

CEGSA NEWS



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

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AUGUST 2003



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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Representatives

ASF	Graham Pilkington	As Above
SA Speleological Council	Graham Pilkington	As Above
Leadership Standards - Working Group	Peter Kraehenbuehl Marie Choi	As Above As Above

Cover Photograph: Mt. Etna Limestone Quarry. Queensland.

Photo: Neville Pledge.

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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 4 (Issue 192) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **12th November 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 that not all is lost. We got a replacement Committee member when Eddie Rubessa put up his hand. Other members have indicated that they are willing to help with some of the ~~chore~~ exciting activities.

With our new web site up and running, Paul Deer is awaiting your comments and suggestions for improvements.

During the last few months we have had fifty or so 3-months introductory members go caving. A great opportunity for budding trip leaders to test their skills. I hope that "current" trip leaders have remembered to submit their renewal application together with a trip activity list to justify the trip leadership level that is being applied for.

With a change of ownership of the Kent Town Hotel, we have lost another good venue – they have closed the meeting room that we were using. CEGSA will be meeting again at the Royal Society Room at the SA Museum. The building activity should have been finished by now.

Graham Pilkington

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VACANT POSITION

We still have a vacant position on the committee that is urgently required to be filled. The secretary position has been vacant since the AGM. It would make the president's job a lot easier as he is trying to fill both positions at the same time. If any full member can see their way clear to fill this position, please let the President or any committee member know.

Committee.

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SPECIAL EVENTS



Jacques Martini & John Dunkley.

At the July General Meeting we were graced by the presence of John Dunkley (ASF President) and Jacques Martini (Geologist from France) who were on their way back from an expedition to Bullita Cave in the Northern Territory and decided to drop in on us and join in on the meeting. Thanks John and Jacques.



George & June MacLucas.

At the same meeting George and June MacLucas were celebrating their Wedding Anniversary (I don't know how many years). Congratulations, George and June.

Athol Jackson.

TRIP REPORTS

CORRA-LYNN - May 10

Party: Chris Fischer, Paul Deer , Marie Choi

Mercedes college had arranged with Cegsa. for some of their students to be taken through Corra-Lynn on the Saturday. They changed to Sunday to suit some of their students time table better, but in the end, rescheduled for another day. We decided we were going caving anyway, and that it would be a good opportunity to see parts of the cave we hadn't visited recently, or at all, and to brush up on our navigation skills.

Having such a small group was going to allow us to move fast, access some of the smaller tunnels, and do some of the climbs we usually avoided. We entered at around 11am and stopped near the entrance to examine what looked like freshly unearthed bones. Near the bottom of the stairs at the entrance, on the right hand side at about knee height, are a stack of bones embedded in the dirt of the wall. It looks as if some of this has been recently disturbed, as a spill of bones flows from the wall down onto the floor. Someone has suggested that they might just be pigeon bones from the pigeons loft, but if your going down, just be careful to step around them until someone has checked them out.

We headed for rope crevasse (I just had a strange feeling of deja-vu) Marie taking the easy way on the bottom level, Paul and I taking a route I hadn't done before, an alternative on the second level that meets up with the usual second level route around Taylor's Tomb area. Instead of the usual left turn towards rope crevasse, Paul and I took the vertical crack to get down to the low, crawling, bottom level passages that connect with bushwalkers, where Marie was waiting to meet us. All three of us backtracked through the low passages Paul and I had just come through. Instead of climbing back out the crack, we kept snaking our way along the passage, continuing under Taylor's Tomb, and finally popping out at the cauldron exit. We had a quick play on the slippery dip and went to check out a spot at the top of the slope.

On a previous trip Jim Skegg and I took a quick look up a roof hole that looked like it might go somewhere. After a bit of effort to get up into the body sized hole, you could clearly see it didn't go anywhere, which we both reported back. Marie the eternal optimist, insisted that she had "gone through", and that it must go. We just weren't looking hard enough. We had been ribbing each other for weeks about who was right. I think Marie knew she'd lost the bet when several people told her not to even bother looking. But a look with her own eyes finally convinced her. Make the cheque out to cash please Marie.

Look, to be honest, from here it all gets a bit blurry, so the order might be a little mixed up. Paul and I had a look at some side passages on the third level between rope crevasse and the entrance (the easy way), and checked out the climb at Dick's extension. I climbed up for a quick look around, and then we all headed out for lunch. We tried to keep ourselves dry under the trees, as the rains intensity slowly increased. Paul had brought along his usual "no expense spared" gourmet style food, (anyone for cold tinned spaghetti?).

After lunch we had a look out Woodside way. I wanted to check out the bottom of the climb, to see if it looked any easier or safer, than when everyone tried to get me down it unroped on our previous trip. I had a quick attempt at climbing out here, but it was a muddy and slippery, sphincter clenching experience... Through beard squeeze we went, it always looks smaller going in this direction. At one point in the day we played around a bit near bushwalkers, climbing up into passages that lead into the crystal maze area. We had a quick look and decided that we were all pretty tired, and shouldn't start wandering too far into the maze. We did a quick circuit, climbed down and headed towards grand central the easy way.

Our last little run for the day was the second level passages under the wombat runs. Entering the circuit at the stairs, it just loops around comes to a vertical crack where it joins the bottom level (Dicks extension) to exit near the 3 tiered climb (along bushwalkers exit). We were all pretty stuffed as we exited into the darkness of night. Another great day at Corra Lynn.

