

CEGSA NEWS

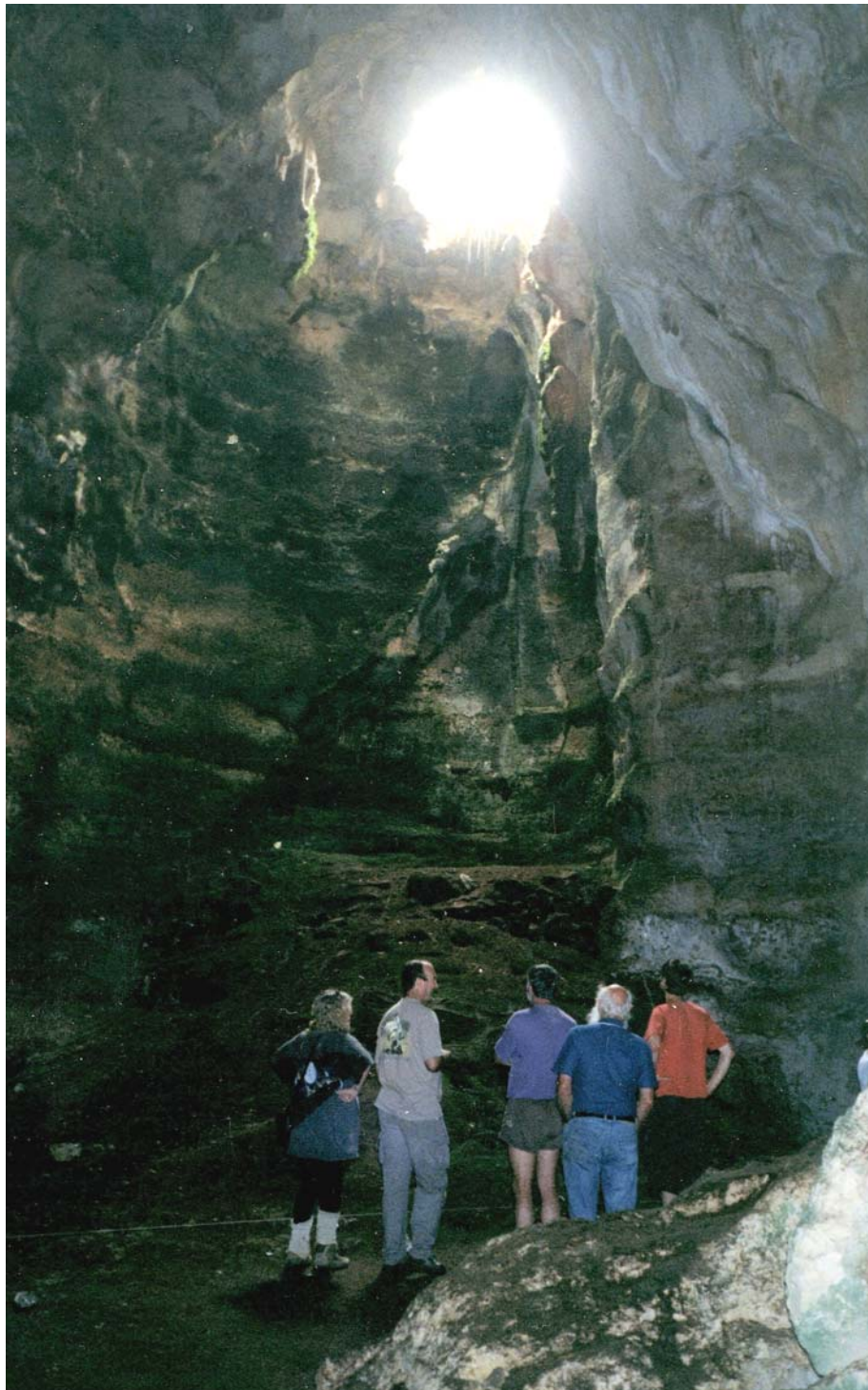


Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

<http://www.cegsa.org.au>

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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Leadership Standards - Working Group	Peter Kraehenbuehl Marie Choi	As Above As Above

Cover Photograph: Second entrance chamber, Cathedral Cave, Naracoorte. **Photo:** Chris Fischer
Top to Bottom: Great Hall, Victoria Fossil Cave; Fox Cave entrance; Wombat Cave, far chamber.
Photo's: Athol Jackson.

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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 47 Number 2 (Issue 186) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **13th MAY 2003**. 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

Welcome to a new year. Lots of interesting trips and events are coming up in the next few months. Best to look at the trip calendar. This can now be seen at our new web site www.cegsa.org.au.

Two South Australian Museum events are of interest to us. The first is their OPEN HOUSE of 15-16 March where we will be manning a stall to display our involvement with museum activities as well as inviting people to join us those activities. The second is down at Naracoorte on 22 March where they are putting on a public seminar of what they are doing down that way.

NPWS have requested our help in moving tonnes of fossil-containing sediment out of the far reaches of Cathedral Cave at Naracoorte. This is planned for 8-9 March. All welcome. NPWS are covering some of our costs for the trip, so poverty is no excuse.

At last, what you have all been waiting for - Marie has released our Beginners Handbook. Get your copy for \$12. Persons joining CEGSA will be paying a joining fee of \$12 as from this year and first-time applicants will get one of the handbooks for free.

For those not yet renewed for 2003, note that as per our Constitution as at the first of April you will no longer be a member of CEGSA. An application to join must then be completed and submitted to the Committee together with the joining fee and annual subscription.

Graham Pilkington

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AWARDS SUMMARY

Leather Medal

Leather Multi Hats

Graham Pilkington

Because of all the hats he has to wear when acting in all the positions and tasks he undertakes for the club.

Spirit Of Caving

No Recipient

For up and coming cavers who show enthusiasm and dedication to caving and the club.

Golden Compass Award

Ray Gibbons

For the foresight in ensuring the protection of the valuable and rare fossil deposits discovered in new Nullarbor caves.

Rivett's Reward

No Recipient

Mundrabilla Marble

No Recipient

For initiative, problem solving or overcoming obstacles.

Marie Choi.

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2002 Annual General Meeting and Dinner report

The AGM and Dinner were held at the Kent Town Hotel, in Kent Town. As with our meetings numbers were a little down with only 19 members attending and 5 visitors, some of who are potential members. There must be something wrong with the way I booked things because we almost didn't have a meeting space as the upstairs had been requested by a large group. And for some reason they had us booked in for Sunday even though I had booked the Venue in October, must be the fact that they didn't have a 2003 diary that caused that one. Well that's my reason and I will stick to it. Over dinner I worked hard trying to recruit fresh blood to the committee, but it was harder than that squeeze up the back way to the top of the cauldron, in the end Paul Deer put up his hand with the

comment that he had been in the club a few years and it was about time he gave something back, (Good on Ya Paul that's the spirit). Paul at 20 years of age must be the youngest committee member the club has had in a long time. We were drawing closer to the start of the meeting when we still only had 4 nominees and really 5 is the ideal minimum. Finally after some gentle arm twisting Chris agreed to be nominated along with Linda Deer and we had 6 for the committee although we are still missing a secretary.

Before the start of the meeting a birthday cake was presented to Athol and Frank whose birthdays fall within a few days of the AGM. Then it was time for the meeting and this year we had 2 lots of minutes to go over as some how the previous years got overlooked. Once that was out the way it was time for the awards. First came the one and only leather medal, this year Graham received the many hats award for the many important roles he takes on within the club such as:

- Public Officer
- Speleo council rep
- ASF Rep
- Honorary auditor
- Committee Member (Now President)
- Corra Lynn Access co-ordinator

I'm sure I have left some out, but he has to be one of CEGSA's hardest working members.

The only other award to be presented was the golden compass, and I think most will agree this years award had to go to Ray Gibbons for his foresight in ensuring the magnificent fossils found in the new caves out in the Nullarbor were left as undisturbed as possible for the scientist to collect invaluable data.

As there were only enough nominations for the executive (except secretary) and committee the nominees were declared elected.

