

CEGSA NEWS

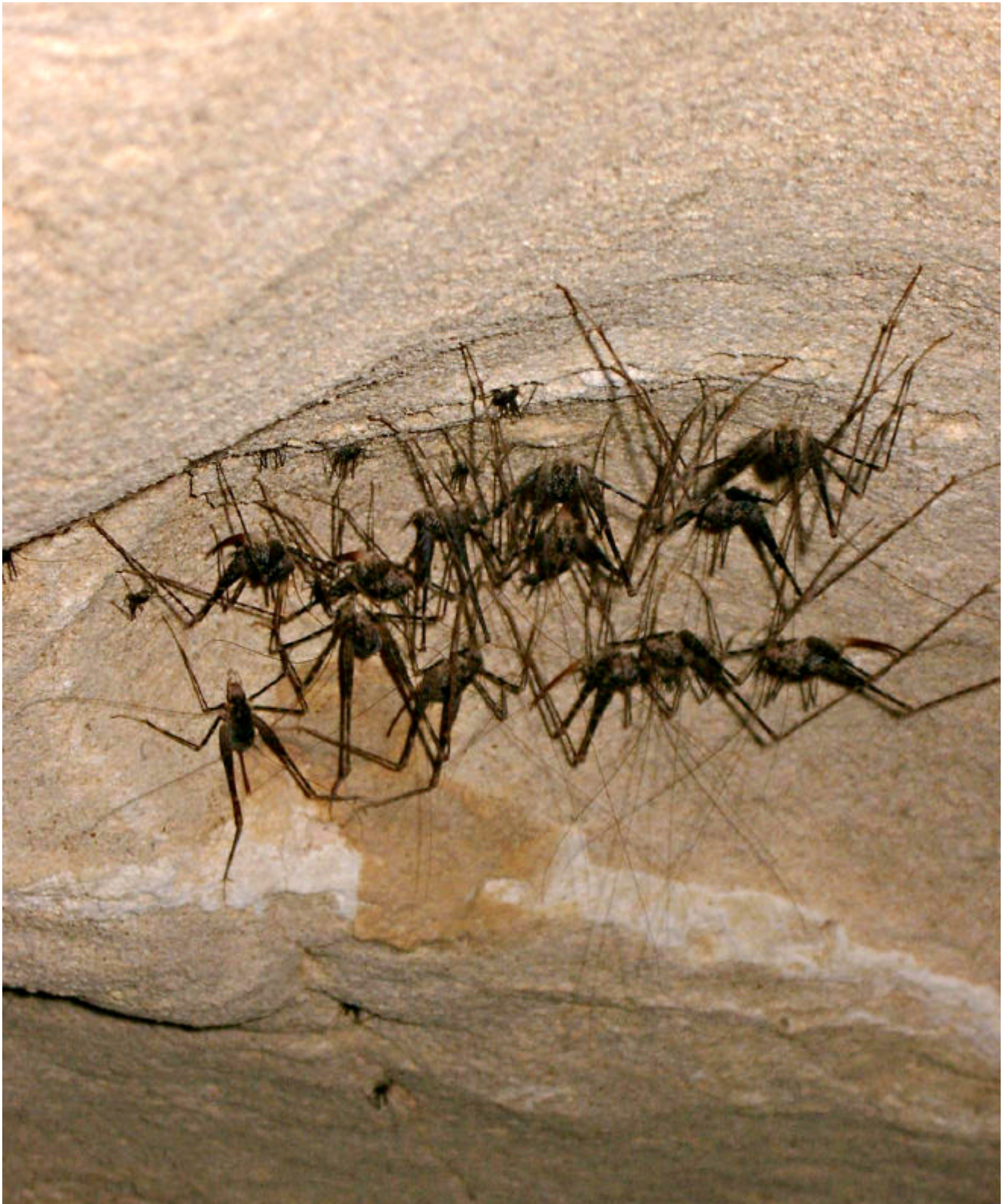


Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

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MAY 2003



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

Cover Photograph: Cave Crickets in 5U188 (Avenue Range)

Photo: Paul Deer

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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 48 Number 1 (Issue 191) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **13th August 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

It seems there was a delay in creating our new website cegsa.org.au but it should be operating by now. Lots of new stuff will be placed on the revamped website, courtesy of Paul Deer, our new Web Master.

The South Australian Museum OPEN HOUSE of 15-16 March had good weather. A few persons perused our display but few stayed to talk. Some talk went on between the CEGSA attendees regarding the creation of a more professional display that we could make for such events as these as well as creating our own events.

The Naracoorte Cathedral Cave adventure in moving tonnes of sediment out of the far reaches on 8-9 March went very well with about 19 CEGSA members helping out. On Saturday there were 42 people but this reduced to just 12 (all CEGSA) on Sunday. Maybe one third of the dirt was hauled out of the cave while the rest got about halfway out in terms of effort. What held us up was bagging the dirt into manageable sizes before it could be shifted. What's left will be shifted by "The Green Corp", a youth employment scheme helping out on the Caves Reserve.

Naracoorte has also generated a project via the National Parks & Wildlife Service to create a CD of the Reserve including cave maps and photos. This is to compliment the book being produced by NPWS. Anyone with ideas, photos (reserve or cave, historical or recent), or wish to help in any way please contact Marie Choi.

With more work in running the Group, and the various projects the Group participates in, falling on fewer members each year, it has been suggested that we raise the membership fees to pay the costs associated with financing volunteers. Such volunteers are available from community support groups providing that we have adequate insurance and pay any out-of-pocket expenses. An alternative to paying a "volunteer levy" would be to volunteer yourself. Any thoughts from our members? Send your suggestions and comments to the Editor for general discussion or Committee if you do not want them published.

Graham Pilkington

******Important Notice******

**ALL TRIP LEADER STATUS WILL BE REVOKED AS OF 1st JULY
UNLESS the new Trip Leader application form enclosed has been
filled out, returned and approved by committee.**

Committee.

VACANT POSITIONS

We have two vacant positions on the committee that are urgently required to be filled. The secretary position has been vacant since the AGM and we have a vacant committee member position vacant due to the resignation of Frank Hankinson. It is difficult to obtain a quorum at every committee meeting with two positions not being filled. If any full member can see their way clear to fill either of these positions, please let the President or any committee member know.

Committee.