Chris Fischer.

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Naracoorte June 7th-8th 2003

Naracoorte Quarry

Dave Glowacki, Linda Deer and Paul Deer.

Photos by Paul Deer.

A nice grand entrance way of less than 1 meter high, with large loose rocks settled into a sandy floor greeted us on the way into this small looking cave. Once we slid underneath a large boulder to get to the bottom of the slope we were greeted with a large chamber of around 20 meters long with high ceilings and what we thought was a nice looking patch of Calcite Rafts spread around on the floor. After a brief look around in the chamber we could only see one obvious lead which was explored and found to be a dead end. We then mapped the first chamber, and poor little monkey boy Paul (that's me) had to drag the tape down the dead end tunnel so it could be mapped properly. We had spent about 40 minutes in the cave at this time and were impressed with the size of the chamber, but it seemed to be blocked by a rock pile, and it was getting near to lunchtime. While I was dragging the tape around, Linda left Dave to draw up the map and had a look around on the rock pile and found one shaky looking lead. Since she was feeling hungry and in one of her fantastic moods (she's gonna hit me for that one) she decided to lay down while Dave and I had a brief look up there to see if we should map that bit now and not return, or if we would have to come back in after lunch.

At the top of the rock pile, we found a large sand cone with an easily accessible way around on one side. Due to the large scale of everything we had seen so far, and the fact that this cave is likely to be demolished unless something of significance is found we decided to make a path on the side of the cone and have a look to see what else was behind door number 3.



Floor covered with dense calcite rafts.

At the end of the cone, there was a nice downwards facing tunnel that went back to the same level as the first chamber, so Dave and I slid down for a look around. We were greeted at the bottom of the slide with more large boulders and no decoration so we started to walk deeper into the cave as there was another chamber ahead. Getting sight of the passage from a better viewpoint we were presented with a sight I have never had the pleasure of seeing before. Calcite rafts so deep and plentiful that it looked like a layer of snow had fallen all over the floor. After a brief bit of discussion we decided to make a single path through the chamber to see where the

cave went as we still had the task of deciding whether to survey, or go to lunch. About 10 meters into the chamber we could see around the corner and realised this cave was a big

one and our stomachs' decided that we should go and have some food and finish the mapping in the afternoon.



The sound of crunching calcite rafts.

the sound of breaking rafts was not a nice noise to hear but after the first few large (15+ meters) chambers that were filled with them we realised there was no other way through.

My memory from here gets a bit hazy as so much of the cave was the same. I also can't remember where we stopped for the day, and had to go back in the morning because it was getting late. When we did exit though, it was right on 5pm and also right on sunset. After a days caving in a beautiful cave, the sunset capped it off nicely for me and we returned to our accommodation for tea with large grinning faces to go and gloat over our find with the rest of the team who were only in other scattered smaller caves in the area.

The cave consisted of large interconnected chambers with high roofs and decorated floors and at one point we came to a lake that almost looked to stop our progress, or make us cold in our quest. Thankfully there was a path of clay and rock that we were able to cross on even though each of us almost fell in. There were still floating rafts on this lake and there was one as large as a coffee table. Shortly after this we came to a beige coloured patch of rock that was all smooth and the one colour, it didn't really seem to fit in with what we had seen and since our feet were now covered with clay from our walk we had a rest here to clean shoes and have a bit of a snack. The map was looking rather respectable at this stage and the cave didn't look to be getting any smaller or stopping any time soon. At the end of this rock patch there was a branch off to the right, which was blocked off by a 1+ meter deep pool of water, which we decided to leave since there was a large dry path ahead of us.



Surveying in the new cave.

With full stomachs and large amounts of enthusiasm we returned to where we left off and surveyed up through the rockpile and around the sand cone. The limestone in this level had large shells, brachiopods (I just know I misspelt that) and other assorted marine life remnants. The real fun started when we had to walk over the calcite rafts again and continue to make a new path over the virgin tunnel. The rafts were concealing a thick layer of clay that was resting on rocks. This clay was nice and moist and rather slippery so care was taken not to damage the cave and ourselves too much. Even with the careful path choosing and careful stepping,

the sound of breaking rafts was not a nice noise to hear but after the first few large (15+ meters) chambers that were filled with them we realised there was no other way through.

Slowly plodding on the floor became more level and we reached a T intersection with a large right path, and not much of a left tunnel. Since we had been following the main trend of the cave we went right after taking many rays to walls and making sure the map showed what happened correctly. At this stage Linda was feeling hungry and full of life again (I think it had something to do with a headache that had crept into her head yesterday) so I scouted ahead to see how much further we had. Unfortunately I found the end chamber which was blocked off with an old sand cone. We then finished off the map and left the cave to go and show the

three and a bit pages of map to everyone else, and to show the photos, which were taken over the two days.

This cave was remarkable in my eyes. I haven't seen many caves that large in the Naracoorte area, especially so close to the township. I also hadn't seen a cave so highly decorated with calcite rafts before ever, and this includes videos and other mediums. Dave, Linda and I all agree that the very next trip to this cave should be a track-marking trip. We have made 1 single path and it would be a great shame to see any more of this cave ruined by people not thinking. A very enjoyable 2 days were had, and the cave still has many leads which we didn't have time to explore, and also the end chamber could be dug out rather easily to try and extend it. Lets hope that with this data we can preserve the cave for future cavers to enjoy as much as we did while surveying it.