The meeting finished shortly afterwards.

Congratulations to the 2003 committee of

- Graham Pilkington
- Athol Jackson
- Paul Deer
- Linda Deer
- Chris Gibbons
- Frank Hankinson



The 2003 Committee

Lets wish them luck and give them lots of support whilst I enjoy retirement after 7 years on committee to pursue my studies. I will be continuing in a number of other roles within the club.

Marie Choi

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Long Time Members Recognised

Two of CEGSA's long time and hard working members have been recognised by the ASF. At the 24th Biennial Conference of the ASF held at Bunbury in Western Australia over the New Year period the Federation resolved to award Athol Jackson and Peter Horne the **ASF Certificate of merit**.

These were presented for the many years of support and work put into the operation of CEGSA and ultimately of the ASF.

The committee wishes to congratulate them on their achievement and thank them for their support over the years and hope it will continue.

The Committee.

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NEW WEBSITE —

<http://www.cegsa.org.au>

TRIP REPORTS

The Grass is Greener on the Nullarbor.

Introduction

During previous trips it has always seemed a puzzle as to why early settlers had ever attempted to create cattle stations in the vast tracts of the semi-arid Nullarbor Plain. In October 2001 the Nullarbor was a rancher's dream, revealing knee-high grass waving in the breeze, the occasional shower of rain to keep it that way and an abundance of wildlife. Not typical conditions for the Nullarbor, but after extended rains earlier in the year (Ackroyd, 2002) supplemented by later showers, it was what was experienced on this trip.

Arrival — and Departure

Train time-tabling being what it is, Peter Ackroyd arrived in Adelaide from Melbourne a few days prior to the official trip departure date of 28 September 2001. The time was profitably spent doing research in the CEGSA library and catching up with George and June MacLucas. Trip leader Graham Pilkington and Peter did the shopping for the 2½ weeks trip duration. Then came the packing of Graham's Lite Ace van... and the repacking.

Graham and Peter set off from Adelaide in the early afternoon of Friday 28 September, arriving at Max and Hennie Meth's home in Ceduna a little before midnight. The next day, after attempting to exchange data between laptop and desktop computers, they continued the journey, reaching the Nullarbor Plain a little before midday.

A rendezvous had been planned for three more members of the group at Nullarbor Roadhouse -- Ann-Marie Meredith on the bus from Kalgoorlie, and Ray and Terry Gibbons, who had left Adelaide at 4 am that morning in their Rodeo one-tonne utility. The bus carrying Ann-Marie was a bit late so the little two vehicle convoy left Nullarbor roadhouse at 5 pm to wend its way, via a microwave tower track, to the first camp near "Black Surprise" (N-265). The grass was tall and the ground was wet but the Lite Ace became bogged only once, quickly remedied by a quick pull from Ray. Camp was well after dark.

Getting a Sniff of Caves... and Smoke

The next day was Sunday, a day of rest, spent poking into various holes and getting a bit grotty.

It was back to work on Monday with Ray, Terry and Peter assigned some very tight, sharp and nasty stuff to survey in the entrance area of "Black Surprise". The entire area was under some rather dauntingly disconnected roof slabs. A nicely cobbled dry stream passage headed into the main part of the cave -- that was someone else's area though.

Ray, Terry and Peter emerged from the cave with various cuts and bruises to learn that Graham and Ann-Marie, surveying deeper within the cave, had found a low passage heading off. So, another survey trip for the future.

The following morning the convoy was away relatively early, heading west along the Old Coach Road for some cave re-locating and an eventual meeting with the final two members of our group. Getting out to look for long-lost caves was a lot of fun, until Peter was wandering along a faint track on foot and met up with a dozing brown snake a little under a metre long. Peter knew brown snakes by experience -- they can be aggressive, especially if disturbed. He stepped backwards and at exactly the same instant the snake struck, faster than the eye can follow. Because Peter was moving back it missed him, but only just. That particular long-lost cave remains so.

However, a few kilometres further west another was re-located, then another. Several features were found and tagged in this manner. One of them, N-527, was an enormous doline with a good-sized, full rockhole (N-1992) on its western flank. While Peter was tagging and sketching this feature with Ann-Marie and Ray, they noticed an emu with his five chicks approaching from the south. Backing away from the rockhole a little, the tag team stood and watched entranced as the emu and his chicks



Ann-Marie Meredith at rockhole N-1992, on SW edge of doline N-527; taken @ 330°.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 2 Oct 2002

warily approached the water, knelt down and commenced drinking. Emus, drinking in natural conditions, kneel, extend their necks out over the surface of the water then, with a sudden dip and dive of their heads, scoop water into their beaks. They did this for quite some time, perhaps 15 minutes or so, then quietly stood up again and wandered off.

A few kilometres further west, two known blowholes were tagged. One was a kilometre from its position on the map; the other was near some derelict cars, abandoned at least 30 years ago, probably by rabbits.

Graham found that due to the heavily grassed tracks he had to stop every so often to remove grass seeds collected by his patented grass seed collecting device, a Lite Ace's exhaust system. Frantic hand waving from Ray and radio calls from Terry in the Rodeo as they noticed smoke whispering out from under the Lite Ace was the usual cue. On one occasion they couldn't get the message across for some considerable time, and the situation was becoming serious. So, roaring up they overtook and leaped out. Thinking quickly, Ray had grabbed his fire extinguisher. Those inside the van smelt the smoke -- the packed grass around the van's exhaust was doing a bit more than smouldering. Ray dived under the Lite Ace and killed the fire with his extinguisher. Thanks Ray, you saved us from setting fire to ourselves, and to the Nullarbor.



Ray Gibbons standing at entrance to Black Surprise (N-265). Note thick grass cover.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 1 Oct 2002

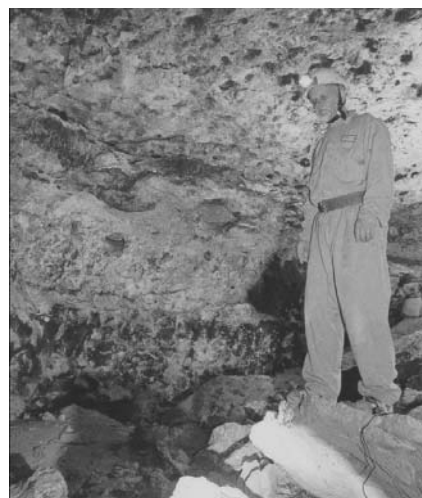
The Party Complete

On the tracks near Eucla we met up with Grant Gartrell and Tom Wigley in Grant's Toyota 4WD traytop: the last members of our troupe were now with us. Graham had originally arranged for them to meet us at Wedding Cave (N-1734) and had given Grant the GPS co-ordinates of this newly discovered cave. (It had been found by Ken Boland on his flying exploration trip in April 2001 and had not been fully explored.) Arriving in the area after midnight and looking for the somewhat overgrown tracks left from the April trip, Ray and Peter were walking out in front of the vehicles to enable the original route to be followed to the planned camping point. The idea was to follow the decision made in April to not drive right to the cave, and thus afford it some protection by not revealing its exact location to any traveller who may just chance along.

After a while, Grant sped up in his 4WD and, leaving Ray and Peter behind in the dark, followed the electronic instructions in his new e-Trex™ GPS device to drive straight to the cave entrance.

Wedding Cave to Old Homestead Cave

Prior to the trip, Ken Boland had asked that Graham not survey Wedding Cave as Ken himself wished to carry out that task. All



Tom Wigley in entrance chamber of Wedding Cave (N-1734).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 4 Oct 2002

the next day Graham and a band of helpers, surveyed in great detail the surface area around the entrance. Grant and Tom explored the cave and found a breeze. The next day the breeze was followed, necessitating some soil and rock relocation, to a rockfall chamber about 45 metres long.

Bush cooking was becoming quite a feature of this trip and the evening meal was outstanding. It was prepared by almost everyone on the trip and consisted of a tuna mornay with a potato bake side dish. An apple sponge pudding topped off the evening with billy-tea for afters. Ann-Marie was captivated by Peter's billy swinging and practised it till she got it right. However, there were a few spills along the way.

