

CEGSA NEWS



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

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

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

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7.30 PM usually in the Royal Society of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

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**Cover Photograph: Tim Moulds competing in the Prussic Challenge at the Conference,
Photo by Adam Branford.**

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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 50 Number 2 (Issue 198) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **11th MAY 2005**. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue. The preferred method is via E-MAIL to atholjax@adam.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

Over the last few years our members have focused their activities on three caving areas: the South East of SA, the Flinders Ranges, and the Nullarbor. This is probably due to the allure of finding and exploring new large caves. These finds cause the dilemma that because we have a duty of care for the caves (under our Constitution) we now have to protect them.

Finding a cave has both a positive and negative result on the cave's welfare. Firstly it allows surface use to be modified to minimise damage from reduced water flows or pollutants and secondly it encourages people to visit.

The insurance difficulties that cavers has faced these last few years because of a duty of care for people has at least had some benefit for caves. Land developers now have to make sure that buildings will not collapse into cavities, this restricts development over caves. For this reason we need to make sure that all concerned know about any cave under their land. In this way they cannot plead ignorance in litigation and ignore any cave. Tree plantations are now being made with a protection zone around cave entrances, partially to reduce the danger to workers as a duty of care from a known hazard. And as an off-spin CEGSA is being consulted on and supplied with cave locations.

Graham Pilkington

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2004 AWARDS SUMMARY

Leather Medal

Leather Tent Peg

Peter Ackroyd

To help him obtain a good night's sleep.

Spirit of Caving

Adam Branford

For a renewed enthusiasm for caving..

Golden Compass Award

Damian Grindley, Paul Deer, Dave (Wolfgang) Glowacki

For showing the Tassies how to find a cave.

Rivett's Reward

No Recipient

Mundrabilla Marble

No Recipient

For initiative, problem solving or overcoming obstacles.

Graham Pilkington.

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Annual General Meeting and Dinner report

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at the Hackney Hotel on Saturday 12th February. The above awards were announced but none of the recipients were present to accept them. The executive and committee were elected and are as follows.

President: Graham Pilkington.

Secretary: Mark Sefton.

Committee: Bill Binks, Marie Choi, Stan Flavel, Chris Gibbons and Athol Jackson.

Some discussion took place on how to entice new members and how to retain existing members. Grant Gartrell also spoke on some of the developments on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Athol Jackson.

TRIP REPORTS

Junee cave exploration trip report March 2004

Tim Payne & David Doolette

Since first undertaking exploration of the second sump upstream in *Junee Cave* with Stefan Eberhard and Chris Brown in 1998 (Plumbing the depths of inky blackness. Guidelines 1998), we have been sufficiently intrigued and challenged to return twice to continue exploration. This report summarises our most recent exploration and belatedly reports our 2002 trip. Determined not to be delinquent with this recent report we began writing while queuing to board the Spirit of Tasmania II ferry during our trip home from Tasmania to South Australia. It is bad luck that, expecting to sleep through most of the overnight Bass Strait crossing, we left the computer in the car hold because the trip was unexpectedly extended when an intoxicated passenger jumped overboard and the ferry spent 9.5 hours conducting an unsuccessful grid search in sight of the Tasmanian coast. Instead of finishing this report then, it has languished for several months upon our arrival home.

Cave diving is the sort of activity that to the uninitiated seems dangerous and foolhardy. It will come as no surprise to cavers however that the truth is far from this perception. The explorers and pioneers of cave diving, through many years of trial and error, have perfected a set of techniques and principles that control almost every aspect of a dive and virtually eliminate risk. Unlike mountaineering or other adventure sports, the controlled nature of cave diving results in boring stories that are never written or read. That said, however, the *Junee cave* is one of the most difficult cave dives possible. The water is a cool 7 degrees Celsius and underwater visibility ranges from about 3 metres at best, to a more typical value of 30cm. The limestone is hard, black and sharp; it seems to swallow the light from even the most powerful dive torches while also threatening to cut our drysuits that provide our only barrier to the cold. There are numerous restrictions, which can trap the diver underwater, fast flowing current in places, which can push the diver against the sharp rock and silt that if disturbed can completely eliminate visibility leaving the diver to find their way through the cave by feel alone. But worst of all the second sump is not only at the end of a long stream passage along which carrying heavy diving gear is difficult, but is also extremely deep. Deep diving requires the use of special gas mixtures to reduce nitrogen narcosis and significant time slowly ascending (decompression) to minimise the risk of decompression sickness ("the bends").

2002 Trip

In 2002 the two of us returned to the Florentine valley along with Pam Payne, Peter, Janine Kraehenbuehl and family. While the two of us dived the *Junee Resurgence*, the others enjoyed the outdoors and we would later join up for some dry caving. During our previous 1998 trip four divers dived as exploration and support teams. While one pair of divers performed an exploratory dive the other pair helped the other pair haul their bulky and heavy gear from the cars to the start of the first sump, through the tight, zero visibility first sump, through the spectacular dry chamber against the flow of the underground river and over the waterfalls, and back again. This was thought important so the exploration divers could conserve energy to battle the extended immersion in the chilling water and because heavy work following diving increases the risk of bends. In part from lessons learnt and in part out of necessity in 2002 only the two of us would dive. This required a high level of fitness, rationalisation of equipment, and careful planning. Even the most meticulous plans are based on assumptions about what the cave will do, and as we discovered the *Junee Cave* is certainly not predictable.