Paul Deer

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New Cave

Naracoorte Quarry

Saturday 7/6/03

Party:

Marie 'is the lens cap still on' Choi

Tim 'the theatre is in my blood' Moulds

Paul Harper

While another group of CEGSA members were surveying this new cave the three of us took a video of the cave. As the cave is in an active quarry we don't know if it will survive so we thought it would be a good idea to record it before it disappears.

Plus it was good training for our upcoming 'big' project of filming a group of cavers exploring Corra Lynn Cave.....

Marie used her digital movie camera while Tim acted as the model and I was the lightman. It was all trial and error but we ended up with an interesting movie. The first 5 minutes of the movie is dark and boring, but once Marie removed the lens cap, light and action filled the screen.

We showed the cave by shooting Tim as he made his way through the cave, we continually had to move ahead of him and get him to retrace his path, it was a difficult and slow process. Directing the actor, camera and lights to synchronise was an ongoing problem, everyone had their own ideas, Tim wanted only profile shots while Marie wanted to catch the "essence of Tim's misspent youth metamorphosing into his quest for self awareness", and spent most of her time fingering the camera lens to feel if the lens cap was still on and wiping the condensation off the lens.

One problem we immediately identified was that we needed at least 3 lightmen as the passages were large and we needed lots of light to fill the void, lighting from one direction is ok for close ups but at any distance it does not work that well.

We ended up only going as far as the rock pile, there is plenty of cave past this point so we may come back and film the rest of it one day.

I have made up a couple of lights out of 12v 50w household downlights mounted in PVC tubing and attached by leads to 12v batteries. The 50w 60 degree lights are great for close up work as they don't have a hot spot in the beam; the 50w 36 degree lights have a more pronounced hot spot and are better for intermediate distances. Both lights emit a brilliant

beam of light that virtually turns night into day up to about 10m. Past this point they don't have the 'daylight' effect but are still bright. For the longer shots we used a 12v 50w floodlight that had a larger reflector than the downlights, this had a much brighter beam and a larger hot spot so we could light up objects much further away. We might try using two or three of these next time for the long shots.

Paul Harper.

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Monday June 9th 2003

VDC Cave

Party: Marie Choi, Adam Branford, Chris Fischer, Bridgid Larkin, Paul Harper, Kevin Mott, Tim Moulds, Fred Aslin.

Photos by Marie Choi.

Well, today Linda Paul and Dave headed home whilst the rest of us went to VDC (Volunteer Defence Corps Cave) I had heard about this cave since joining CEGSA but for some reason it had never made it onto any of our trips. The Cave can be found in the middle of a paddock. It has a solution tube type entrance that spirals down and is an easy free climb. Adam continued to make the most of his new toy and snapped a few photos of people as they were perched part way in the entrance from the bottom.

Everyone made an uneventful entrance until Paul came down and gave us a stark reminder of the importance of keeping away from entrances as people are descending and why only one at a time. . A couple of metres from the actual cave section as Paul was making his way



Paul rides fallen rock.

down he suddenly stopped and checked that we were all definitely clear. A large slab of limestone he had his butt against had come loose and he was holding it in place. Once he was sure all were safely out the way he released the boulder that came tumbling down with a large bang unnerving just a few people. It was a little bigger than a car tyre and landed several metres away from the entrance. This slab had appeared solid to all that entered and had survived the rest of the group passing it, maybe it's the size of Paul's "Butt". It was however a sobering reminder to all of the importance of taking nothing for granted and keeping patient when entering a cave.

This is quite a large cave for the Naracoorte area with very few occasions

that we couldn't walk. The group split into smaller parties to go do their thing. We found a dug entrance shaft at one point that allowed a shaft of light down where Adam spent a lot of time playing with his new toy (digital camera) as did I, most of the others spent their time checking out every nook and cranny. Tim even managed to find a few bugs in the tree roots. We spent a few hours exploring before exiting mid afternoon to head back to Adelaide.



Tim examining bugs.

Marie Choi

Corra Lynn Cave Y1

Saturday 14/6/03

Party : Dan Fletcher, Paul Deer, Frank Hankinson, Paul Harper.

The aim of the trip was to continue a dig in a small passage on the North East boundary of Dreamland.

We headed off from Adelaide at the crack of dawn as it was going to be a long day. We arrived around 9am, filled in our forms and met Andrew the Landowner. We got into the cave about 9.45 and proceeded to the letterbox squeeze and Alberta. The climb up the Portal was the usual bundle of fun; Paul D. nearly lost a fingernail on the climb so we stopped to crack jokes while he administered first aid to himself. It took over one and a half hours to get to the dig site from the entrance.

A brief history.

The entrance to the passage was missed by the surveyors and was virgin when Dan entered it several trips ago. Eight metres into the passage we came across a blockage but we could see several metres past it. On two further trips the 4m long blockage was dug out and about 20m of passage was found, and then a further blockage was found that we could see past. This brings us to the reason we were there, to dig out the second blockage. It is a grotty low passage with only one spot to sit upright, the rest of the time you are on your belly, including when you are digging. Digging out the dirt with your arms in front of you while on your belly is awkward, dragging the dirt with your arms as you crawl backward out of the passage is gutbusting. After a long time digging we got past the second blockage (which was 4m long) and found about 6m of passage and a further blockage that we could see about 8m past. To the side there was a squeeze between solid rock that led to a walking passage, it went for 2m then seemed to turn a corner.

We called it quits at this point and went out. Two hours later we got to the entrance.