Moving on from Wedding Cave, the convoy drove north to the CEGSA Link Track where the low clearance of Graham's Lite Ace meant he felt that speeds had to be kept to 10km/hr and all rocks likely to hit the vehicle removed from the track. Graham, Peter and Ann-Marie arrived in the Lite Ace at Old Homestead Cave well after everyone else, at around 8 o'clock.



Ann-Marie practising her billy swing. Note the "Nullarbor Cavers 2001" flag, made by Chris Gibbons, in the background.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 4 Oct 2002

Work and Play



Ray Gibbons constructing ablutions area for Old Homestead Cave toilet.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 Oct 2002

Starting early, Ray and Peter carried out some construction chores around camp. Terry effected a marvellous transition around the Old Homestead Cave Hut by laying out pathways and planting some native pittosporum trees. Grant was not feeling too flash and went back to his bed after a late rising. Graham and Ann-Marie entered the northern arm of Old Homestead Cave in the afternoon to carry out some surveying.

A day of caving, rather than of rest, was on the agenda for Sunday 7 October. Graham and Ann-Marie did more surveying in the northern part of the cave. Tom and Grant did a tourist trip in the same cave and Ray, Terry and Peter set out on foot looking for two new features spotted from the air by Ken Boland the previous year.

The latter group enjoyed an excellent, if somewhat tiring, walk. Altogether eight new features were found, tagged, recorded and photographed. The eighth feature, a blowhole, received the number N-2000. There were no more tags left in the kit after this but there were many more blowholes, which consequently had to remain untagged. While on the walk an Australian bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) was spotted by Ray and

soon this magnificent bird was visible to all three as it was only a few metres away. Other bustards were seen in the area but none as close as this one. On a different note, one of the new features, N-1997, a doline with blowing holes, had three canola plants growing in it. Even in as remote a place as the Nullarbor, one cannot escape weeds.

And Then There Were Three

After a flurry of early packing, Grant and Tom left for Goat Cave with the intention of carrying out a major dig and Ray and Terry returned home to Adelaide, which left only Graham, Ann-Marie and Peter. The remainder of the day was turned over to camp chores and a little bit of surface exploration.

An early start the next day had Peter and Graham heading into the northern part of Old Homestead Cave for more surveying. In an area above the wandering phreatic maze called the Officers Mess is another, smaller epiphreatic network named the Gentlemens Mess. Much of this area shows secondary karst development with passages passing through well-cemented cave breccia and ancient cave fill. There are also many thick rafts and false floor deposits in the area (these last are massive horizontal deposits which form when calcite is laid over poorly consolidated sediments which are subsequently removed, usually by the action of water). Examination of this area indicates that there have been at least three well-spaced episodes of cave sedimentation and subsequent flushing out in Old Homestead Cave, probably spread over an extremely long time.



Ann-Marie Meredith in the collapse chamber "The Mesa", Old Homestead Cave. Note old cave fill in the wall and flat palaeo-roof.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 11 Oct 2002

After a long day underground, Graham and Peter came out in darkness and were surprised to see the entrance area dripping with water. There had been a heavy rainstorm in the afternoon and the camping area had become a shallow lake. Ann-Marie's and Peter's tents proved to be watertight. Graham was not so lucky.

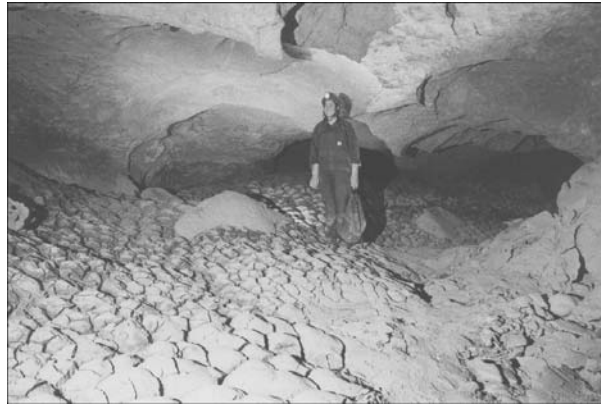
More surveying by Peter and Graham the next day, this time in the Potholes area of the northern part of the cave, discovered an unsuspected passage containing several calcite flake cones about 300mm high. These little "volcanoes" are made up of calcite raft flakes which once sat on the surface of a super-saturated pool and were disturbed by a constant drip from the roof above the pool, thus causing the flakes to sink in the same place. Over time a cemented cone of them built up to form a tiny hill.

On the way out of the cave they discovered a small stash of tiny Easter eggs in the White Room area. They had evidently been hidden there by persons unknown during the previous Easter, six months earlier -- not a good idea. Graham and Peter carefully collected all the mouldy bits of chocolate and the fragments of silver foil, and carried them from the cave, emerging after dark yet again.



Ann-Marie Meredith and Graham Pilkington surveying in the "Gentlemens Mess", Old Homestead Cave. Note flat roof, calcite encrusted roof pendants, and calcite rafts on floor.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 11 Oct 2002



Ann-Marie Meredith in the "Officers Mess", Old Homestead Cave. Note phreatic nature of passage, cracked mud floor and current scallops in wall and roof.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 11 Oct 2002

The full team of three entered the cave the next day to continue the survey in the epiphreatic Gentlemens Mess. There is considerable calcite deposition in this area, primarily rafts, false floors and stals. All of it was pristine white and relatively young. It would appear that the area still has occasional floods and that water pools there till it becomes super-saturated. The rafts in particular

were remarkable due to their thickness (up to 10mm) and immense size -- several metres across in some cases. They resembled the ice of a frozen pond which has had its water drained.

Friday 12th October was the last day of the trip to be spent out on the plain. After packing up most of the camp, Ann-Marie, Graham and Peter donned caving gear and descended into the north part of the cave to carry out some mop-up surveying.

Homeward Bound

Leaving early the next day in order to get Ann-Marie to Mundrabilla Roadhouse to catch her bus back to Kalgoorlie allowed plenty of time to clear accumulated grass and seed from the Lite Ace van's exhaust, thus preventing any little conflagratory surprises. There were plenty of healthy looking kangaroos in the tall grassy stretches along the way. After a few beers and a mandatory shower, and waiting a couple of hours, the bus finally turned up. Graham and Peter farewelled Ann-Marie and set out for their lodging at Max and Hennie Meth's house in Ceduna. A long debrief with Max and a fine meal cooked by Hennie led to a 2am finish for the day.

Eating fresh fruit on the final run back to Adelaide the next day was a luxury Peter had been anticipating for some time, and he took full toll of the available supplies at Ceduna and Port Augusta. Arriving at June and George MacLucas' house in Adelaide, Graham and Peter were treated to a fabulous meal cooked by June.

Summary

The trip ran from 28 September till 14 October 2001. The surveying work carried out in Old Homestead Cave took the cave's measured length to 29.0 kilometres (Pilkington, 2002). Some morphological observations were taken in Old Homestead Cave and some conclusions drawn. Several lost or misplaced caves and karst features were relocated and had accurate GPS co-ordinates taken. Several new features, mainly in the Old Homestead Cave area, were found and tagged. The CEGSA Link Track is now passable by all classes of vehicle and in places is a 60 kilometres per hour road.

The Nullarbor Plain was seen at its greenest and brightest with huge expanses of tall waving grasses. Everywhere one looked, animals, reptiles and birds were abundant. It was now clear how the original explorers and settlers could conclude that the Nullarbor was a fine place to set up a farm. The Australian landscape is ever changeable, and this change was well worth experiencing.

References

Ackroyd, Peter, (2002) On a Wing and a Prayer. *CEGSA News* **47(1)**, Issue 185: 5-12.

Pilkington, Graham, (2002) Nullarbor Trip Report. *CEGSA News* **46(4)**, Issue 184: 74-77.

Peter Ackroyd, 2 Feb 2003.]