TRIP REPORTS

Cathedral Cave Silt Removal March 8th – 9th 2003

Preamble

This exercise was organised by Steve Bourne (Manager, Naracoorte Caves) to extract the silt remaining after the bones had been sifted from it at the palaeo dig in the far reaches of Cathedral Cave. On the Saturday the party consisted of members of CEGSA, Friends of Naracoorte Caves and Greencorp, (in all about forty people) whereas on the Sunday it was only CEGSA (about twelve people). About two tonnes of silt was removed from the cave but there is still more to go.

Steve arranged some monetary recompense for CEGSA members travel as well as some for CEGSA Funds. Thanks, Steve.

Athol Jackson.

Day 1

Teams were organised and we entered the cave. Our team was gathered in the C section of the cave, a walking section which was good, as some of our team were members of I.F.A.C (I'm falling apart club). Our area started at the top of a slot at the end of a long crawl. From here the cave opened up to a walking chamber, the path rising, climbing up and over large boulders to the top where there is a section of decoration. The dirt path then winds around the left side of this and down into a crawling section where the infamous B Team was situated. I think I got one of the easier parts of section to work in which was lucky as I was in full bloom with the flu. I think it must have reacted to the Naracoorte air and mutated, because it infected just about anyone that entered the cave that weekend. Bags were passed up out of the B section to our chain, down the hole to the next section where the sled was situated. Because of the slow nature



of dragging out the sled there was a large backlog of bags at the top of the hole. What can I say, it was hard work. However, there was a buzz when a big discovery was made near the dig. A very rare and unique fossil was discovered belonging to the often unheard of "Toyotadon Camrycoortensus". The bag was handled with utmost care making its exit from the cave, and was shown to our expert on this species Marie Choi. You could tell that she must have been very excited as many loud and colourful words echoed around our chamber for a while.

Chris Fischer.

Saturday Night:

We all headed back to Wirreanda to clean up and enjoy a BBQ dinner, Steve and Liz had kindly arranged for some salads and extra meat for us. Steve also arrived in the latest fashion multi coloured Happy Pants in honour of my new hair colours! A few of the friends of Naracoorte group joined us to whilst the Green Corps kids headed to parties. Another treat for the group was when I completely lost my voice. This is a rare phenomenon and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, some more than others. Paul Harper also proceeded to inflict some amusement into the evening by at first swapping Dave G's tobacco with grass cuttings. Dave recouped his tobacco but had not learnt his lesson and left it unattended again which enabled Paul Harper to strike again, this time replacing it with left over salad. Something about Paul's face disarms people and Dave assumed I had done the deed. Most retired at a reasonable hour whilst a few of us remained up until an unreasonable hour playing rummykin and socialising.

Marie Choi.

Photo's by: Athol Jackson.

Day 2

Sunday was much the same, with only CEGSA members remaining. Well, what more can be said. We came, we saw, we conquered. We moved lots of dirt and much fun was had by all, especially those that received a special little treat from me, and I'm sure, like myself, you are all eagerly awaiting news of further dirt removal projects, so that we can all relive the experience.

Chris Fischer.

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Corra-Lynn Cave March 29

Marie Choi, Chris Fischer, Tim Moulds, Jim Skett

We met Tim at a pick up spot on Grand Junction Road and Jim at Curramulka and drove to Andrews, (the land owner) to enter our details. I tried to keep a safe distance from Andrew, who was sick with the flu. I had just got over my dose and couldn't risk alienating any more Cegsa members. We geared up and entered, and it wasn't long before Tim was dancing a jig after spotting some wetta's a short distance in. We headed for the obligatory rat's squeeze, with Marie and I trying to convince the other guys that it really wasn't as small as it looks. Sanity prevailed and we headed down to the drumstone to look at the exit of rats.

We decided to go down rope crevasse, along bushwalkers. Jim, Tim and I headed up into the crystal attic, and exited at the climb back down into bushwalkers to meet Marie who walked around. After a break in bushwalkers chamber, we looked around for a while to try and find the gunbarrel. We headed out the cave for lunch taking the easy way back from rope crevasse. After lunch we headed for some punishment, through bandicoots bypass. At the exit I detoured away from the group to have a quick look around the bottom of skeleton crevasse, and marvel at the wonderful rigging techniques of yesteryear. I rejoined them, and we went out to the wedding cake squeeze Tim and I climbed up vertical climb into the section behind wedding Cake where Tim and Jim made easy work of the squeeze while I rejoined Marie and I took the easier way. Next on our list was the walrus, one of the few pieces of decoration in the cave. What can I say; this is 'the bomb', people. If you can get a chance to see it then do so, because it rocks, or something like that anyway. You'll probably want to take a packed lunch, and heaps of expensive camera gear down to make the most of it. We couldn't take much more and decided to call it a day. Maries Inspector Clueso style of caving saw her bash her knee hard core on the slippery climb just before Tasmania and bandicoots. We exited back out bandicoots, a little more slowly than when we entered. Another good days caving. Decoration it may not have, but Corra-Lynn definitely has something that makes me keep coming back for more.

Chris Fischer.

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Naracoorte 19, 20 April 2003

Party I Lewis, K Mott, F Aslin, Martin, Karen

Caves visited U1, U2, U3, U4, U7, U8, U10, U12, U14, U15, U16, U17, U20, U22, U26, U31, U34, U35, U37, U38, U47, U48, U58, U63, U65, U69, U72, U89, U94, U98, U132, U181, U182, 3 features in Kybybolite area

A preliminary trip a couple of weeks prior looked at setting out reference points at caves along the range. These reference points were levelled on this trip. This would enable Ian to look at relativity of stratigraphy in each of the caves.

Rather than do weeks of laborious levelling Ian arranged for an acquaintance, Martin and his partner Karen, to assist. Martin and Karen work in the surveying field and were able to access sophisticated GPS based equipment which is able to provide horizontal and vertical accuracy greater than 20mm. Not as romantic as lugging heavy levels and staffs around the countryside, then repeating the process because it did not close the first time; but a damn site more practical.

The day commenced at 7-30 am and each of the caves was visited and the location and level recorded. Various survey and bench marks in the area were also picked up as there is very little vertical control outside the township of Naracoorte.

A report of a new cave in the Joanna area was received but as the owner was away it was left for a later trip to investigate. The cave reportedly has a small opening which leads down a collapse to a chamber.

