves, although the rock looked a lot more promising this time, and there were a few minor rock collapses on one ridge top. Dejectedly we returned to the vehicle with no prize and drove to Balcanoona NPWS HQ, where we indulged in a luxurious shower, much to Eddie's delight.



Eddie setting up shower



F206 collapse

After filling up with water, turning south, and a quick touristy trip into Chambers Gorge, we arrived at Eregunda Creek, in the Wirrealpa area east of Blinman. Bill leapt out of the car when massive limestone outcrops – which we'd always marvelled over but never took the opportunity to investigate overwhelmed him. While Eddie and Lynn set up camp down in the creek (where Eddie found his helmet & light, which had been left half way up the cliff by Lynn on the last trip), Bill discovered an impressive rock collapse and fissure, high up on the ridge. Subsequently numbered F206, this is a

4x4m dirt floored hole about 2m deep, with a rock choked crack/fissure at one end (approx total depth

3 metres). The development of this feature is vertical and it looks like in the past, water has flowed over what looks like a lip (worn smooth) above a drop, which is now filled with large rocks and rubble. There is potential here to extend the hole down by digging.

It proved quite a challenge climbing down the steep cliffs to the campsite, near Second Glance Cave F200. Eddie and Bill took some gear into the cave after tea, for the next days digging activities.

## Tuesday 26 March.

The work inside F200 was quite formidable. On the last trip, we encountered a narrow rift about

20m from the entrance, which required enlargement to gain access to the chamber we could see beyond it. A fluctuating breeze could be easily felt in this hole, and whilst it may be a circulating-type (possibly connecting vertically to holes in the surrounding cliffs), was enough to motivate our efforts. Several hours were spent widening the fairly solid rock sides of the constriction. We had a break in the afternoon, walking the surrounding hills up high on the ridges again, looking for features. The surface other karst landscape is very interesting, but with minimal features other than F206. A beautiful sunset display graced the cliffs in front of our camp while we enjoyed dinner.



Wirrealpa landscape north of Eregunda Creek



Eddie with dust mask, resting after F200 dig

## Wednesday 27 March.

This was breakthrough day! After a few more hours plugging away, access was achieved with much hooray & excitement. The cave opens up into a large sloping chamber approx 10x8m and 6+ m high. From this several other leads were found, tending down to a base level with considerable washed in debris. A duck-under leads to a smaller chamber with a high rift ceiling. The cave is probably at least 50m long, and warrants proper surveying.



Cave cricket in F200

We packed up camp and headed for Narrina Pound. Just south east of Narrina HS, we attained a GPS location for Bugger Bush Hole F197, and Eddie also found a small hole F207 (Parara Stripes Cave). F207 has an entrance 4x1.2m and a tapering single chamber 7m in length. We left for Narrina HS for a quick hello, then headed west for a destination with destiny. Another incredible sunset welcomed us to the western end of Narrina Pound, and we set up camp at Narrina Spring, albeit in cyclonic winds. The spring was miserably low as well.

## Thursday 28 March.

The next morn greeted us with gentle calm and we made our way to Hawaii Five O Cave F205, about a ½nour drive away. While trying to relocate F205, a new feature F208 was discovered by Lynn less than 100m over the hill from the car. This is an un-enterable slot in a shallow doline (2m in diameter, 0.5m deep), which drops to about 5m below the surface. Eventually we were at F205, setting up the ladder and rope, with plans to fully explore the cave, discovered in October 2001 by Bill and Lynn.

Bill abseiled in first, to the first alcove (at approx –10m), followed by Eddie. We noticed that a small pool that existed at this level last October was now bone dry. Bill continued through the constricted floor hole (with considerable grunting and groaning; it is about 0.3m oval shaped), below which the rift opens up. This was the point Eddie had reached last October. Bill continued abseiling to the floor, which was actually further down than we thought. This main rift chamber is extensively decorated.

At floor level the chamber appears to continue off around a corner, but Bill did not investigate far from the base of the rope. After noticing an increase in his breathing rate, we immediately suspected this was due to an elevated concentration of foul air (CO<sub>2</sub>). Bill ascended the rope in a brisk manner, and found that above constriction, the air considerably easier to breathe. We exited safely and on the surface discussed this 'problem' for further exploration and possible strategies for returning to the bottom chamber, and measuring CO<sub>2</sub> levels. We packed up and drove to Wilpena Pound to pick up Emma (from the bus), and enioved a fantastic, hot shower (separately).