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Naracoorte Odyssey 2002

Over the years at Naracoorte, CEGSA and the parks relationship has had its ups and downs. At times the decisions made in regards to access to some of the beloved caves on the park has left some of our members a little disillusioned. We sometimes get caught up in the joy of caving that we sometimes forget that caves are also important for a range of scientific reasons. The most recent case on record was the closure of Wombat cave so that scientists could research some long-term palaeontologic projects. Many received this news with great disappointment as it was considered one of the best caves on park for introducing our novices to the joys of caving. Little did we know that at the time it contained some unrecognised fossil deposits.

Naracoorte Caves manager Steve Bourne has discussed the possibility of opening this cave and a few other restricted caves up for a special once a year trip to CEGSA members in order to demonstrate some of the important work and regeneration that has gone on during that period. The following trip report is from the first annual trip into those caves. If you are interested in attending such a trip and you are an adult member of CEGSA please register your interest with me. The Next trip is due June 14th and 15th 2003. Keep in mind this is not a beginners trip.

Marie Choi

VICTORIA FOSSIL CAVE: Great Hall and Starburst Chamber

Marie Choi, Athol Jackson, Ray Gibbons, Paul Deer, Linda Deer, Chris Fischer, George (NPWS)

Saturday morning we awoke to a beautiful sunny day. We had arrived at Naracoorte late on Friday night to find ourselves locked out of our accommodation. A quick trip around the corner, and several colourful words later from Steve Bourne as he climbed out of bed saw a spare set firmly in our hands. We settled in and a good nights sleep was had by all after a constantly banging door was silenced. I lost the game of who was going to get up first to close it, although in the morning everybody denied hearing it and told me I must have imagined it.

We drove to the Wonambi Centre where we met George, our crazy haired guide who graciously volunteered to take us into Starburst. Steve Bourne had informed us prior to arriving that there was a surprise for us in Starburst. We geared up at Vic Fossil car park while Marie took a quick trip back to the house to retrieve a forgotten camera (is that Gingko working yet ?). Linda took the opportunity to gather some small limestone fossil samples to compare with other samples. It was taken from a rock pile behind the entrance to Vic Fossil. This is the recent work of Naracoorte Caves and Greencorp volunteers who have been removing rubble and restoring the cave to original condition.

We entered Vic Fossil and as we moved through, George pointed out the areas where rubbish and rubble had been removed to reveal the original floor level. Loose limestone walls and rock piles further along the path have future plans for removal. By the time we had arrived at the small entranceway to Starburst we had worked out our surprise. George informed us that in the previous week, a T.V. crew had planned to do some filming down there, but ended up going into a different cave. Thankfully the lighting equipment was left down for us, ensuring that some spectacular photographs were taken. A few of us had a look at a dig at the base of a sand cone nearby as the others set up extension leads. Some of our party members had been down before, and for others it was their first time. I was lucky enough to have been down once, several years before, and was excited about returning to see it under lights.

The passage leading to the first chamber is small but reasonably easy to negotiate. It winds along for a fair distance so several stops were required to let Marie catch her breath (as she has recently gained the amazing power to metamorphose into a sloth within a 5 meter radius of a cave). After a bit



Decoration on right on entering Great Hall.
Photo: Athol Jackson

of hands and knees and a bit more crawling we stopped for a break, with everyone looking for the most comfortable spot in the lumpy passage. After about 10 mins, as we were setting off again, George informed us that only five metres around the corner was the first large chamber. We berated our guide for not informing us of this much more scenic and comfortable rest spot so close.

The first chamber is very large and impressive and the path winds its way along the left hand side of the chamber. The start of the path has a good spot overlooking the whole chamber. Some nice decoration to the right of here saw Athol set up the floodlights for some photos on the way out. Athol decided to stay and concentrate on looking around and photographing this chamber as the rest of us

moved through a short connecting passage that opens up into the large and impressive Starburst. . A bit of crouching, crawling, and hands and knees, leads to the only small squeeze section of the cave. We were slowed up in this section as Marie and George both had trouble getting their large booffy hairdo's through the constriction. Along one wall was a mass of decoration, flowstones, shawls, straws, columns, tites and mites. The colours burst into life here, pure white, greys, blacks, opaque, chocolate, orange, caramel and cream streaks all melded together. About the middle of the wall is a rock pile you can crawl underneath and through. Lie on your back here, shine your light up and look at the stars. The track marked path undulates over boulders and turns to the left. A large tiered column rises out of the flowstone floor and meets the ceiling where a mass of thin multicoloured tites and straws cover the roof. Thick stalagmites sit on top of a flowstone bulge, where the most interesting feature lies. A stalagmite of reasonable thickness stops at around a metres height, where a very thin, uniform shaped stalagmite of about equal length continues on from its top (looks a bit like a straw growing upside down). A little further on you near the end of the path, there is a dig under the edge of a flowstone crust. From here you get one of the better views of the caves showpiece. At the centre of the ceiling is a huge, thick cluster of straws and thin stalactites, that when lit up, sparkled like a huge natural crystal chandelier. Some time was spent moving lighting and taking photos, while others looked around. Some very pretty poses around some formations here has seen Paul pick up a contract as a supermodel (Yes, we have the photos). Ray floated around wide eyed staring into every promising looking lead (as he did the whole weekend). When everybody was satisfied we made our way back to the first chamber where we met up again with Athol. Some more playing with lights and different angles resulted in some nice photos of this section. Thankfully everyone's lights worked well on this trip, and no burning helmets were required to provide emergency illumination on the way out. Lights and large rolls of extension cord could not weigh down our speedy team as we headed out into daylight and the thought of a hot shower, good feed and a few ales. Oh ! Hang on, wev'e still got to go down Fox cave today. Gee, what a bummer, life's tough isn't it!

Chris Fischer.

FOX CAVE

The people involved in this excursion through Fox Cave were George from NPWS, Marie Choi, Paul Deer, Linda Deer, Chris Fischer and myself.

I hadn't been in Fox Cave for 9 years. The entrance to the cave was a breeze, due to the unusual lack of snakes within, possibly due to the placement of a log at the entrance. The usual wait at the gate to enter the cave proper seemed shorter than the previous time, could be due to the installation of a new lock. Once at the bottom of the entrance slope and the obligatory wait for the eyes to adjust, we proceeded around the first sand-cone, which has been retouched, taking out all footprints and damage, and into the main passage. We proceeded along the main passage to the main chamber with the tree roots, up the left-hand rockpile into the side chamber where we had a good look around. Not much had changed in that area.

Back to the main passage, we continued along to the last chamber, which was heavily decorated with veils of tree roots, which had not been there previously. The obligatory sitting around and playing in the sand looking for bone fragments took place. On leaving the area heading back towards the entrance, we ducked



Ornate rock art in Great Hall, Vic Fossil Cave.
Photo: Athol Jackson.



Columns in Fox Cave Entrance Chamber. Photo: Athol Jackson

down a side passage, up over a rockpile or two into the decorated Straw Chamber. We had a bit of a squizzy around, not going into the forbidden zone, then headed back to the main passage passing more tree roots, to make our way out. The probable reason for so many new tree roots could be due to the change of vegetation on the surface, from bracken ferns to acacia trees.

The hospitality and accommodation provided by the Park Staff was great and was a good weekend, except for the smoke alarms that kept on activating throughout the night, causing a general lack of sleep.

Ray Gibbons.

SATURDAY NIGHT

It was decided that we would head off to Billy Macks for tea. The pub was a little rowdy and George felt the music needed up upgrading but its meals are reasonable and so is the range. We headed back to the house to meet up with Steve and Liz as Athol had bought down his Wombat Cave slide show which I had told Steve about several years ago but there has not been an opportunity in recent times for Athol to show it at Naracoorte. Steve and Liz along with the rest of the group were duly impressed with the amount of work that Athol had put into the project. We then retired to inside the house to watch a video of the fossil find on the Nullarbor that Ray was involved in although some believed that I didn't watch that much of it due to my alcohol consumption. I do remember that Steve was in his usual form of paying me out though. Once the video finished we retired outside to socialise into the wee small hours. I think somewhere around 4am was when the last of us crawled into bed.