Later in the day several large runaway holes in the eastern portion of Hundred of Joanna were documented. The first is approximately 80m diameter by 8m deep with a channel entering from the east. The second is 130m diameter by 3m deep with the main bowl being L shaped.

A runaway hole in the Kybybolite research centre was inspected. This is a large well vegetated area approximately 80m diameter with a small undercut cavity at the northern end. Time precluded a detailed documentation so this will need to be followed up later.

Several other reported runaway holes were noted but due to the onset of darkness were not visited at this time.

Ian, Martin and Karen visited Beekeepers Cave on the Sunday for a quick exploration.

The area around U69 has several caves, many with an interesting history, that need recording. There is obviously a large amount of work to still be done in the Naracoorte area. All it needs is for cavers to go caving.

Kevin Mott.

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LOWER SOUTH EAST 21 April 2003

Party F Aslin, K Mott

Caves visited L279, L478, L479 and other features in the Kongorong – Allendale area

Having already entered the caving mode due to assisting Ian at Naracoorte a day or so earlier and seemingly not already having enough to do it was decided to follow up on some loose ends that had been niggling away at Fred for a number of years.

We started just west of Allendale that a property Fred had visited several years ago. The owner showed us several collapses that had occurred; a bore with a cavity and a small cave with several entrances. These were all located with GPS and a location plan of the property prepared.

On an adjoining property a fairly significant outcropping of karst was noted. This consisted of well defined joint channels up to a metre wide and deep. Many other joint lines can be seen in the soil due to vegetation changes. A small joint cave in another property further south was also recorded and will duly be allocated a number.

A property near Kongorong was then visited to check out a cave shown on old survey diagram pages as "cave – good water". The owner directed us to it's location but warned it had been largely filled in by previous owners. The entrance is a collapse about 3m in diameter within an elongate doline 40m x 20m 3m deep. The cave extends 1.5m to the south east then is blocked by substantial fill. This has now been numbered L479.

Another report on a nearby property was then followed up. This cave L478 is a 4m diameter window leading to a 20m chamber with a total depth of 10m. The cave is also used to supply irrigation water and research shows it also is shown on old survey diagram pages. Somehow it has escaped being picked up earlier. The cave was located and surveyed.

L279 was then visited and located with GPS. A quick look in the 4m high x 1m wide south eastern entrance showed the pool of water now started 7m into the cave which extended 25+m.

A follow up trip by Adam Branford the next weekend extended the south eastern end to 50m with low flatteners continuing just above water table at the end. The puddle is 5m deep. This cave was used to supply water to wet logs stored in the quarry after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires.

Kevin Mott.

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Corra Lynn Easter 2003

Marie Choi, Chris Fischer, Adam Branford, Monica, Brigid Larkin and Dennis Crowder, Jim Skett, Paul Harper, Sefton Family, Woodcock Clan and Nick Pincombe

Ever since I had joined CEGSA, I had heard about the fabled Corra-Lyn cave. When the opportunity arose to go over there for Easter, I jumped at the chance to go over to the Yorke Peninsula, take on this cave and win... well... in fact... if I didn't get lost then I would be happy. So four of us from down here in the sunny South East jumped in my car and headed north, through the big smoke and Pt Wakefield and onto Pt Vincent. Marie had booked the YHA known as Tuckerway at Pt Vincent. Not too bad really considering that it is owned by the Girl Guide Association.

That Thursday night Marie, Chris, Monica, Brigid, Dennis and I just sat around, looked at maps and chatted. I made the very foolish mistake of taking my overalls to a Laundromat before we came. Although they now smelled better, I'd unknowingly left a blank canvas for the texta fairies to create lavish works of art on. And so it was next morning, as I donned my overalls while getting ready, that I noticed that I had grown a large set of breasts. I just hoped that they wouldn't get in the way as I made my way through the cave. I also noticed that there were several little "messages" all over my overalls as well. As soon as Paul Harper arrived, we packed up and headed for the cave.

I really had no idea what to expect as I had heard that this cave was very different to the ones I am used to back home. We got ready, went down to the entrance and entered the cave. The first unnerving part was the closing of the door. Once we were all in, the metal door was closed, with a gentle BOOM resounding throughout the cave. It was how I'd always envisaged the door to a crypt being sealed.

The first thing we found of interest was a pair of little geckos that had made their way into the entrance passage. One was quite active, and had obviously been basking in the sun before choosing to get some peace in the cave. The other unfortunately was not so good. It had been somehow damaged on the belly, with euthanasia being the kindest option for it.

Once inside Corra-Lyn, I was amazed by the complexity of the cave. I had seen the maps but nothing had really prepared me for what I was seeing. Firstly, the cave walls looked solid... none of this crumbly white limestone that I was used to from the South East. We quickly made our way down into Grand Central. By this time I was already confused as to where we had come from, but soon managed to work out the way to the entrance. Marie led us through some nice little bits in the cave including something only the foolhardy and midgets would attempt - Rats Squeeze.

I still cannot believe that someone would actually attempt to try and traverse this grotty little crack. Being such a fan of small, tight places, I attempted to slip into the squeeze for a little look around. I managed to get my boots in and I think I got about half way my calves when I quickly realised that this was as far as I could go. I'll have to leave that challenge for the next time.

Next we made our way up and around to the Rope Crevasse. There was a slight problem on the way to the crevasse for me though. It's called... The Stick. What an incredibly thoughtful piece of naming that was. To me it was more like... The Twig. There was no way that I was going to place my hefty frame on this glorified matchstick. So, while Paul, Chris, Brigid and Dennis went up across the top to the crevasse, Monica, Marie and I went another way.

Here came problem number two. Marie took us down to this little squeeze, which she promptly went through with only a little grunting and groaning. Monica was next to attempt it. I won't go into details here, but after much grunting, groaning, pushing, cursing, pulling and determination, she made it through. An outstanding effort in my opinion, from a very green caver. Next it was my turn. No doubt

you've guessed that I failed to make it through this one as well. I tried, and pushed, and grunted like all the rest, but my generous proportions would not allow me the pleasure that the others had experienced.

So, I had to follow Paul to a different place, where I was able to sit at the bottom of the crevasse and watch everyone come down the rope. Most managed to do so with little problem. One or two unnamed persons had a little trouble at the bottom, but they were OK. The next challenge to some was to go back up the crevasse but without using the rope. Brigid and Dennis jumped the chance to do something difficult and so they had a go at completing this feat. I was convinced that coming down the rope would have been hard enough but no... not for these two. The next 30 or so minutes were then spent watching two teenagers having a go at doing the almost impossible. Unfortunately neither managed to finish the job, but rest assured, there will be more attempts in the future.