Eddie at entrance of Hawaii Five O Cave F205

#### Friday 29 March.

We discovered the local kangaroo had gormandised Emma and Bill's remaining cereal supplies overnight. After picking up supplies at the shop, we headed off to Brachina Gorge, via the touristy Bunyeroo Valley drive. GPS locations were acquired for Fire Cave F63 and Brachina Bat Cave F49. We found a campsite in the low hills (limestone) on the western fringe of the ranges, about 10km north of Brachina Gorge, on Edeowie station. F209, a 3m diameter horizontal hole (length 6m) was found high on the surrounding hill, during our late afternoon walk. This contains dry speleothems, exposed when the cave side eroded away. Another tree shower was enjoyed by all.

#### Saturday 30 March.

We met up with the Nutt family (including daughters Carly and Nicky) at the entrance to Brachina Gorge, then headed east to the Oraparrina area to introduce them to caving, in Thunderdrum Cave F29, Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby Cave F33 and Oraparinna Bat Cave F8. We also briefly stopped at Enorama Cave F59 for a GPS location. The Nutts had a great time and appear to be potential

'cavers'. On our return trip to the west, we had a refreshing dip at Lubra Waterhole, and then found and GPS located two new features in the Wilkawillina limestone end of Brachina Gorge: F210 (Three Yellow Foots Crossing Cave) and F211 (Brachina Vault Cave), before continuing out to the plains and. Both these caves are about 40m above creek bed level, and contain dry speleothems which have been exposed through weathering. We set up our final campsite in the soft sandy creek bed at Edeowie HS.



Bill, Emma, Lynn and Eddie in Edeowie Gorge

#### Sunday 31 March.

A leisurely day spent hiking the beautiful trek up into Edeowie Gorge, from the far western edge of Wilpena Pound. We made it to the first waterfall. The gorge is stunning and contains massive boulders and gums and towering red cliffs. Multiple wedge tailed eagles also love hovering above the gorge; it looked like they were scoping us out for food potential. That night we enjoyed some of the Nutts' home brewed delights ....mmm yum.

#### Monday 1 April.

After farewelling the Nutts and their pet kangaroo, we turned south and headed for home. Of course, just south of Hawker we stopped to show Emma and Lynn the Yourambulla Caves Aboriginal Art tourist sites (F99, F154, F155). The rest of the journey was uneventful.

#### Eddie Rubessa and Bill Binks

**Postscript**: We are intending to return to F205 in a bid to investigate the CO<sub>2</sub> levels and the cave further, on the June long weekend, or at the end of July. If anyone has some advice or suggestions on how to tackle high CO<sub>2</sub> levels, or some equipment (eg. CO<sub>2</sub> analysers), please get in touch with us.

# 5Y1 - CORRA LYNN CAVE 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> April 2002

George, June and Aaron MacLucas

Visit to this cave was primarily for the purpose of a photographic shoot and training session for our grandson Aaron aged 16 years who requested a chance to check out the different options of reaching the pigeon loft mainly from the entrance level. All in all, six ways.

- A bouldering walk using finger grips off the left entrance wall.
- A face down arms extended bridge.
- A belly crawl along ridge edge of the left entrance wall.
- Up passed railway sleepers, climb up left passage, short traverse
   Then tunnel crawl back to pigeon loft.
- Go through Bandicoot bypass up through skeleton crevasse and back to Pigeon loft.
- My preferred option, I took a ladder.



Aaron MacLucas completes the Bridge Photo: June MacLucas

#### George MacLucas

# Corra Lynn Caving and BBQ Day - May 4th 2002

The Day was sunny although a little breezy as we met at the Curramulka Bowling Green for the first Social Corra Lynn Trip for the year. Joining us for the day were new full year Family members Kay Finney, Van Darryl, Tess, & Dennis Penglis along with New associate Emma (Bills Girlfriend). We were also joined by 6 new short-term members including my host and friend from Hobart, Belladonna who had hosted my whole Tassie group in her 2 bedroom unit. She got bitten by the caving bug a few years ago on a trip into wet Cave and has done a couple of caves since.

For once most people arrived on time and we made our way to the cave where we were greeted by Andrew the owner. Unfortunately work commitments kept him from joining us again. We introduced ourselves around and then split into 3 groups. We spent an hour and a half touring around in our groups introducing the new members to the joys of Corra Lynn Cave. When on the surface again we redistributed the groups for a second round underground whilst others had lunch. One group led by Paul Harper was eager to get underground again and made their way straight down to pigeons loft. Within minutes Paul requested assistance as 1 of the party had injured their shoulder attempting the traverse up the loft. It appeared to be a dislocated shoulder and Linda applied first aid and the person was then taken to hospital to be treated (a report is being prepared). As he was wearing SES overalls he did not wish us to call them in to perform a rescue 5 metres from the entrance.