WOMBAT CAVE

Party: Athol Jackson, Marie Choi, Ray Gibbons, Paul Deer, Linda Deer, Chris Fischer, Steve Bourne (NPWS).

Sunday morning saw some rather seedy looking characters head off to Wombat Cave. None of us had been to the cave since the pine forest had been removed with the result that Marie was leading us off the wrong way until Steve arrived and pointed us in the right direction. We soon arrived at the entrance and proceeded to rig the pitch and everyone went down into the cave. Again there were no Joe Blakes but it was obvious that something had fallen down and damaged the track markers. It was strange to see the cave full of track markers as when I was last in the cave seven



Water in rimstone pool in Wombat Cave.
Photo: Athol Jackson



Decomposing Kangaroo with attendant maggots.
Photo: Athol Jackson.

years ago it was quite natural. If you want good photos of a cave take them before the track markers go in, otherwise you will have to spend a lot of time using Photoshop to remove them. After a cursory look around the entrance chamber Steve suggested I lead the way through the crawl tunnel to delights beyond. The first delight we encountered was the large number of blowflies in the cave. All would be revealed later. Just after the crawl way it was obvious that the decoration was quite wet which was quite a change at that time of year from when the pines were there. In the main

decoration chamber there was even water in the rimstone pools. I had never seen that before, even in the winter.

We headed down the main passage and as we approached the main decoration chamber we could detect a rather unpleasant smell. After some searching we discovered the decomposing remains of a kangaroo. All became clear as to the damaged track markers and the large numbers of blowflies as the remains were crawling with maggots. It was quite amazing that the roo had managed to get right through the crawl way and down to the decoration chamber before succumbing to the cave.

The decoration chamber was as I had remembered it and the party spent considerable time photographing all the pretties.

We then had an uneventful trip out of the cave after repairing some of the track markers and then derigging the cave.

Athol Jackson.

CATHEDRAL CAVE

After exiting Wombat Cave we still had a bit of time up our sleeve before we needed to head off so Steve decided to show the group the regeneration that has taken place in the large chambers of Cathedral cave. For those that haven't been to Naracoorte for a while the first thing that you notice is that the ugly old grey metal fences have been removed along with the concrete and attractive heritage green fencing has been put in place. Then there is the new stair case and platform that now goes all the way to the bottom where the old rickety wooden one was. I have always found this to be quite a spectacular cave chamber especially when the light comes streaming down the second entrance (see front cover photo). The area has a wide path track marked in it giving visitors ample vantage points to view the chamber. Steve informed us that native grasses were now growing around the second entrance hole that had not been there for some time. We spent about an hour in the cave as Steve explained some of the work that has taken place including the replacing the tip of a large chunk of stal but don't let Steve fool you if he leans on it and it topples off. The Park runs tours into this cave by request for small groups.

Marie Choi.

%%%%%%%%%

ASF Conference Field Trips

Barbara and I left Adelaide pm Thursday 26th December on route to pre-conference caving at Jurien Bay (266 km north of Perth). We arrived early evening on Saturday at Apex Camp Jurien where we stayed for three nights (with six other cavers) in a large self contained unit.

On Sunday 29th five of us spent seven hours in Old River Cave. As well as exploring the cave, which had two vertical pitches, an 8 metre and a 17 metre, we did some water flow rate monitoring tests for Rauleigh Webb (WASG).

Party: Ross Anderson (Leader), Jay Anderson (WASG), Bob Kershaw (ISS), Ian McCulloch (NUCC), Lance Hoey (CEGSA).

Monday 30th five of us, Ross, Jay, Bob, Lance and Barbara Wiesner (CEGSA) met Ranger Rick France at Drovers Cave (J2) where we caved and track marked.

The afternoon was spent in Nambung National Park (The Pinnacles) Cervantes in SH20 and SH17 (Thousand Man Cave). We visited several other caves (including SH12 – Quandong) but could not open rusty and buckled gates, recent bushfire.

New Year's Eve, Barbara and I went to Perth where we (Bob Kershaw also) stayed at Scarborough Beach for two nights at Fran Head's and Ian Collette's (WASG) house, going to the Cavers New Years Eve barbecue at Fremantle. Then on to the conference at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

In the field trips we saw the show caves Ngilgi, Calgardup, Mammoth, Giants and Lake.

Post conference caving started from either the WASG hut or the SRG hut in the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.

Wed. 8th Jan/03 we visited WI-59 Mill Cave.

The party was Mike Whitworth (Leader), Melissa Doleman, Noelene, Eve Taylor (SRG), Barbara Wiesner, Lance Hoey (CEGSA).

WI-71 Dingo Cave. The party was Mike Whitworth, Melissa Doleman, Noelene, Eve Taylor, Robin Weckert (MUCG – originally a CAVEX member), Lance Hoey.

Thurs. 9th. 1. Arumvale.

2. Arumvale Pipe.

Party: Greg Thomas (Leader), Vicki Bresnan (SGN), Ian McCulloch, Lance Hoey.

Frid. 10th. Ruddock's Cave. Party: Howard Richardson (Leader), Melissa Doleman (SRG), Phil McGoogan, Barbara Wiesner, Lance Hoey.

Sat. 11th. Crystal Cave – Protemnodor Chamber, Helium Chamber. Party: Howard Richardson, Barbara Wiesner, Lance Hoey, Tim Moulds (CEGSA).

Our final day

Sun. 12th. Strong's Cave. Party: Jay Anderson (WASG Leader), Ian Binnie (MUCG), Ian McCulloch, Graham Pilkington, Barbara Wiesner, Lance Hoey.

Labyrinth Cave. Party: Ian Collette (WASG Leader), Ian Binnie, Ian McCulloch, Tim Moulds, Barbara Wiesner, Lance Hoey.

Mon. 13th. Left the SRG hut and journeyed to Albany for the night.

Tues. 14th. We drove to Caiguna and camped, after unsuccessfully trying to find Cardanumbi Rockhole to meet up with Graham and Tim.

Wed. 15th. N48 Cocklebidy Cave. We were preparing for the cave when a mini bus (Nullarbor Traveler – we go to exciting places) pulled up with about 20 passengers. We waited and let them go in first, equipped with torches and candles. The driver said this was the highlight of their day. We went in after they were coming out after their swim. We did the same.

N50 Capstan Cave was nearby so this was the next cave to visit before camping at Murra-el-elevyn. The howling gale coming from Capstan was of great interest.

Thurs. 16th. N47 Murra-el-elevyn. After breakfast we went in and found the most perfect of swimming spots. Also deep in the cave (at different places), we noticed several spiders. They were black, smooth, long legged. N46 Nurina Cave was the next cave to visit.

Fri. 17th. N2 Weebubbie was our last cave and swim before heading to Ceduna to see Max. The yellow and white reflectors were not in Weebubbie the last time I was there but they made us feel at home as the majority of all caves we visited in W.A. were track marked in this manner.

Footnote: While at the conference I was persuaded to join a team in the Speleo Sports competition. The team of four was Dawn Klok, Brian Combley (Cavers Leeuwin Inc), Garry Smith (N & HVSS) and myself. Well we ended up finishing second but decided amongst ourselves as the four of us were all over 50 we may have finished second over all, but first in the Masters division. The long sleeved thermal top prize will come in handy for the next conference in Tasmania.

Lance Hoey.

%%%%%%%%%

Sellicks Hill Cave (A5) Trip Report for 2 Feb 2003

Party: Grant Gartrell, Graham Pilkington, Paul Deer, Lance Hoey, Barbara Wiesner, Eddie Rubessa and Jim.

Starting up the digs again for 2003. We spent the first few hours cleaning up the mess at the top of the higher dig to remove the constriction and make it safer for those who will be working below. We had to stop when a large boulder came loose that required more bang power than our hammer could apply. The hammer handle had broken and would need replacing.

At the lower dig we removed most of the accumulated spoil from the 60m platform and prepared the dig spot for Grant's persuasion.