It was also during this time somewhere that I discovered a complete bird skeleton. It had obviously not been there long as there was still a bit of tissue around some of the bones. The bird had died with its wings outstretched and its head turned to the side. Don't bother looking for it though. I have no idea where it was and anyway... someone removed it from the cave the next day.

Once we had exited the cave we soon noticed that we were being watched by a pair of Llamas that were standing outside the perimeter fence. To some these creatures looked handsome and graceful in their lovely coats. To me they were ugly mongrels that had a nasty reputation of spitting their stomach contents at people. Needless to say I wasn't keen to get too close to the damned beasts. I did approach them for a closer look, but as you moved in that little bit too close... the ears went back and they started a chewing motion, which reminded me of harking up some great wads of phlegm. So it was that we came to an uneasy understanding. I didn't go too close and they didn't spit. I still wonder what they taste like...

Once we got back to Pt Vincent we freshened up, had tea, used the Heebeegeebee and chatted for a while. Later that night the Sefton family joined us. Some of us decided to go for a nice, quiet nights stroll. What we in fact came across was a massive party on the foreshore of about 40 youth having a high old time. We were also fortunate enough to come across some elegant gentlemen who were attempting to knock out a streetlight with an air rifle and rocks. They kindly asked us to mind our own business by mentioning that they were in fact at their own homes and they were in fact using their own rocks. This was obviously a pleasant gesture on their behalf. I wondered if they were actually shooting at their light as well... I somehow doubt it.

Next day we all headed back to the cave to complete another days caving. There we were met by the Woodcock clan as well as Jim Skett. The Sefton and Woodcock families went their own way, with some other newer members in tow. Marie, Brigid, Dennis, Jim, Chris and me went in the opposite direction. We went down to have a bit of a look at Bandicoots Bypass. Jim, Brigid and Dennis had a bit of a nosey, while the rest of us laid around the entrance to it. Next we went to Upper Woodside, took a ladder and belay down to Lower Woodside and had a bit of a cruise around there. This was to be the start of one of my most challenging moments underground. Marie talked me into attempting Beards Squeeze.

The first attempt I stuffed up by going head first on my stomach. I managed to get about to my chest when my helmet got jammed, leaving me facing the dirt, with no-where else to go. Naturally, with my inexperience I became a little flustered at this time. Marie quickly came down and undid my helmet strap so that I could actually breathe and see what I was doing. I was extremely grateful for this. I'd decided that I'd seen enough of this little squeezey bit but no.... Marie wanted more. So I lay on my back and tried to push my way through. I was actually having some success when I realised that my sternum was slowly being pinned. I pushed and pushed... eventually popping through. I could not believe that I had done it. My chest was a little sore and my undergarments a little soiled, but I actually did it. Now some of you may be thinking... so what. At 6ft tall and around 120kgs, I thought I did OK.

The rest of the day was spent looking around and checking out a few little crawls and squeezes. But this time I had had enough of challenging myself so I settled for catching my breath and reliving those moments of glory when I actually managed to do something tight...ish. We also spent some time

playing on the Slippery Dip near Grand Central. I had a bit of help with gravity and so naturally managed to slide the furthestest (Is that a real word?). I also had the least grippy shoes.

Once we got out of the cave we went back to freshen up and relax for the night. On the way back I stepped into the pub to see if we could book a table for dinner. I should have known that there were no tables left by the mobs of people sitting around outside, hanging out of the boots of their cars, getting slowly plastered. Once the barmaid had finished laughing she confirmed what I had suspected all along. No room.

Next day Monica, Brigid, Dennis and I left early, as I had to meet up with someone up at Kadina. The trip home was uneventful as we, along with half of Adelaide, meandered back from the Yorke Peninsula.

Although the numbers were down this year, we all still had a great time. It was a shame that none of the Victorians could make it over. Hopefully this will change next year. I'd like to thank Marie for running the trip and organising everything. I look forward to coming back to Corra-Lyn sometime for another look around what is certainly an amazing cave.

Adam Branford.

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WHERE THE HELL IS AVENUE? 17-19 May.

I've been living down here in the South East now for 8 or so years. Done a lot of travelling around down here and seen a lot of things. But I must admit... I was a little perplexed when Marie told me that we were going to be caving at Avenue. This is somewhere I'd not heard much about and had certainly no idea where it was. I mean, to be a country town, there must be a footy oval or tennis courts and a pub. Avenue has neither. The only symbol of township status is the local shop... nothing more. The Avenue area is home to some great little caves and some of the nicest people you'd ever meet. More about the family later.

We met at the Avenue shop at about 9:30 ish. The two more senior Mt Gambier members were running a little behind this time. Following their arrival, the exact meeting time came under some scrutiny. It didn't really matter though; we'd passed the time by kicking around the footy and messing around. We headed North to the Thomas property to see where we would be caving. Once there we moved our gear into the Motel la Avenue, the family Shearing shed. Apart from the delicate aroma of sheep and their wastes, the shed was fantastic. The smell is still permeating out of my swag. Lance and Barbara were already there so we got our stuff together and headed off.

Now you must understand that I have this desperate need to affix names to things in order to help me remember what I've done and where I've been. Any cave names mentioned in this report are entirely fictitious and bear no resemblance to any cave living or dead.

Once we arrived at the paddock containing some holes for investigation, we broke into smaller groups and had a bit of a look around. I worked with Paul Deer to check out a little feature I've named Sleepykidna Cave. This had a fairly small entrance that fortunately looked impenetrable to me until Paul moved some of the rocks out of the way making my excuses for not entering null and void.

The cave had nothing of any real interest except for an ugly rock floor, tight little spots, no decoration and a local who'd obviously settled in for the day. The Echidna was obviously quite comfy in his little section of cave and was not really willing to move along for the sake of exploration. This concerned Paul a little as he'd not had much experience in dealing with the little spiky mongrels. Paul moved over to let me have a little look and to see if I could persuade our little friend to move it. I've come across a lot of Echidnas down here and was not at all bothered by him BUT... I couldn't reach him. The long arm of the law was either not long enough or



was stuck onto something a little larger than this section of cave would allow. The Echidna was allowed to rest undisturbed. Paul would have been able to access this section of the cave but as it was it would have been quite a challenge for a passage that appeared to go nowhere anyway. The only other feature of the cave of some interest was the abundance of Wetas, which seemed to be common for all of the caves we visited.