So our next trip will be to dig out the third blockage and chisel away the rock so we can get into the walking passage.

Paul Harper.

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MT ETNA CAVES

Noel, Amy and Aaron Sands (Central Queensland Speleos), Neville Pledge and a dozen other CAVEPS conference delegates.

I attended the CAVEPS 2003 (vertebrate palaeontology) conference at the Queensland Museum in Brisbane, July 7-10, where Liz Reed and Steve Bourne (Naracoorte Caves) gave several papers on their work. Following this, about a dozen delegates in 4 vehicles, led by Scott Hocknull and Alex Cook (both Queensland Museum), headed for Rockhampton and the Mt Etna Caves area.

On Sunday 13 July, Scott gave us a briefing about the geology and lost caves of Mt Etna, with a guided tour around the quarry to see the remnants of the caves and their fossil deposits, on which he is working. The present management is much more enlightened than the former one which vindictively destroyed the ghost bat cave, back in the 1980s, and is actively rehabilitating and revegetating the quarry. We had an interesting talk by the local naturalist who has the contract to plant the hillside with species native to Mt Etna itself, using seeds and cuttings from plants still living there. Following this we repaired to Noel Sands' for an enjoyable barbecue with the Sands family and some other local cavers.



Mini Cave Entrance

On the Monday, Noel led us to Cave Ridge, just a short distance from Mt Etna, to visit some of the caves there. After an exhausting (for me) scramble up the ridge and through the rainforest, we came to the well-named Mini Cave; a short scramble through a narrow entrance opens into a simple cavern about 15 m long, 3 wide and 4 high, that contains several episodes of fossiliferous sediment and some flowstone. There were numerous large hawk moths with brilliant red eyes, and a gecko was reported. Nearby was a somewhat larger cave, which the others visited. It had a narrow entrance with a bit of a scramble down into a large chamber, but on inspecting the entrance, I decided discretion was the better part of valour and passed up the opportunity of getting stuck. We then headed back along the ridge a short distance to Ballroom Cave, a rather extensive series of large chambers entered by way of a steep rubbly sediment cone. There is an ephemeral stream, dry when we were there, that flows through it and winnows bones into concentrations. The bones are of several different ages, as indicated by their preservation, and they derive from a number of fissure-fill deposits that can be seen in different places. Old, eroded speleothems, mainly stalactites, can also be seen. Current inhabitants include the ubiquitous moths, trapdoor spiders, a huntsman spider, and possibly some bats.



Ballroom Cave



Olsen's Cave

In the afternoon, we visited the commercial Capricornia Caverns nearby, with a personal tour through the Olsen's and Johansen's caves, again looking at the fossil deposits preserved there. These interlinked chambers are large, apparently dry and dusty, and were once (I think) mined for bat guano.

We left the next morning for points south, and less strenuous activities, returning to Brisbane on 17 July.

Photos by Neville Pledge.

Neville Pledge.

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Corra Lynn Cave Y1

Saturday 2 August 2003

Party : Paul Harper and Frank Hankinson

This was planned to be a digging trip in Dreamland, but we were the only two who could make it. We decided to not be put off by the lack of diggers and continue with the dig, but by the time we crawled to Dreamland we lost our enthusiasm and thought of an easier way to spend the day. There were several areas in Dreamland that we wanted to visit to tie up some 'loose ends' so we spent a not so leisurely day poking our heads into not often visited holes.

Paul Harper.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Change in Membership details:-

Eddie RUBESSA 8810 (W) should be 8234-5990(M) 0413-649-996

Transfer to Full Membership:-

Chris FISCHER 0211

Welcome to New Members:-

Jim SKETT 0304 (H) 8398-2381 (E) jimskett@optusnet.com.au
82 Zanker Drive MT BARKER SA 5251

Steve WASILEWSKI 0305 (W) 8372-3200 c/- Mercedes College
P O Box 2412 KENT TOWN SA 5067

Monica BURT 0306 (H) 8723-6508 (W) 8725-6844
P O Box 3524 MT GAMBIER SA 5290

Steve DUTSCHKE 0307 (H) 8563-2694 (W) 8563-2217 (M) 0408-857-511
4 Hobbs Street TANUNDA SA 5352 (E) madhouse@internode.on.net

John HEGARTY 0308 C/- Faith Lutheran Secondary School

Greg KRETSCHMER 0309 (H) 8563-3885 (W) 8563-2217
Lot 27 Gravel Pit Road TANUNDA SA 5352

Welcome Back to Former Member:-

Simon KENDRICK 8611 (H) 8331-3750 (W) 8223-5544 (M) 0414-908-446
1 Hall Street NORWOOD SA 5067 (E) kend_sim@yahoo.com.au

Chris Gibbons

Membership Officer

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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

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

Treasurer/Membership Officer

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LIBRARY AND RECORDS REPORT**Monographs received from members:**

Ron Sims: 'Glaciation and Cave Sediment aggradation around the margin of the Mount Field Plateau, Tasmania', by K. Kiernan, S.E. Lauritzen and N. Duhig from *Australian Journal of Earth Sciences* 2001, No. 48 pages 251-253. The article also shows location of caves in the area.

Simon Kendrick: Article from book *Carrieton in the Gum Creek Country*, mentioning the Prince Alfred Copper Mine, Bagalowie Cave Guano mining, compiled by the Carrieton Centenary Book Committee 1978, pages 188-191.