Graham Pilkington

Selicks Hill Cave (A5) Trip Report for 16 Feb 2003

Party: Grant Gartrell, Graham Pilkington, Ray Gibbons, Eddie Rubessa, Peter and Rob.

Grant was not feeling well and after unlocking the gate went home. He rejoined us in the afternoon after recovering enough to safely descend/ascend the pitches.

First we cleaned out the lower dig from the debris that had fallen in from above the dig spot. The dig had to stop at 1.5m below the 60m platform when solid rock was encountered – a job for Grant again. However, the last debris fall had emptied out the fissure back to clean flowstone for 4m above dig site which is off-set from the haul pitch by 3m. Now we can see along the fissure for 4 to 5 m of negotiable passage 2m above the level that we are working on but access into it is constricted by a flowstone pinch. Almost all of a strong breeze comes from this slot. We decided to leave removal of the pinch point until next time and moved back up to the higher dig site. At the higher site we met Grant and using the replacement hammer Ray managed to demolish the boulder. The residual core was used as a choke stone to hold an even larger boulder in place. The debris was piled up on top of the nearby wall. At close of operations, Peter was almost walled in. We will soon need to haul debris up to an alcove above the last ladder pitch.

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%

CEGSA Christmas BBQ

Held at 9 Cuthbert Avenue, Gulfview Heights - 14th December, 2002

Marie Choi, Athol Jackson, Graham Pilkington, Chris & Ray Gibbons, George & June MacLucas, Barbara Wiesner, Lance Hoey, Mark, Alistar & Murray Sefton, Gary Woodcock, Jeanette Chapman & Boys and Eddie, Isabelle & Isaac Rubessa..

The weather turned out to be warm and sunny for the all day BBQ. A marquee was erected (constructed) for the day, the swimming pool fence was dismantled to open the backyard up. The pool was extensively used by the younger set, a few keen members also, while others sat in the shade enjoying a chat and drinks. A pleasant day had by all.

Many thanks to the Members who supported the day on short notice.

Ray & Chris Gibbons

%%%%%%%%%

This space was available for your trip report.

It does not appear to be here!

WHY?

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

CORRECTIONS TO ANNUAL REPORT

A L/T Paul Arbon 0016 (H) 8258-0236
29 Kara Crescent, GULFVIEW HEIGHTS SA 5096

CF Dave Glowacki 9510 (M) 0421-437-189

F Frank Hankinson 9404 (W) 8374-5222 (M) 0413-428-078

F George MacLucas 8004 (E) maclucas.george@saugov.sa.gov.au

Transfer to Full Membership

F Kathy Binks 0107

F Barbara Wiesner 0006

F Tim Moulds 0209

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Just a reminder to Members, that Membership Fees were due on 1st January, 2003.

Would current members intending to re-join, please pay their accounts as issued with the November 2002 CEGSA News by 31st March. Under the Constitution, if fees are not paid by the 31st March, written re-application for Membership will need to be submitted, to be approved by the Committee and the \$12 Joining Fee paid. To assist with the ASF database, alterations and additions need to be finalised by the 31st March.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR YEAR 2003 – Current Members

These fees were due on 1st January, 2003

Full Membership	\$ 42.00
Full Country Membership	36.00
Associate Membership	34.00
Long Term Associate	42.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR YEAR 2003 – Current Members

Single	\$ 56.50
Family	106.50

YEAR 2003 FEES – Current Members

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$42.00	\$ 56.50	\$ 98.50
Full Country Membership	36.00	56.50	92.50
Associate Membership	34.00	56.50	90.50

Variation for Family Membership

1st Full Member + 2nd Full Member

Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$68.00	\$106.50	\$174.50
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1st Full Member + 2nd Associate Member

Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News \$60.00 \$106.50 \$166.50

1st Associate Member + 2nd Assoc Member

Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News \$52.00 \$106.50 \$158.50

The ASF have now set their 2003 Fees. From this point in time for New Members the ASF component will be:-

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	121.50
3 Month Introductory	20.00

These fees are adjusted at the time of the joining date.

CEGSA FEES 2003 – NEW MEMBERS

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$42.00	\$ 68.00	\$110.00
Full Country Membership	36.00	68.00	104.00
Associate Membership	34.00	68.00	102.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00
Variation for Family Membership			
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$68.00	\$121.50	\$189.50
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$60.00	\$121.50	\$181.50
1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$52.00	\$121.50	\$173.50

The New Member fees are adjusted at the time of the joining date.

Fees do not include the Joining Fee of \$12.00

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.

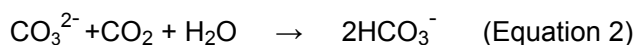
Chris Gibbons

%%%%%%%%%

Errata

Sefton, M.A. (2002) Corroded and Redeposited Speleothems (Rims) in Thampanna Cave. *Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia)* **47(4)** 100-104.

Problems with font setting have resulted in errors in equations 1 and 2 on pages 101 and 102 respectively. These should read:



Mark Sefton

CEGSA APPROVED TRIP LEADERS

The Trip Leader status of those members listed in CEGSA NEWS Vol 46 No 1 has been confirmed for the time being. A review of trip leader status and method of assessing it is underway.

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LIBRARY AND RECORDS

Received from Peter Ackroyd, photographs of karst features tagged during Nullarbor trip October 2002. Numbers from 6N2286 to 6N2304.

Also received through Peter Ackroyd a draft copy of *Management of Karst Features in Parks and Reserves in the Nullarbor Region SA, 1989* by Adrian G Davey and Andy Spate, courtesy of Brett Dalzell Office District Ranger for West National Parks and Wildlife SA. (This draft document is referred to as the current Nullarbor Karst Management Program).

Received from Ken Grimes a CD Rom with selected *Australian Caves and Karst December 2000*. Contents:

Hard Rock Karst: Christmas Island, Barkly Karst Region and Chillagoe.

Pseudokarst: Volcanic caves and Turtle Rock caves.

Soft Rock Karst: Syngenetic Karst and Australian areas.

Library has now purchased two hard copies and 2 CD Roms of *Proceedings of 2001: a cave odyssey, 23rd Australian Speleological Federation Conference, Bathurst, NSW*.

George MacLucas.

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Trip Leader and Party Members Responsibilities

It's been a while since there has been anything published about trip leader responsibilities and, probably even longer if at all since something was written about party members responsibilities. During that time we have had a number of new members join CEGSA, so let's revisit those issues.

To begin with CEGSA is a member of the ASF and as such has agreed to abide by the ASF Codes of Ethics and Cave Safety Guidelines and various other codes. Full copies of the codes and guidelines can be found on their web page at www.caves.org.au.

For Trip Leaders there are a number of crucial areas that need to be considered in order to run a safe and suitable trip for those that may be attending. The first thing would be to consider if the cave / caving area is suitable for the experience, size, and purpose of the group. For instance I don't know any experienced cavers who would take a beginners group out to dreamland in Y1 for their first trip.

Once the cave / caving area has been selected there are a number of guidelines in regards to dealing with landowners / land managers that need to be addressed. It is crucial that these guidelines are followed. As cavers we do not have a god given right to access caves or do what we like whilst in them and it is crucial that there is a clear understanding between the caving party and the landowners / managers as to the purpose of the trip. Not abiding by these simple courteous guidelines can have a detrimental affect on cavers ability to access caves.

ASF Code of Ethics State:

2. Toward Landowners and Management Authorities

2.1 Landowners, tourist guides and any person representing a management authority will be treated with courtesy and respect.

2.2 All caving parties must have specific or tacit approval from the landowner and/or management authority before entering any property or reserve, must follow only agreed routes and must not visit forbidden areas.

2.3 The prevailing procedures regarding gates on properties and reserves will be followed, and care taken to cause no damage to stock, crops, equipment or landscape features. In short, leave as found.

2.4 All parties will be as self sufficient as possible and will not presume on the good will of landowners and/or management authorities for water, supplies or assistance.

2.5 Where the cave entrance has been blocked by the landowner and/or management authority, it will be re-blocked after use, or, with the landowner and/or management authority's permission more appropriate protection installed unless the landowner and/or management authority otherwise instructs.