The next cave Paul and I went in was one I've named Weta Wonderland because of the thousands of adult and juvenile wetas that were present. Dave G and Brigid had been in here for a while, surveying and mapping. Entrance was via a small solution tube that dropped you onto a section on the top of the chamber. At first glance I thought that the tube was going to be quite a challenge but it was actually much easier than I'd imagined. Weta Wonderland was quite small and crawly but had a few surprises in it. There were thousands of wetas. They were all through the entrance chamber in sizes from huge to newborn. Paul and I spent some time with Marie's digital camera taking pics of them in their family groups. (See photo on front cover)



After descending from the entrance chamber we found lots of decoration. I haven't been in many caves that have much decoration so I might be getting a little carried away. But compared to what I have seen in the past, Weta Wonderland had a lot of old and dry decoration. Because of the lack of rain that even we in the South East have had to endure, the cave only had a very small amount of decoration that was damp. There seemed to be an abundance of flowstone, some from the roof down to the floor, some of it many meters long. There were all sorts of stals; some small columns and small patches of cave coral. While looking around we came across Dave

and Brigid who had been busily mapping. We sat down for a bit of a chat about the cave before continuing. By this time the survey was almost complete and after tidying up a few loose ends the mapping was finished. I had a bit of look down another section while the others exited, almost got stuck and decided that I had seen quite enough. After some solid rain and the passing of some time, I'm sure that this cave would be quite spectacular to see.

While all of this was going on, Lance, Barbara and Kristie (The landowners daughter) were having a look around Woblacoola Cave, going through from one entrance to the other. Kevin and Fred were moving around the bush completing a surface survey and checking positions of caves to see how the whole puzzle fitted together. Marie was resting, as she was not feeling too well. Once we were all back together we all did a hillside search to see if any more features could be found. Only one tiny hole was discovered.



Once back at the Motel la Avenue we sat down, chatted and discussed options for the rest of the afternoon. Kevin, Fred, Lance and Barbara decided to go and investigate a cave some km's away while the rest of us would have a look at Fuel-Link Cave.

Fuel-Link cave appeared late last year after a Fuel-Link truck passed along the driveway, with the rear wheel on the trailer revealing a small solution tube no further than 15 meters from the back door of the Thomas family home. Naturally, our resident worm, Dave G, was the first to slide down and have a look around. He was quickly followed by Brigid. It was not hard to see how the cave was breathing by the amount of dust and dirt swirling around the entrance from underground. I had a long and time-consuming look at the entrance before deciding that being stuck in the constriction at the bottom was a little more than one could bear this late in the afternoon. Kristie however was much braver than I and had decided she would

attempt to get into this little tube that had fascinated her since opening up last year. Being of tall but slight build, Kristie had more chance of going in than I did sticking my leg down there and so she tried... and tried... and tried. Poor girl. Kristie has not had a lot of experience caving and eventually the tube became more of a challenge than she was able to complete. The next problem soon presented itself. Extricating Kristie from the entrance. Once again she tried... and tried... and tried. Poor girl. Marie tied up a rope and lowered a hand line in. Once again her efforts were in vain. Eventually Neville and I put a hand under each armpit and lifted. The poor girl was freed from the nasty clutches of the cave.

Entrance to Fuel-link cave was via a 4 or so meter solution tube that places you in a small, flat, sandy chamber, which slopes towards the house. I have it on good authority that the cave is fairly uninteresting except for an unusual floor hole and a scorpion that Dave removed with his bare hand that were holding his tobacco tin. For many years the owners had thrown rubbish down a hole on the driveway. The rubbish pile was very evident in the cave as was a few old roo bones. There were also a few small areas of decoration. After a quick survey and completion of a map, the two explorers exited. Brigid had a little difficulty getting out and eventually had the same assistance as Kristie. Naturally Dave was out quicker than a rat up a drain-pipe.

While the exploration was going on underground, I was having an attack of the "Woe is me... fat people can't go far" syndrome. Neville (The Landowner) came to my rescue. We went for a walk around the house to see about 5 little holes that were slowly opening up around the immediate vicinity of the family home. Next Neville decided to lay some fox baits down and asked the question 'Did I wish to join him?' After thinking about it for a few minutes, looking at the motorbike I would be riding and seeing where we would have to go, I decided that I wouldn't be rude and hesitantly obliged. We took off across some paddocks, got chased by around 200 goats thinking we'd come over for the sole purpose of feeding them, went up some sandy tracks and came back down through the scrub. It was an unenviable task... but someone had to do it.

While Mott and co were still out we decided to get the fire going for the night. Neville had gone and got a heap of huge roots for us to burn, so we set the fire, lit it and stood around chatting. Nev also got us a huge light to use outside to see. There is nothing like real country hospitality. Nothing was too much to ask. The option of going out fox shooting for the night was also available but I declined when I found out that the mode of transport was a four-wheeled bike with a passenger holding a spotlight and a shotgun. The idea is to go as fast as is humanely possible, passenger in tow, run the fox down and have a shot with something that it would be hard to miss with. It did sound like fun, but it was getting cold and the rain was starting to spit.

We all had tea, (Sweet and sour chicken with noodles on the campfire was delicious) and sat about in the motel discussing the day and generally chatting. Motty produced a magnificent work of art in the form of a birthday cake for Dave emblazoned with the CEGSA logo, and Avenue range delicately written in icing sugar. It was magnificent! Everyone was soon in bed, with lights out and the sounds from Dave's snoring and the patter of rain on the galv iron roof echoing around the motel before midnight.



Next morning we noticed that it had been raining a little overnight. After mine and Brigid's scrumptious breakfast of bacon and egg sandwiches followed by pancakes, jam and cream, we all got ourselves ready for another day underground. We travelling convoy up to Mr Rebbecks property about 10 ks north of the Motel. We followed him into his property and around to a swamp. This was going to be the site we were going to camp at. It would have been perfect, except for the rain. We all decided to go by 4WD to get closer to the paddock that contained the caves. Brigid and I travelled in my car whilst the rest piled onto the back of the Rebbeck Hilux ute. This provided Brigid and I with seat wetting laughter as all on the back of the ute ducked and weaved under tree branches, got air over holes, and generally were thrown around like clothes in a tumble dryer.