Most of the rest of the group took another trip through the cave before exiting for a late BBQ lunch and some socialisation. Our injured party was treated at the Yorktown hospital and is recovering well.

Thanks must go to Frank for supplying his BBQ again, BCS for there although it was at the hospital, and Linda for her prompt and professional approach to the incident. All in all it was still an enjoyable and interesting day.

Marie Choi

# Corra Lynn Sunday May 12th (Mothers Day)

Whilst at Corra Lynn the previous week it was obvious that Paul Harper has an excellent knowledge of the cave and various circuits. As we are running a trip for Mercedes College in a few weeks a few of us wanted to increase our knowledge of the cave and Paul kindly offered to run a trip and share some of his knowledge. So Frank, Paul & Linda Deer and myself joined Paul for a trip to the cave on Sunday. How he managed to get the day away considering its Erica's 1<sup>st</sup> Mothers Day is still astounding but never the less it was a good day. We left a little later than usual and picked up Paul and Linda on the way at a leisurely 9am.

Arriving at the cave at around 11am we first tried out the new checklist for accessing the cave and made some amendments. It was then off into the cave where Paul impressed us with his knowledge of the cave and the various alternative routes. Determine the pros and cons of various circuits depending on the size, age and fitness of the group you may be leading. Some circuits are better than others for school groups.

We spent about 3 hours in the cave before exiting for a late lunch. Once stomachs were full some people were reluctant to return underground and the catch cry of pub rang out. We signed out of the cave, spoke with Andrew briefly about the lack of rain and other things and headed for the Curramulka pub. Whilst there the publican spoke with some locals about the areas caves. We couldn't resist and joined in on the conversation, especially querying the rumoured cave under the pub. After a few drinks we headed back to Adelaide and the rest of Mothers day. All in all a productive trip for those that attended.

Marie Choi.

## **TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

## Change of Addresses:-

CF Paul Devine 9906 (H) 08-9304-6335 (M) 0419-934-988

15 Tyson Place, QUINNS ROCKS WA 6030

PDDevine.kal@bigpond.com

F Neville Pledge 6302 (H) 8272-5483 (W) 8207-7454

C/- SA Museum, North Terrace, ADELAIDE SA 5000

pledge.neville@saugov.sa.gov.au

#### **Welcome to New Members:-**

A Emma Beare 0206 (H) 8336-4654

Unit 3/18 Joslin Street, UNLEY SA 5070

A(Fam) Van Daryl Penglis 0207 (H) 8269-4909

With 0208 53 Boyle Street, PROSPECT SA 5082

A(Fam) Kay Finney 0208 (H) 8269-4909

With 0207 53 Boyle Street, PROSPECT SA 5082

Dennis Penglis With 0207 Tess Penglis With 0207

## Welcome to 3 month (April - June) Introductory Members:-

Kelly Henderson PO Box 59, NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

(Phn) 8342-9483

Belladonna Unit 1/15 Hazel Street. BLACKMANS BAY TAS 7052

(Phn) 036-229-1553

Brian Barrett 28 Cockatoo Street, MODBURY HEIGHTS SA 5092

(Phn) 8263-1999

Yvonne Bone 12 Fifth Avenue, ST MORRIS SA 5068

(Phn) 8332-4664

Corey Hashim 219 Young Street, UNLEY SA 5061

(Phn) 8272-0412

Norman George Ellsborough Street, URAIDLA SA 5142

(Phn) 8390-3770 (Fam)

Jackie Bone-George Ellsborough Street, URAIDLA SA 5142

(Phn) 8390-3770 (Fam)

Joshua George Ellsborough Street, URAIDLA SA 5142

(Phn) 8390-3770 (Fam)

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The ASF have now advised their fees for 2002 as one component as follows:-

Single	\$ 56.50
Family	\$106.50
Student	\$ 50.25
Introductory (Special Rate 3 months)	\$ 18.25

#### These fees are Insurance inclusive.

From this point in time CEGSA will now charge the ASF Fees as above. therefore the fees will be:-