2.6 No gate will be installed at or in a cave unless approved by the landowner and/or management authority and arrangements are made for key security. Any gate must have an accompanying sign giving reasons for gating and access conditions unless the landowner and/or management authority otherwise instructs.

2.7 No cave excavation, including the use of explosives, will be undertaken without the permission of the landowner and/or management authority and the society committee, and only after an assessment of the environmental effect.

As already mentioned it is also the trip leaders Responsibility for a safe trip but this actually requires support from the party members. For a Trip leader to be able to plan for a safe trip they need to be made aware of all possible scenarios. The one area often overlooked is that of the party member's responsibility to notify the trip leader of any medical condition that "could" impact on an individual's performance.

This I believe also includes things such as a bad neck or back or similar such physical constraints or even serious phobias. I suffer with RSI to my neck and limbs and I am afraid of heights when doing exposed climbing but always make trip leaders aware and we have worked out a plan to overcome it and have not yet been told I couldn't attend a trip as a result.

The **ASF Cave Safety Guidelines (1999) State:**

4. Team Member's Responsibilities

The points under this heading are the sorts of things a team member would consider, irrespective of the scale of the trip. When planning more ambitious trips the procedure would be formalised by discussion with the leader or deputy leader.

4.1 To inform the party leader: a) of any medical condition that may affect performance. b) if under any medication, detail dosages, times to be take, location of medication among equipment, and effects if dosages are missed.

4.2 Do not enter a cave if under the influence of alcohol or other performance-altering drug.

4.3 Indicate any uncertainty about procedures or equipment use before entering a cave.

4.4 Know how to use all the safety/vertical equipment needed for the trip.

4.5 Inspect rigging and associated vertical equipment before using. (You have the right to ask for extra back-up, or re-rig the pitch after consulting with the party leader. Any re-rigging must be checked and OK'd by another party member, ideally the leader or the person who did the rigging.)

4.6 Ensure that you are properly equipped for the trip.

4.7 Accept that the party leader has the final decision as to who is considered properly equipped, trained and physically fit to be included on the trip.

4.8 Accept that the party leader may request to inspect personal equipment and provisions for suitability.

Don't be afraid to ask questions before a trip.

The Other responsibilities of Trip Leaders include ensuring that party members are appropriately equipped and trained for the level of trip they are undertaking.

ASF Cave Safety Guidelines (1999) State:3. Party Leader's Responsibilities

- 3.1 Ascertain that each member of the party has the knowledge, abilities, skill and equipment to safely attempt the trip.
- 3.2 Conduct the trip in such a way that the party remains as an interconnected group and the leader is aware of each member's position and condition.
- 3.3 Ensure that members do not get into situations beyond their capabilities.
- 3.4 Check all equipment intended for use in hazardous situations for suitability and serviceability before every trip.
- 3.5 Ensure all members know the accepted communications procedures and calls before each trip.

2.Planning

The points under this heading are the sorts of things a good leader would consider, irrespective of the scale of the trip. When planning more ambitious trips, the procedure would be formalised by discussion with deputy leaders and other party members; whereas on more routine trips these points would be covered almost as a mental check list.

- 2.1 Determine what known hazards exist in the cave(s) to be visited.
- 2.2 Notify any 'local' speleological groups of the trip intentions, giving sufficient notice so they can assist in identifying any hazards or needs for special equipment.
- 2.3 Decide minimum equipment requirements (including emergency equipment and provisions), in the light of expected hazards and what you plan to do in the cave. Consider if you have sufficient equipment available for the trip or will the scope of the trip need to be revised.
- 2.4 Ascertain the levels of knowledge, skill and physical abilities of all intending trip members.
- 2.5 Determine the extent of self-rescue that could be affected by the party with the equipment available and the time delay to be expected before a full rescue operation could be expected in case of mishap.
- 2.6 Having regard for the items above, consider the need for 'lead up' training for members, especially if attempting demanding caves in remote areas.
- 2.7 Identify members to act as second or deputy leaders in case the party has to be split.
- 2.8 Decide under what circumstances the party will be split.
- 2.9 Determine critical factors that would mean abandoning the trip or turning back e.g. weather conditions.
- 2.10 Decide at what stages of a trip (especially long trips) assessment of continuing or turning back is to be made.
- 2.11 Decide on communication procedures to be used underground.
- 2.12 Decide expected time for completion and route to be followed. Add a factor for unexpected delays and nominate a realistic return time as well as a 'commence

search and rescue' time.

2.13 Leave trip details with the appropriate responsible authority for the region where the trip is planned.

Other points not covered by these guidelines but required by CEGSA are:

- Inform the Trip Liaison Person and ensure the trip is noted in the log book.
- Ensure correct amount of notice is given when booking trips.
- Ensure all people are covered by appropriate insurance. (DON'T ASSUME)
- Ensure all required permits/ indemnity forms are filled in.
- Trip Leaders are allowed to charge a small fee to cover costs.

As one of CEGSA's main purposes is to keep records it is important that trip reports are written, these may or may not be published in the newsletter. I often get different members of the group to write up their views on a particular cave so that the load isn't borne by one person.

One area that is often overlooked and concerns the protection of the caves is that locations and cave Maps should not be given out without the permission of the club or author. In fact multiple copies should be sought through the club because there may be some copyright infringements should you attempt to make your own copies.

When talking with some of our experienced regular trip leaders some other important points were raised when it came to both trip leaders and party members:

For Trip Leaders:

- Notify party in advance of any special needs for caves to be visited eg. water, food, pee bottles, lights, vertical equipment etc.
- Notify them of time to be spent underground.
- Have emergency plan.
- Make sure all members of trip know what to do and how to get help
- If with a dependant party (novices) consider taking extra lights, a long tape to assist in climbs etc and modify your route to accommodate their abilities.
- Vertical - pay attention to safety belay of inexperienced people.
- Climbing / abseiling, check their rig /attachments. Allocate an experienced person to supervise each novice. **CHECK-CHECK- CHECK.**

For Party Members:

- take the equipment / gear the TL advises.
- work as a team, look out for other party members, communicate - pass on instructions, help others on climbs / in squeezes, stay in sight of party both in front and behind (you are not on a tour you are part of a team, don't leave it all for the TL to do, they are not tour guides).
- notify TL before trip of any potential problems - health wise, physical, mental, fears/anxieties, lack of or inadequate gear, interpersonal conflict etc.
- while caving notify TL of any of the above plus tiredness/fatigue, dehydration, flat batteries, broken lights, problems within group -morale/mutiny etc.

Caving in Australia has been a relatively safe activity but with the increase of people wanting to try new adventurous things its more important than ever that we maintain good practice when caving. Hopefully this article will impart knowledge on those starting out and remind those of us who have been around a while what our responsibilities are. Only part of the codes have been included in this article for more detailed information check the ASF website

Marie Choi Training Co-ordinator

Out of the Glass Case

Out of the Glass Case the title of the summer program of the SA Museum involving special displays and musical performances. The inaugural road show of the event will take place at Naracoorte Caves National Park on March 21st and 22nd. The event's major sponsor is Telstra Countrywide with several other minor sponsors including SA Museum, Origin SA, Energy SA, Parenting SA, Limestone Coast Tourism, Naracoorte Lucindale Council and SITA Australia. It represents a significant opportunity for DEH and Naracoorte Caves to establish an annual event with the SA Museum and forge ongoing cross-promotional activities.

- Friday, March 21st is School's Day, with a wide range of activities developed and presented by Museum education officers and curators with the assistance of Naracoorte Caves' staff.
- Dr Flannery will launch activities on Friday 21st with this to be streamed live onto the Internet to allow participation of schools statewide.
- Movies along the fossil and bat themes will be screened in the unique setting of Blanche Cave on Friday evening
- Saturday 22nd is a family day, with a range of displays from the SA Museum, including fossils, bats, reptiles, marine life, spiders, geology and minerals and Indigenous culture.
- Local musicians will perform in Blanche Cave during Saturday.
- A function dinner, arranged by Naracoorte Lucindale Council will be held in Naracoorte Town Hall on Saturday evening.
- Naracoorte Caves will offer half price cave tours on Saturday 22nd, to value add and assist in the marketing of the event.