After some nice duco scratching tracks we arrived at a survey point noted by Kevin and then parked in the middle of the bush somewhere to walk down to the paddock. There were several features that had been noted here in the past and we had to try and find them. We found a few of them and about 20 new ones. Fred and Kevin were running around like kids in a lolly shop trying to keep up with the flurry of features being discovered. I even found my first cave under some heavy undergrowth with a healthy dose of Bridal creeper. We searched high and low but were unable to locate the cave that Kevin was looking for. It would be easier to go there after the next scrub fire to look around without the presence of the creeper. Once all features were noted and measured, we went back to the swamp for some lunch and to decide how we were going to tackle the afternoon.

After lunch we broke into three small groups with the purpose of mapping and surveying as many of the new features as was possible. Fred and Kevin went off to complete the surface surveys and to continue the hunt for the still elusive water pipe cave.

The first cave we did we named Wwyb cave (pronounced Wib). This stands for Why would you bother? This was a grotty little flat feature with very low sections, some decoration and a loose rockpile. Interestingly the decoration was all damaged, with the remains of the stals on the ground. Over time the flowstone has covered it all making for a different look. The worm went off for his usual look around and managed to note that the cave did nothing of any excitement and in fact had a loose pile of rocks that would be hazardous to survey. I thought this sounded like a sensible idea and so we all exited.

The second feature we looked at was Hoey's Dig cave. Another small, flat cave that took off in one direction for about 6 meters; with a remote chance of a dig in the end. It took all of about 5 minutes to survey and map this one, and we soon went off onto the next feature. Crescent cave was the next item to look at. Another boring little feature that did nothing but follow a seam of rocks into a distance of about 5 meters. Again, little time was spent in here due to the inevitability that it did nothing and went nowhere. Across from Crescent cave we looked around some large rocks into another little feature, but we soon found out that the rocks were in fact a part of terra firma and without a sledge or jackhammer, we weren't going to get in. Oh well, onto the next cave.

Adams Undergrowth cave required the removal of some Banksia bits, undergrowth and Bridal creeper to really see the entrance. I found all this rather exciting as I had not discovered a cave before and had really wanted to. Naturally, it had to be flat and low. Could I find something with walk in chambers, decoration and cave pearls. No. I had to find some low, flat feature that had nasty rib bruising rocks and lots of Banksia nuts. I went down to the bottom of the first chamber and noted that the cave went off for a considerable distance in both directions. Dave and Brigid soon entered and we commenced the survey. We soon found out that the cave did in fact go for quite a distance and although fairly devoid of decoration, had some interesting bits in it. The bottom was a silt floor, probably what was once the top of the water table. Behind me was a small passage that had obviously been explored by one of the locals. There were a number of Wombat holes in the area, and this cave had probably been home to one of them. We started to measure across to a side passage that appeared to have some length. The Worm crawled on for a bit and had a good look around. Eventually it tightened and became a little too tight for even the sensational Dave. We did some measurements and went back the other direction to find that once again, the cave took off. By this stage in the day we were getting tired and decided to quickly measure this side without full exploration. In total though over 50 meters of cave was discovered and measured. We exited the cave to find the rest of the gang working to open up a solution tube that had some blockage issues.

Brigid and I quickly went for a five minute look in Standing cave? and went back to join the rest who were patiently waiting. We all went back to the cars and made the short journey back to Motel la Avenue. It was at this time that Brigid and I had to return back to Mount Gambier. The rest of the crew were going to stay another night at the Motel before returning to their respective homes. After a quick clean up and some goodbyes, we were on our way. We only managed to get geographically embarrassed once on the way home as we took all the back tracks to make the journey as short as possible.

The rest of the group were completing a few jobs off on the Monday and were then returning home. All had a great weekend and many new features located and surveyed. We must sincerely thank the

Thomas family for their hospitality and use of their Motel and to the Rebbeck family for the access to their land.

Well, that's it. The end of another report from me. Hope it kept your attention long enough for you to have reached the end.

Adam Branford.

Photo's by: Paul Deer.

Avenue Range 19 May 2003

After the removal of the riff raff from the Motel la Avenue on Sunday night the remainder of the crew continued with caving on the Monday. A collapse feature near U53 was also documented. This feature was apparently visited by Eddie Rubessa some years ago but I can not find any record of the trip.

We travelled to Bin Bin Station to follow up on another cave reported from a 1957 CEGSA trip report. This simply said cave with bees. No follow up trip has ever been run to check out this or the other caves mentioned in that trip report. I wonder how many other caves are waiting to be rediscovered from the pages of CEGSA Records.

The manger, Phil Clarke and his son Nathan piled us into the back of the ute and we bounced around like a McCains stir fry as we travelled over many kilometres of sandy track to emerge at a hole in the ground.

The entrance is approx 2m diameter x 1m deep with a eucalypt growing out of the middle. This leads to a cave with a couple of chambers, one of which contained over a hundred bats. This cave, of about 40m is now the northern known extent of the range of the Naracoorte colony. An adjacent swamp drains into the cave but no navigable passage was located on this trip.

While returning to the homestead Phil remembered another rocky outcrop he thought we might be interested in. Why not! We headed off across the swamp to the rocky outcrop. Fred found another hole nearby which smelled like a cave. Barbara was encouraged to ignore the poo and enter the cave. It was a low ramble cave with slit floor and roof height of approx 0.7m. A changing of the guard saw Motty continue the exploration. Following a breeze he kept barrelling along and happened to perchance on an opening. After much bellowing the others and the manger's dog turned up. There was some muttering about dark and menacing clouds above. It was quite fine in the cave. Despite the manager's foxy running in and out of the entrance. I decided it was safer to proceed back through the cave to main entrance where it had already started to drizzle. We then returned to the homestead through the bucketing rain. The second cave would have approx 70m of passage.

When CEGSA returns to further explore and map these caves the manager has offered the use of the old homestead. Lunch was enjoyed in the protection of the homestead veranda. After lunch the Adelaide and Naracoorte contingent departed.

Fred and I headed for the Mount via a couple of new reports and relocation by GPS of U103.

On a previous trip to the Mount Grant Gartrell accidentally let slip that he and Bill Binks looked at a cave that had the potential to turn out like L119. We managed to locate this and another even larger cave plus a dozen other features on the property.