Simon Kendrick: Chapter 10 'Placental mammals' page 73-75 from *The Story of Flinders Ranges Mammals* by Dorothy Tunbridge. This article has interesting reference to Aboriginal people who appeared to have only two words for bats 'mika ngarlamikanha', or the 'big bat' and wadaimikanha, or the 'little bat'.

Peter Horne: Apologies to Peter for web site monographs that he handed in last year that I had stored in a 'safe place'. 1st article - *The Wellington Cave diving project*, (one page article) where Peter is thanked for designing a 'mop trap'.

2nd article – 'Woodville Karst Plain Project: and interpretation of water chemistry data from a Florida Underwater Cave for determination of possible ground water pollution' by Harris Martin. (6 pages).

3rd article – 'Section of water allocation plan for Comaum-Caroline Prescribed Wells area', (pages 6-11) of section 2 where Mt. Gambier Caves are mentioned.

George MacLucas: 1st article, 'Subterranean Fossil Hunting on Naracoorte Caves in South Australia' from *Laboratory News* April/May 2003, by Mellissa Hulbert. Associate Professor Rod Wells mentions how he and his friend and colleague Dr. Grant Gartrell in 1969 found the first treasure of mega fauna in Victoria Cave. Gartrell noticed a breeze coming from a

rock pile and then some investigating took place. Note: nothing has changed, Grant is still chasing wind in his latest endeavour.

2nd article, 'Operation Leo' by Dr. John Long *Western Australia Department of Earth and Planetary Science, WA's Museum Magazine Summer 2003*, (page 23).

3rd article, 'Walking with WA Giants' from *Landscape WA's Conservation, Parks and Wildlife Magazine*, Autumn 2003, (pages 23-27).

4th article, 'The Nullarbor Plain' from *The Bulletin*, May 27, 2003. (Pages 32-33).

5th article, ' Management Plan for Conservation and Management of Common Kangaroos' *SA Supplementary Gazette No. 25 Adelaide 25th March 2003*.(pages 1124-1176). Page 1125 is Macropod Species in SA. Of the 50 species of macropod found in Australia, 18 were present in SA at the time of European settlement. Subsequent changes to the natural landscape of SA, such as, agriculture, pastoral and urban development, have markedly changed the abundance and distribution of macropod species. Some species have been negatively impacted by these changes and some have been positively impacted.

Page 1169 appendix 4 requires a code of practice for the humane shooting of kangaroos. This appendix is of interest especially when one is in areas where shooting occurs noting it is a **requirement that shooters have to be good shots**.

Maps handed in:

Tim Payne: Update map of Warbla Cave 5N1 CEGSA 1320. Because of the multi level nature of the cave, overlapping section of the cave has been displaced from their true positions so that details are unambiguously represented on the correct level.

Ken Boland: Leaena's Breath Cave 6N2200 CEGSA 4022 sheet 1 and 2 with index where mega fauna bones and other specimens were found in 2002.

Ken Boland: Thampanna Cave 6N206 CEGSA 4121 sheet 10 with attached article 'The Story of Sheet Number 10' *Nargun* Vol. 35. No. 8 March 2003 pages 61-63.

Many thanks to members and others for their contributions to our records.

GEORGE MACLUCAS

Librarian and Records Officer.

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HOW IT HAPPENED !

The Origins of CEGSA

In the beginning was the Gilberton Rover Scout Crew.

In 1951 the Crew, in looking for active pursuits, found reports, and a cave, in the bank of the Murray River, at Swan Reach. "Punyelroo" was explored by the crew. In 1952-3 Elery Hamilton-Smith, a university student, who was a member of the Crew, came across a Harbour Master at Port Adelaide, called Captain J. Maitland Thompson. Capt. Thompson, while based at Thevenard, had in the process of exploring part of the nearby Nullarbor Plain, found caves, and had become interested. So much so, that on discovering how numerous, but difficult to locate were these holes that he persuaded an air pilot (a John Knowles, I think) to take him over the Plain. He followed this up by gaining a pilot's licence himself, to continue this search.

Elery suggested a land trip, led by Capt. Thompson for a group of Uni students, and the Captain agreed. Difficulties arose, and not enough Uni. people wanted to go, so the offer was made to the Scouts (adult), and the organization got under way.

A quarry truck, fitted with a charabang back, to hold about sixteen people was hired. A new Holden ute was loaned by G.M.H. (Henry Rymill, the Scout Chief Commissioner was also an engineer, and an executive of G.M.H.). The time was set for Christmas 1954 (I think). Elery, David Taylor, and David Gerner were unable to go, so they organized a substitute trip to Mt. Gambier. The main trip went ahead.

In the equipment taken was a 300 ft. rope, which was assembled, each time required, into a 100 ft. rope ladder, by the addition of wooden rungs- 14 ins by 4 ins, by 1 inch, with 1 inch holes drilled each end. The assembly was made by feeding a rung onto both ends of the rope, leaving about a 6 foot loop in the middle (top of the ladder), and then putting thumb knots into the rope to support each rung at about 15 inch spaces. Successful trips were held. In the lead up time before the main trip, familiarization trips were held, principally to Curramulka (Correls Cave, later renamed to Corra Lyn Cave), to find if the participants were subject to such problems as claustrophobia etc. The first trip was held in Winter, 1953, and included were Cec. Giles, Noel Mollet, Elery Hamilton-Smith, David J. Taylor, Graham Chinner, John Dick and Dave Pegum. During this, and subsequent trips, much was discovered in ability, and technique. There were small rabbit-like skeletons found, that were not rabbit. Elery volunteered to take samples to the Museum, for identification. It was found that some of these remains were of "Bettongia", an extinct marsupial, which had suddenly died out in the 1920s, before anyone had had a chance to study them.