Steve Bourne

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Assistance required for bat cave study in southeast South Australia and southwest Victoria.

I am currently conducting research into the invertebrate populations inhabiting bat caves in the Otway Basin situated in southeast South Australia and western Victoria (from Robe to Warrnambool). I am interested in any observations from people caving in this area about the presence of bats and especially bat guano deposits. This will also include guano deposits in caves bats are not currently using. Your observations will aid in focusing the study on relevant caves and caving areas within this large study area. Guano pile fauna is in need of further study and your observations can give me some ideas of where else to look. To help with this study all you need to do is take a copy of the form provided below (or email me for an electronic version) and simply fill it out for each cave you visit with some basic information. Completed forms can be either emailed or posted directly to me or returned to CEGSA meetings.

Tim Moulds
C/- Department of Environmental Biology
The University of Adelaide
North Terrace, Adelaide
SA, 5005

timothy.moulds@student.adelaide.edu.au

Bat and Gunao caves from the Otway Basin (Robe to Warrnambool)

Name of Cave:

Cave Area:

Date:

Name of observer(s) and contact details (email preferred):

Are bats present in the cave? (approx numbers and species if possible)

Is guano present in the cave and if so where?

Number of gunao piles

Height of guano piles?

Diameter or Length/Breadth of guano piles

Are the piles wet (dark in colour) or dry (grey in colour)?

Did you observe any invertebrates (spiders, insects etc) on piles. Were any recognisable?

Other comments

Please return this form to Tim Moulds via email (timothy.moulds@student.adelaide.edu.au) or post.

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VALE ED BAILEY

It is with sadness that we record the death of Ed Bailey on 30 January 2003, at the age of 85.

Ed joined CEGSA a little over 30 years ago. Already a successful engineer in the United Kingdom, he brought his family to Australia and joined the Defence Department at Salisbury, where he was able to make use of his abilities for lateral thinking. To give an example, in typical quiet Ed fashion he was managing to apply innovative research to positive ends, by developing techniques for the explosive moulding of sheets of titanium metal, a notoriously intractable substance. Ed managed to form complex shapes with the titanium, and some of the shapes he used were moulds of portions of human skulls, so that the resulting products could be used as patches for lifesaving operations in Adelaide hospitals. But Ed's interests in bones did not stop there.

Ed was particularly interested in the fossil work that was getting under way at Naracoorte after the discovery of the Fossil Cave in 1969

Ed joined CEGSA early in the 1970's and could often be found on Naracoorte trips after that time. He earned a much treasured CEGSA Leather Medal on a trip to Naracoorte in late April 1972, the weekend of a wonderful barbecue staged for CEGSA by the Naracoorte Service Clubs to celebrate the benefits to Naracoorte of the recent discovery of the Fossil Cave. It was at that barbecue that a number of people, cavers, service club members, the Mayor and others, were photographed by the local newspaper, the Herald, standing in front of a utility loaded with hard rubbish that had been removed from Specimen Cave in a clean-up operation. The only problem was that once the camera was put away, it seemed that most present were naturally more interested in a few more sausages and another bottle or two, and it almost looked as though the simplest way to get rid of the rubbish would be to find a convenient cave to drop it into, when along came Ed Bailey – "Super Salesman". Ed saved the day by suggesting to one of the local service club members, a gentleman called Ted, that some of the bits of rubbish at the bottom of the pile bore a passing resemblance to some metal pieces adorning a lovely old Model A Ford motor car that Ted had brought to barbecue. Ted got that ute back to his place so fast it is just as well they hadn't yet invented speed cameras, and Ed earned himself a well-deserved Leather Medal.

By 1974 Ed had been elected to the CEGSA Committee, and became a very capable editor of the CEGSA Newsletter for several years. The seventies were particularly exciting years for CEGSA with a lot of momentum building from the work at Naracoorte. In 1977/78 Ed became President of CEGSA, a position which he relinquished when his family needed more of his time for a while.

One of the things about Ed that was easy to overlook was that he didn't join CEGSA until he was already in his fifties, because he caved as though he was in his thirties. When others were already hanging up their boots, Ed was taking on committee work.

When he finally retired from the Defence Department Ed volunteered to work in Professor Rod Well's laboratory at Flinders University and brought his considerable materials handling skills to bear on tasks that helped further this amazing project. Rod himself has formal engineering qualifications, and I am sure that this helped him to recognize the value of Ed's engineering talents when harnessed to the cause, as well as the value of his versatile mind in problem solving. As a consequence, Ed spent many years in that arena, becoming "indispensable", and has left an enduring legacy, with examples of his meticulous work now on display in museums around the world. Those of us that knew Ed thought that he might be going to stay young forever, but it was not to be.

Ed will be sorely missed by those that knew him in CEGSA, at Naracoorte, and at Flinders University. He is survived by his wife Sylvia, his sons Trevor (also a former CEGSA member) and Jonathon, and his daughters Linda and Helen, and their families. Our thoughts are with them at this time.

If you sometimes get the feeling that he may still be around the place somewhere, just remember that he won the CEGSA "Spirit of Caving" Award in 1974, embodied in that well-known wraith-like object, suitably adorned.

The citation of the award on that occasion may have been about 30 years ahead of its time. It read: The Spirit of Caving, awarded to Ed Bailey

- "To help him haunt the Naracoorte Fossil Cave".

Happy haunting, Ed!

Grant Gartrell.

NOTICE of MOTION

Motion to be put at the General Meeting to be held at the Kent Town Hotel on 26 March 2003

Motion to alter the CEGSA Rules

Change rule 1(d) to read;

1(d) Any person joining after the start of the Annual Subscription year shall pay a fee equal to one quarter the annual fee for each complete or partial quarter year remaining. In addition a joining fee of a set amount shall also be paid unless joining for only three months. At the discretion of Committee a person can join for three months as an Associate.

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"HELP WANTED"**No Experience Necessary**

**Friendly Dynamic Members to help at a
CEGSA information Stall at the museum.**

March 15th and 16th 2003.

**If you have a couple of hours to spare on either
day to help promote the club and the work we do
to the public then please come along and help.**

For Further Information

Contact Graham Pilkington

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HELP MAKE SOME MONEY FOR THE GROUP

8th – 9th MARCH

**Come to Naracoorte for the weekend to help remove fossil dirt from
Cathedral Cave.**

**Free accommodation and some transport offsets as well as some
special visits.**

Contact MARIE CHOI

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
26/02/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
01/03/03	Working Bee	Library and records	George MacLucas
8-9/3/03	Fossil Dirt Removal	Naracoorte - Cathedral Cave	Marie Choi
11/03/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
15-16 /03/03	CEGSA Display	SA Museum	Graham Pilkington
22/03/03	SAM Promotion	Naracoorte Caves	Marie Choi
26/03/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
29/03/03	Working Bee	Library and records	George MacLucas
29/03/03	Caving	Corra Lynn	Marie Choi
08/04/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
11-27 /04/03	Caving	Nullarbor – Old Homestead Cave	Graham Pilkington
18-21 /04/03	Easter Caving	Corra Lynn Cave with CCV	Marie Choi
23/04/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
26/04/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
25-27 /04/03	Anzac Long Week End		
13/05/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
13/05/03	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
17-19 /05/03	Caving Long Week End	Avenue Range – Upper South East	Marie Choi or Kevin Mott
28/05/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel. 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
31/05/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
7-8/6/03	Caving Surprise	Naracoorte or Mt. Gambier	Marie Choi
14-15 /06/03	Caving	Naracoorte Odyssey 2003	Marie Choi
	Caving	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.

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JOINT CEGSA CCV EASTER CAVING AND Social WEEKEND

Where: Cora Lynn

When: Friday 18th April - Monday 21st April

Come along and join us in what should be a great social and caving weekend with those strange ones from over the border. We will be able to show them what **a-maze-ing** caving is all about.

If you want to come Contact Marie Choi.