The next feature was a report from another landowner. It is a cave in scrub, but the owner has never seen it. He has provided a contact name who can lead us there when we next visit the region.

The weekend has solved some outstanding reports from the 1950's but left others unresolved. Many new numbers can now be allocated and there will be many more trips required to complete the work already started. It is very enjoyable caving in an area where the locals are interested and keen to help. See you all on the future trips.

Kevin Mott.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

PAUL DEER

This months CEGSA profile goes to none other than the Birthday Boy!



Paul J. Deer (otherwise known simply as PJ), was born in Sydney on the 28th May, 1982 which makes this month's CEGSA General Meeting his 21st birthday! I have known Paul all my life so one would imagine writing a personal profile would be an easy task. However, I challenge you to write a 'nice', 'complimentary' profile for your sibling. I assure you, it is rather challenging!

Paul is youngest of three having been preceded by a brother, Stuart, and a sister, Linda (both of whom were/are CEGSA members). Paul grew up with a strong Scouting influence after having started Cubs at the tender age of 8 and continuing through to Venturers.

Paul's caving interest was inevitable after his Great Uncle and both his Great Grandfathers were underground miners (not to mention the fact that his older siblings were forever away on caving adventures). Paul started caving with Beefacres Venturer Unit when he was 15. He has since caved in areas including the Nullarbor, Mole Creek, Murray Plains, Adelaide Plains, Yorke Peninsula, Lower and Upper South East and the Flinders Ranges. Paul's love for caving soon spread to include maintenance of the CEGSA website, Cave Photography, Cave Leadership (youth), and Cave Surveying. Paul recently learnt how to draw as part of a survey team! The Spirit of Caving Award was granted to Paul for his enthusiasm toward caving in 2001. As far as I know, this achievement signifies the first time a brother/sister duo has been awarded this honour. Paul has finally reached the pinnacle of caving this year as he landed himself on the CEGSA Committee.

Paul's other interests (yes, there is life outside of caving) include water and snow skiing, hiking (including a near summit of Federation Peak), basketball (his height is good for something besides from being able to reach the top shelf!), music and reading. He is also a Guru in computer programming and gaming. This love led him to University study and eventually a job as a computer programmer. Paul's non-caving weekend time is often spent LANing (playing computer games networked to several hundred machines). Paul does not like football, cooked mushrooms or red meat.

Believe it or not, Paul represented the State as a National Weightlifter for five years earning medals in the Under 20's category when he was only 16! He also won several Gold medals in State competitions during this time. Don't let his bean-pole figure fool you; I wouldn't pick a fight with him anymore!

Well PJ, how did I go? Were you surprised?
Happy 21st Birthday Paul Jeremy "Rhomes" Deer!!

Linda Deer.

And now a few words from a non related observer of Paul Deer.

I met Paul through his brother and sister when at the age of 15, he started coming on school holiday youth caving trips that I ran through Southside (Mission Australia). He was quietly in the background and when it was mentioned that he was turning 21, I had a shock, has he ever been younger? He hasn't seemed to change much in the years I have known him and has always come across as a well mannered likable and responsible young man. That was until Tassie, when the real Paul came out. He is one party animal! As some of the pics show, he can fall down drunk and not spill a drop of his drink. You can't keep him off the dance floor and he loves to try out his really bad Irish accent.

Paul has a curious nature always willing to learn and listen. He's probably one of the most helpful people you can have on a trip, and although a little shy and quiet does come out of his shell once he gets to know you. For those that know me they may have heard me mention over the years that although I am a youth worker I don't particularly like young people. I must say though that I don't flinch when Paul pays me out and calls me mum!!! So as I have that honorary role, I feel I also have a right to scrutinise any future girlfriends so, if you're interested in this charming young man, send your resume to me.

Marie Choi.

MEMBERSHIP

Change in Membership details:-

- F Ian Richards 9506 Insert – P O Box 17 HAPPY VALLEY SA 5159
- F Tim Moulds 0209 (H) 8363-4574
Address – 4/14 Kapunda Terrace PAYNEHAM SA 5070
- F Tom Szabo 9603 Delete Address and Home Phone No.
Add – P O Box 1085 FLINDERS PARK SA 5025
(M) 0415-215-190

Welcome to New Members:-

- A Brigid Larkin 0301 (H) 8723-4160
35 Ferrers Street MT GAMBIER SA 5290
P O Box 3600 MT GAMBIER SA 5290
- A Dennis Crowder 0302 (H) 8725-6209
2 Mallee Street MT GAMBIER SA 5290
- CF George Bradford 0303 (H) 08-8762-0111 (W) 08-8762-2340
P O Box 143 NARACORTE SA 5271

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR YEAR 2003

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

ASF component will be:-

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	121.50
3 Month Introductory	20.00

CEGSA FEES 2003

	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

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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

Treasurer/Membership Officer

A SABRE-TOOTHED POSSUM?

Last year, I was surprised and gratified to receive a unique award at the Annual General Meeting. This was a special plaque to “Neville Pledge, for 30 years of service to CEGSA, 9th Feb 2002”, bearing a skull and cross-bones.

(Not that I have any association with piracy.)

The thing that immediately struck me was the skull. It was obviously unusual, but it reminded me of something, which I eventually was able to identify. Below is a description of this unusual specimen.

CLASS MAMMALIA

Order MARSUPIALIA

Family **Diabolidae** nov.

Diabolus pledgei gen. et sp. nov.

(Common name: Pledge’s sabre-tooth possum)



Description: This animal had a possum-sized skull, having a pair of premolars and four pairs of molar teeth of typical marsupial bunolophodont form. But it differed in having three pairs of large needle-like caniniform fangs in the front of the skull which has a relatively long snout. In addition, and uniquely for marsupials, there is a pair of short, curved horns at the back of the skull.

If the associated crossed bones belong to the same animal, then it can be said to be a true pin-head, for these goat-like shin bones, which suggest cloven hooves, are disproportionately large and robust.

Comparisons: While the skull superficially resembles that of the brushtail possum, *Trichosurus*, it seems to show closer similarities to the Ice Age *Scrat* or “Saber-toothed Squirrel” (T.C. Fox 2001). It differs from that mythic beast, however, in being marsupial and in the apparent size of its limbs, which may have been hypertrophied for a troglodytic fossorial lifestyle. Also, since *Scrat* is a placental Northern Hemisphere mammal, *Diabolus* is another example of convergent evolution.