The then director of the Museum, John Hale, suggested to Elery that he would like to see an active group of young persons form a group, to explore caves, and collect for the Museum. In line with this suggestion, a meeting was held at Scout H.Q., 119 Pirie St., by a group of about fifty people, including Scout Commissioners, Rover Scouts, Scientists- Dr. Hosfeldt and Brian Daily (later Doctor), of the Uni., reps from the Museum, etc.

A Group was formed, and trips went forward. Within a few months, the Adelaide Bushwalkers found out, and Alan Hill, June Marlow, and Ros MacAnliss joined in.

The Group accepted the name C.E.G.S.A. suggested by Dave Taylor. We liked the 'Keg' sound, but, although the Group had some fairly alcoholic parties (not wild ones), we were teetotal on trips, and indeed established a Code of Conduct which stated that cavers are not Unwashed, Unshaven Undesirables.

I think the first Committee was :

Elery Hamilton –Smith - President,

Alan Hill – Secretary,

Noel Mollet - Quartermaster,

Bob Sexton - Trip Secretary.

The organization was unusually good in those early days, because, although a few people thought that we were cliquey, we chose our Committee for their abilities, rather than whether we liked them, although only the President and Secretary were elected as such - the other committee members were selected, and voted for as floor members, but as capable of doing the jobs of Q.M., Trip. Sec. etc. A competition was held to design a suitable badge, and was won by Alan Woodroffe. The design was almost as it is now, but the stalactites were wavy. Dr. Hosfeldt objected, because he said that it looked like female pubic hair, but it was chosen nevertheless. Alan Hill, as Secretary, was responsible for having it made, and suggested that straight stalactites would be easier for the badge maker. All agreed.

The need for some system for gaining access to deep holes was felt early in the piece, and Noel Mollet did some research, reading, costing, etc. Eventually, the most economical method was to use Trillium tube (Cann's Junk Yard, Norwood), 3/16 inch dia. steel cable from Treliving's, joining links cut from high tensile chain (borrowed), using thimble and "Tallurit" splices for the end from Adelaide Steamship (They held the patent right, and charged like wounded bulls). The rungs were drilled and threaded onto the cable, and were held in place at 12 inch centres, by a tight binding of 24 gauge tinned copper wire, soldered on. Most were assembled on Sunday mornings, in a back lane behind premises owned by

Fred Sanders. These ladders worked well for a few years, until the Group had enough finance to upgrade to "Tallurit" splices all through. These original ladders had their test run at 9.30 p.m. in the stairwell of the Mawson building, quietly, because lectures were still in progress!

About this time, June Marlow (later Mrs. Lynn) who worked for the Mines Department as a crystallographer, (I think), spent her days having sections of minerals cut and looked at with a microscope, had some sections of Helictite prepared, and viewed. As a result of this, and her paper, which is somewhere in the records, we now know how most, if not all, helictites are formed in intermittently dry caves, by the process of capillary blockage in stalactites, followed by hydrostatic pressure, causing new fluid paths at strange angles.

About the time that our major work at Kelly Hill was done, we were joined by Daryl Morgan, a professional student from N.S.W. who had decided that the Oenology course at Roseworthy was worthy of his time, having passed very little at home. He came to us as an experienced caver from U.N.S.W.S.S. We accepted him on his own reference. Our next trip, his first with us, was to Mt. Remarkable, where Grey's Hut cave, and the Bottomless Blowhole claimed our attention. The Blowhole was first, and, as we had not brought any ladder, a single rope descent was proposed. We had 150 ft. of 1 3/4 inch circ. (about 5/8 inch dia.) manila rope, and Daryl, as an experienced caver, was chosen for the first candidate- the rest of us on the other end of the rope to lower him in, and to pull him out. We found out later that Daryl's experience of caving had been on a trip, as a visitor. A brave man, perhaps. He did not come on any more trips, and failed to gain entry to the wine course.

a business session, and guest speaker. It was decided that we needed more Our meetings were held in the Museum lecture room. The usual programme was knowledge of First Aid, and Noel Mollet got the gurnsey. The subject was "SHOCK- Its symptoms, and effects" The session started "My subject tonight is SHOCK- it has symptoms" Pause- a loud explosion from the rear of the room. A 'penny bomb' firecracker had been detonated by an accomplice. Luckily, no-one had a heart attack, and the lecture continued with the statement "You are now suffering from them!"

Also, about this time, a foot step in a mud slope at Curramulka Town cave was extracted, and inspected. It was found to be the best preserved Thylacaleo skull to be found in S.A. to that time.

Alan Hill had, as a younger fellow in Sydney, been a draughtsman in the glassworks, and, when he did his Army National Service, had been put into a survey team. Thus he had the skill to set up a mapping system which has served the Group very well. Bob Sexton, a cadet engineer, assisted in this process, and produced a fairly simple but effective hand held device giving magnetic direction, and incline, with pocket portability.

So, in the early Group we had:

Elery Hamilton-Smith - visionary organiser,

Alan Hill - Practical engineer type organiser,

Bob Sexton - enthusiastic engineer type,

Noel Mollet - tradesman with practical abilities and ambulance experience.