YEAR 2002 CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES	CEGSA	+ ASF	TOTAL
FULL MEMBERSHIP	\$40.00	\$56.50	\$96.50
FULL COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP	\$34.00	\$56.50	\$90.50
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$33.00	\$56.50	\$89.50
LONG TERM ASSOCIATE	\$40.00	\$56.50	\$96.50
ASF fee for full time students		\$50.25	
INTRODUCTORY (3 months)	\$6.75	\$18.25	\$25.00
VARIATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	CEGSA	+ ASF	TOTAL
VARIATION FOR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP  1) First Full member \$40 + second Full member \$40	<b>CEGSA</b> \$80.00	<b>+ ASF</b> \$106.50	<b>TOTAL</b> \$186.50
			_
1) First Full member \$40 + second Full member \$40	\$80.00	\$106.50	\$186.50
<ol> <li>First Full member \$40 + second Full member \$40     Less \$16 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS</li> <li>First Full member \$40 + Second Assoc. member \$33     Less \$16 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS</li> </ol>	\$80.00 \$64.00	\$106.50 \$106.50	\$186.50 \$170.50
<ol> <li>First Full member \$40 + second Full member \$40     Less \$16 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS</li> <li>First Full member \$40 + Second Assoc. member \$33</li> </ol>	\$80.00 \$64.00 \$73.00	\$106.50 \$106.50 \$106.50	\$186.50 \$170.50 \$179.50

<u>Please make sure the payment of fees includes both CEGSA and ASF if applicable. If there are any queries regarding the fees please give me a ring on 8258-9847.</u>

## **Chris Gibbons**

Membership Officer.

## CEGSA APPROVED TRIP LEADERS

The Trip Leader status of those members that have been approved in the past is being reviewed by the committee in relation to our constitution and rules changes and ASF insurance requirements.

## LIBRARY AND RECORDS

Regrettably due to our social and family commitments working bees for the last five months have come to a stand still. Hopefully the second half of this year will be better and even better still if more interest could be generated towards a helping hand for the dedicated few who are always willing to give of their free time towards helping out. A few new faces would be appreciated.

Copy of late 1920s publication "Glorious Kangaroo Island its caves and beauty spots South Australia. It is the story of the discovery and exploration of Mount Taylor and Kelly Hill by Harold Bell, containing 67 pages.

#### George MacLucas.

Library & Records Officer.

# Journey into Amazing Caves. An IMAX movie

On a cold, wet Saturday night in Mount Gambier, we all sat down to watch the latest offering from the IMAX crew. The sheet on the scout hall wall was large enough to make Amazing Caves enjoyable, however a real IMAX theatre would have really enriched the experience. The movie focuses on the journey of a few scientists as they chase their quest to find new life forms and push the envelope of hard core research. Apart from the fantastic water filled passages and the brilliant azure of the ice caves, the movie offers little in the way of eye-popping scenes to really thrill regular cavers.

The parts which show some scientists white water kayaking are certainly enjoyable, especially the dropping of boats over waterfalls. Flying around, over and through the Grand Canyon is also spectacular. The Brilliant blue tones captured within the walls of the ice cave are especially breathtaking.

The thing to keep in the back of your mind when watching this movie is the fact that no matter hard the climbing, cold the water, or difficult the terrain, there is always an IMAX camera present. At 120+kilograms, this is no mean feat. These huge cameras are not only very heavy but also ridiculously expensive.

The Making of the movie is also featured on the DVD release and this is really worth watching. The logistics of lugging a great big, heavy camera around was certainly a challenge for the filmmakers. The crew certainly did a great job of putting this camera in places that it clearly should not be. The section on filming in the ice cave certainly proved to be entertaining as one shot almost cost a member of the crew his life. The rigging system slipped and...oops...the cameraman is almost thrown into the icy ravages. Fortunately he is fine but it certainly serves as a reminder as to how dangerous this type of work can be.

Amazing Caves is a fascinating journey into the life of those who risk life and limb as they seek to unveil new discoveries. An interesting documentary, Amazing caves will impress you with it's breathtaking photography and the dedication of those who feature so richly in this movie. As long as you don't expect the grandest of massive decoration filled chambers and the thrill of tight squeezes, then you will probably find this film quite enjoyable.

Whether this movie is worth the price of an admission ticket into IMAX or the cost of a DVD (AUD \$60) remains to be seen. At 40 minutes long, it is not exactly cheap viewing.

Adam Branford.

# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
22/05/02	General Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Marie Choi
25/05/02	Caving	Mercedes College, Corra Lynn	Marie Choi or Graham Pilkington
12/06/02	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Marie Choi
26/06/02	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Marie Choi
29/06/02	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
10/07/02	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Marie Choi
13-14/07	i –	Air Cadets at Naracoorte	Marie Choi or Graham Pilkington
24/07/02	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum,	Marie Choi
	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
14/08/02	Committee Meeting	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.	Marie Choi
	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
28/08/02	Conoral Masting	Old Ougans Arms Hatal 90 Wright Ct. Adal	Maria Chai
	General Meeting Working Bee	Old Queens Arms Hotel, 88 Wright St. Adel.  Library and Records	Marie Choi George MacLucas
31/00/02	Caving Bee	Ongoing Vic Fossil Survey contact	Garry Woodcock
	Caving	Regular trips to 5A25 contact	Grant Gartrell

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.