Is this what the sabre-tooth possum looked like? An artist’s impression of the *Scrat* (after Fox 2001). Compare with the skull, showing the horns and needle-like fangs.



Conclusions: Do not believe all you read or see.

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I wish to thank the Committee for this acknowledgement. It has been enjoyable, if at times frustrating, acting as go-between with the SA Museum by which I was employed for more than 30 years. I thank also all those who, in years long past, helped with my excavations at Naracoorte and elsewhere or otherwise brought in interesting bones from the caves. (And it was through my interest in cave fossils that I was able to find a career in palaeontology and a place at the Museum.)

Neville (‘the Devil’) Pledge.

Photo’s By: Author

P.S. Whose idea was it to create this specimen?

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Caving activity by region and **Technical and Other Articles**

Key to abbreviations used in the index

B Biological	Bo Botanical
D Description	Di Diving
E Exploration	F Fantasy
H History	L Location
M Map	P Photography
Pa Palaeontology	S Surveying
Sc Scientific	SR Search and Rescue
T Tourist	Tg Tagged
Tr Training	W Work

CAVING ACTIVITY

Caving activities are listed by Cave Number, Newsletter reference, Author and Type of activity

If a cave has been listed at the start of an article, but not described in the article, the reference will be that listing at the start. For joint authors only the first mentioned is listed.

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6YA1	47 (1) p14	J McLucas	T
6YN1	47 (1) p14	J McLucas	T
6YN2	47 (1) p14	J McLucas	D,T
6YN5	47 (1) p13	J McLucas	
6YN69	47 (1) p15	J McLucas	T
6YN130	47 (1) p15	J McLucas	T
6YN508	47 (1) p15	J McLucas	T
7IB10	47 (2) p44	M Scott	
7IB11	47(2) p44	M Scott	
7IB14	47 (2) p43	Mick	
	47 (2) p45	Mick	
7MC1	47 (2) p36	Mick	E
7MC 13	47 (2) p37	A Grindley	E
7MC14	47 (2) p40	P Deer	E
7MC38	47 (2) p37	Y Ingeme	E, P
	47 (2) p40	M Choi	P
7MC120	47 (2) p41	P Deer	E, P
7MC125	47 (2) p36	S Smith	E
7MC141	47 (2) p 35	K Binks	E, P
Cave Hill (WA)	47 (1) p15	J McLucas	T
Karctchner Caverns (USA)	47 (1) p17	D Grindley	T
Lilburn Cave (USA)	47 (1) P18	D Grindley	E
	47 (4) p93	D Grindley	E, S
Ogof Draenen (UK)	47 (3) p79	D Grindley	T
Onyx Cave (USA)	47 (1) p16	D Gridley	E, P
Peppersauce Cave (USA)	47 (1) p16	D Grindley	
Porth-yr-Ogof (UK)	47 (3) p79	D Grindley	
SP Cave (USA)	47 (1) p17	D Grindley	E, P
Swildons (UK)	47 (3) p78	D Grindley	E

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

Technical and Other Articles list the Title of the article, Newsletter reference and the Author

AGM 2001 report	47 (1) p4	P Horne
End of an era	47 (1) p19	S Bourne
Friends of Naracoorte Caves	47 (4) p106	S Bourne
Historic find	47 (3) p68	J McLucas
ID of Nullarbor, Naracoorte min.	47 (3) p83	M Sefton
Index Volume 46	47 (1) p25	
Journey into amazing caves	47 (2) p59	A Branford
Karren Laudenbach (Forester)	47 (3) p87	A Branford
Kubla Khan Trip Leader	47 (4) p105	R Quick
LED torches	47 (4) p105	P Harper
Meeting with shadow Min for Env	47 (3) p63	P Horne
Notice of Motion	47 (1) p22	
Notice of Motion	47 (4) p106	
The protection of L23	47 (3) p81	S Bourne
Web sites	47 (4) p91	M Choi
100 years on (Coonalpyn)	47 (3) p64	Kevin Mott

Kevin Mott.

MEETING NOTICES

Nepal Trip Talk and Pics

Come along to the June General Meeting at the Kent Town Hotel and hear Linda Deer talk and show slides about her recent trip to Nepal. It should be an interesting night. Join us for dinner, a drink and chat prior to the meeting. Usually from about 6.30 PM.

Quiz Night

The July meeting will take the form of a quiz night. Brush up on your general knowledge and caving knowledge for an entertaining night of fun. Further details will be announced at the June meeting. Again at the Kent Town Hotel so join us for dinner prior to the meeting.

“Hands-on-ology”

The August General Meeting will be held in the Mawson Building, University of Adelaide, North Tce. campus. The Mawson Building hosts the Geology Department and is situated on the corner of Victoria Drv. and Frome Rd. Parking is best sought on Victoria Drv. Please enter the building via the southern door (i.e. the front).

Join us for the General Meeting followed by a “hands on” look at the critters that live in our cave systems with Tim Mould. Experience a first hand look at the fauna that constitute limestone as well as peruse the Tate Mineral Museum. Hope to see you all there!

Committee.

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New Arrivals

Merran Rhys Grindley

Merran Rhys Grindley successfully negotiated the tightest passage she will hopefully ever have to, in her cave career, this morning the 22nd Jan. Clearly has an affinity for the dark as it was 2.16 am. Having more head hair than most of our friends. Of some note is she is not a blond or a cone head!! Amanda and Merran are doing fine. It was so quick Amanda only managed four expletives and remained drug free.

She weighed in at eight pounds twelve ounces. (3,969 grams)

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Hamish Julian Trehearne

Hamish Julian TREHEARNE was born on Thursday 13 March 2003 at Flinders Private Hospital. He weighed 3,265 grams.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
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
11/06/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
14-15/06/03	Caving	Naracoorte Odyssey 2003	Marie Choi
25/06/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town. Talk and Pics of Nepal Trip	Linda Deer
28/06/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
9/07/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town	Graham Pilkington
23/07/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town. Quiz Night	Graham Pilkington
26/07/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
13/08/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
13/08/03	CEGSA NEWS	Articles and Calendar Items due	Athol Jackson
27/08/03	General Meeting	Mawson Bldg, Adel. Uni., Geology Dept. 'Hands – on – Ology'	Linda Deer & Tim Moulds
30/08/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
	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.

Please submit your list of future trips early so they can be included in the calendar.