June Marlow- scientist (and I can do anything you can do, but you can't hit me - I'm a woman!)

Dave Taylor- geology student with enthusiasm!

Above all, we were a mixed bag of friends who co-operated, worked, and played together.

As a P.S.- June Marlow had a miniscule flat in North Adelaide, and Alan Hill, a fellow bushwalker, and newly divorced would come to have a meal with her about once a week. He had a habit of eating what was provided, and then patting his full belly, and saying "That

was good. Now bring on the roast." The last time he said this he arrived, and sat down to a meal of soup, entree, main course, and dessert. As usual, he said " Bring on the roast", so June placed a roast leg of lamb in front of Hill, and told him to " eat it, or else!

P.P.S. And then - some of us got old!

Noel J. Mollet.

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CEGSA MEMBER RECEIVES TWO OUTSTANDING AWARDS



Alexander Downer MP presents the Centenary of Federation medal

Along with this award, Athol and his wife Jan, also received recognition as **Volunteers of the Parks award 2003-2004** presented by the Glen Osmond Rotary Club for their outstanding volunteer work with the Friends of the Flinders Ranges National Park. Athol and Jan along with their

daughter Anthea, and son-in-law Carl and young Jamie, have dedicated considerable time and effort to the ongoing work load as part of the Friends of the Flinders Ranges. Apparently Athol claimed as part of his acceptance speech, "that each person works as a volunteer in their own way, be it as a parent, committee member, friends group or good neighbour". Athol, Jan and family certainly give it their all. Well done Athol and Jan.

June MacLucas.

Our very own CEGSA member, Athol Jackson, editor of CEGSA Newsletter and President of Friends of the Flinders Ranges National Park has received two outstanding awards for his ongoing work within the community, especially through the Friends of the Flinders Ranges National Park.

Athol received the outstanding **Centenary of Federation Medal** for his services to the community, an award created by the Federal Government in 2001 to mark the Centenary of Federation and awarded to Australians for their significant contributions to Australia. Well deserved Athol.



Vicky Chapman MP presents the Volunteers of the Parks award

The Story Of Sheet Number 6n206-4121-10

Many years have passed since the first survey of Thampanna Cave was undertaken. That, I believe, was the one which graced the thick, stubby red book, denoted as a caving atlas to the Nullarbor, with brief notes attached. It was the only information I had on my first Nullarbor trip in May 1983, when I found my way to the end of the drain and stopped, because the book said that was all there was. That initial survey, mainly of the entrance chamber, the drain and the U-tube, was found to be surprisingly accurate, especially as it was achieved with only about a dozen stations.

This last page of the current survey, the tenth sheet, is the end-product of teams led, at various times, by Graham Pilkington, Max Meth, Mark Sefton and me. Beneath this one sheet lie 91 pieces of paper: field notes of data and drawings, copies of the same, scale adjustments, data sheets and computer printouts, and adjusted printouts, both vertical and horizontal; lots of data and not without a few errors. To my knowledge the "Jailhouse" was graced with the ministrations of all four teams. The survey itself rejoices in a CEGSA number, partly because this survey has been a mainly CEGSA-VSA effort, but also to respect the origins of much of the data.

Central to this final page has been my strong desire to honour the efforts of the many who have worked on the map at any time. Nullarbor time is never cheap, given the costs of food, fuel and equipment, though it is far easier with the bitumen highway. Spare a thought on the way, for those who went on dust tracks.

On a survey drawn at 500:1 it has been necessary to compromise so as to create an overall picture: so much available data, and many sketches, simply cannot be used. To show the Jailhouse fully is, I believe, impossible: many large roof slabs have fallen, creating a maze of upper and lower chambers and passages. Some day it will doubtless all be done to a finer detail and bigger scale, and there is certainly room for "the next generation"; both to further detail areas, and to pursue small passages we have left out at this point.

Names have been given to some areas, and a little confusion can result. I believe the names "First and Second Breakdown Series" date from the initial, simple survey, the "First" being the entrance chamber and the "Second" being the lower area of the chamber beyond the U-tube. I have heard Julia James refer to the upper level of this post-U-tube chamber as "the Enigma chamber", because it "seems to go on, but reverses". Graham Pilkington seems responsible for "The Lillies", and I suspect that Max Meth could be the instigator of "The Jailhouse". "The Mudmen" seems to originate with these same folk; and because I knew nothing of all this at the time, I accept responsibility for "Whatthehellarewes", a self-explanatory name.

Two mysteries need mention: at a westerly point in the Jailhouse, just before the Lillies, there is a single pendant. A bat remains in a crevice in this pendant, and many bat bones lie on the floor below, suggesting a colony at some time past. Or perhaps the pendant was a watering point. So how could a colony survive the times when the U-tube is full of rainwater? A rare occurrence, but known from the time of the drain survey. Max Meth states that the "plughole" to the drain was opened only because the U-tube was full, preventing entry. Secondly, while no breeze is evident in the Jailhouse, notwithstanding the blow shape of the Lillies, there is an excellent breeze low down at the north-west corner. So far it remains an impassable passage. The lower cavities on the rockpile, shown dotted on the survey, may also open to the ongoing passage one day. These are not just tiny spaces!

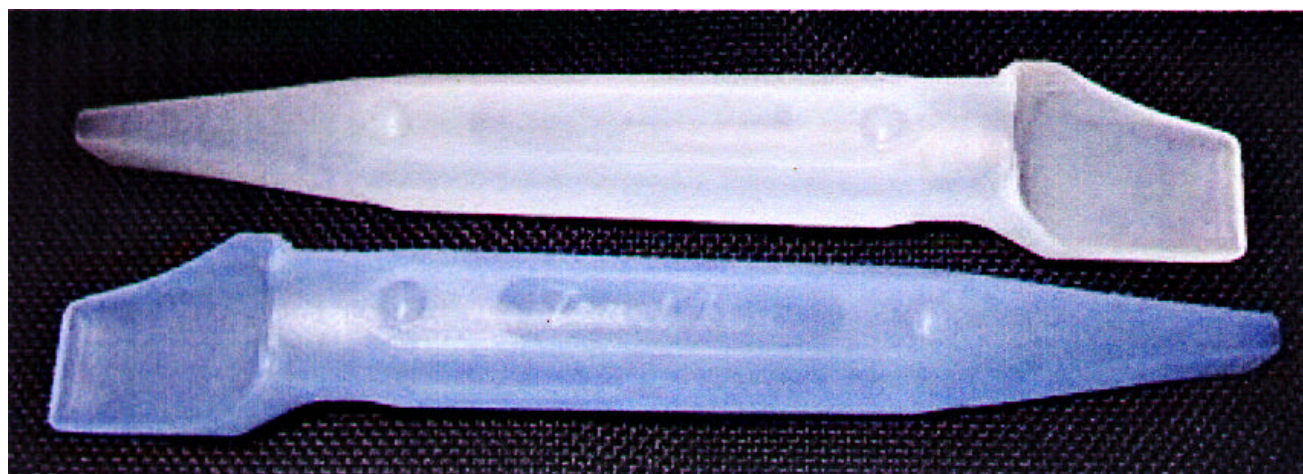
(This article concludes the series of articles on the survey of Thampanna Cave published in previous editions of CEGSA NEWS.)

Ken Boland.

(Reprinted from NARGUN, Vol 35 No. 8, with permission of the author.) See over for map.

Gear Review: “Female Cavers Rejoice”

This is a review with a difference its specifically for you female cavers and the possible solution to a long standing (or Sitting problem). I have made many gear purchases over the net since my trip to the US in 1999, mainly because some of the shops at the conference stock a wider range of equipment and some very unusual items. Whilst surfing the Inner Mountain Outfitters site (IMO) I checked out their special page and came across an item called a travel mate. It made great promises to us female cavers, at last we could throw away our funnels or wide mouth bottles and really be one of the guys! Or could we this was too good to be true, especially after my funnel experience in Vic Fossil several years ago. I had to learn more so I checked out more details heres what IMO had to say. “This non-invasive female urinary device, designed by an RN, is great to have along when clean toilets are unavailable. With the TravelMate, you can easily pee standing through the fly of your pants. Soft, medical-grade plastic springs back to shape after being sat on or bent; it floats, too. Patented design won the 2001 Medical Design Excellence Award.



Then I went to the Travelmate website and this is what they had to say about its uses:

“Minimise undressing. TravelMate users are able to pee without having to seek out a private place to get half-way undressed— a great benefit when wearing restrictive clothing, hiking, snowmobiling, or answering emergency “calls of nature” alongside the highway. Because TravelMate users can usually urinate while remaining fully clothed— like males— they are much less likely to get bitten by mosquitoes on their derriere.

Toilet paper not required. Most TravelMate users find as they pull the TravelMate forward, the cradle tip “wipes” off residual urine, eliminating the need for toilet paper— real nice when travelling away from home in areas where none can be found!”

Well what else could I do but try it for myself so I ordered one through IMO and eagerly waited for its arrival. When it arrived I was a bit unsure but what the heck I will try most things once! Oh except for eating strange foods, or any internal animal organs! Unfortunately disaster struck and I appeared to loose it. I pondered ordering another one but thought it may turn up again, and a short time ago it did.

Off to the toilet to see if this little device worked, (its not very long) I position myself at the toilet and amazingly it worked. So now the freedom that male cavers have always had is now available to women cavers. Rejoice all! My only critique is that it would be nice if it were longer and more flexible so we could write our names too just like the guys tell me they do!

Marie Choi

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
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
10/09/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
24/09/03	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Graham Pilkington
25/09/03 06/10/03	Caving	Nullarbor and Old Homestead Cave With some WASG members.	Graham Pilkington
27/09/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
4-6/ 10/03	Caving	Avenue Range	Check with Marie Choi
8/10/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town	Graham Pilkington
22/10/03	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Graham Pilkington
25/10/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
12/11/03	Committee Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	Graham Pilkington
12/11/03	CEGSA NEWS	Articles and Calendar Items due	Athol Jackson
26/11/03	General Meeting	Kent Town Hotel, 76 Rundle St. Kent Town.	* SEE NOTE *
29/11/03	Working Bee	Library and Records	George MacLucas
28/12/03 17/01/04	Caving	Tasmania	Marie Choi
Sep	Cave Diving	Nullarbor – Cocklebidy Cave	Tim Payne
Sep/Oct	Caving	CEGSA-VSA Nullarbor	Ray Gibbons
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil Survey contact	Garry Woodcock
	Caving	Regular trips to Selicks Hill contact	Grant Gartrell

*** NOTE *** Confirmation of the venue for this meeting will be sent by email to those we have email addresses for. If you do not have email please phone Graham Pilkington for confirmation during the previous week.

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.