Dive one

To prevent the line from being cut by the sharp rock during the high winter water flow, we had, like earlier explorers, installed a heavy rope in place of the usual 3mm line commonly used in Australia on our dives in the second sump four years earlier. We were unsure whether the rope line would have survived but even more daunting was the uncertainty about what had happened to the huge reel containing a hundred or so metres of this rope that we had left near the restriction when we had had to terminate the final dive. This might have been blown throughout the underwater cave passage, creating a risk of entrapment, especially in the region we affectionately termed *The Teeth*.

The plan for this first dive was ambitious and optimistic. In a single dive we were transporting 3 oxygen cylinders (breathing oxygen in shallow water is used to accelerate decompression), 2 small cylinders of trimix (oxygen/nitrogen/helium gas for breathing deeper than 35 metres), and twin air cylinders on our back. The assumption was that the line in the first sump would still be intact and we

would get the gear through this sump and transport it to the other end of the air chamber (*For Your Eyes Only*). We would then do a dive to examine our 1998 line. This would take us briefly to the extreme limit of air diving safety so we would switch from our twin air cylinders to the trimix cylinder for the few minutes spent between 35 and 60 metres, switching back to air for the bulk of the decompression and then change over to oxygen for the 3m and 6m decompression stops.

Tim submerged into the first sump and followed the line; David followed shortly behind. Tim had an extra stage and would benefit from the undisturbed silt, but David was unlikely to see anything. In such conditions cave divers are trained to communicate through tugs on the line and it wasn't long before David felt the line tugging repeatedly, almost like the signal for an emergency, accompanied by billowing clouds of silt. In completely zero visibility and in a series of tight restrictions, David waited for a clearer signal but the tugs faded and then stopped. Either Tim had resolved the problem or drowned and the latter seemed unlikely since he was carrying 5 separate breathing gas supplies. As David proceeded, it became clear what had happened. In many places the fixed rope line had been buried underneath a metre or more of sediment by the moving silt banks; Tim had merely been heaving the line out by plunging his hand into the silt bank and lifting it back to the surface. The first sump was a complete success; we had restored the line to a usable location and had transported all of our gear through successfully. (Note: the line placement in the first sump has numerous line traps [i.e. it leads you through places that are impossible to pass through] and is far from ideal, especially since zero visibility is the norm in this sump. However this positioning for the line ensures that there are a minimum number of rub points against the sharp rock and so ensures the integrity of the line).

Following the cold immersion in the water of the first sump, transporting the gear through the dry chamber restored our warmth; indeed we were both now drenched in sweat. It is difficult to dress warmly enough to fend off the cold during diving, but not to overheat with the physical exertion in the dry chamber. For the types of exposures that David and Tim were planning, dry suits are essential and getting wet (even from sweat), can severely reduce the thermal protection provided from the suit. Regardless we set off into the second sump. As for the first sump the line was generally intact, although buried. We also added two more stakes to better direct the rope line away from line traps. At 40m depth, Tim stopped at a restriction and called (ordered to begin exiting) the dive. The heavy work removing the buried line had both increased his level of narcosis and the delay fixing the line meant that the carefully scheduled deep trimix portion of the dive was no longer possible. Trimix dives are performed according to a rigid, pre-planned schedule. David had a quick look beyond the restriction and reported that the line appeared intact.

Dive two

On this following dive, we passed back through the first sump. This time it was somewhat easier since the extra tanks required for the trimix dive in the second sump were already in the cave having not been used the previous day. We passed yesterdays turn around point and continued to a depth of 57 metres where we found a break in the line, not far short of where we had rather hastily left the reel of rope in 1998. We tidied up the small amount of loose line but our dwindling supply of trimix allowed only a few minutes at this depth so we ascended and pondered the absence of either the reel or a huge amount of loose line.

Dive three

Despite being short of our previous furthest point of exploration, we decided we would aim to push past that point on the next dive. At 60m, there was a restriction that we had been unable to pass on the previous visit in 1998, and at the same point we expected to find the loose line and reel from the previous dive. Regardless, and assuming the cave would get deeper, this time we carried a large supply of trimix in our back mounted tanks and a supply of air to use shallower than 35 metres in a stage cylinder (a cylinder that can be detached and left on the cave floor and retrieved on return).

At the broken end of our rope line we tied on thinner 3mm polypropylene line and continued. We found the missing line reel near the location where it had been left four years previously. The line was broken at the reel, but the reel was buried in the gravel swept in by the winter flood and couldn't be extracted. Luckily, the reel must have been buried before the line had broken. At this 60m depth, the restriction that had been impassable under high flow conditions was passed easily, but at minus 65m the cave passage unexpectedly turned back up and we entered an enlarged part of the underwater tunnel, confronting what appeared to be a silt floor sloping upwards. At 57m in a still ascending tunnel we tied off the line and exited the cave having added approximately 60m length of fixed rope line.

Dive four

The cave still appeared to be going up, so we started to plan the necessary dives that would allow us to ascend in to the long awaited master cave stream passage in the Junee system. This was potentially going to be almost the worst type of dive profile. Although trimix diving is now common, a double bounce profile from such depths creates considerable extra risk, so we planned our ascent very carefully. We dived to the bottom of the second sump, then back up the other side to our previous position, where we had tied the line at 57m depth. The sediment floor of the tunnel actually turned out to be just a thin dusting of silt over a solid rock surface, so there was very little opportunity to place more stakes to secure the line. In this larger passage, we hoped that the added conduit area would result in a slower water velocity during the high winter flow and that this new line would survive for future exploration. However, this was wishful thinking and future expeditions should expect to spend several dives restoring the old line! Almost immediately beyond this point, the cave passage started levelling out, totally blowing our planned dive schedule. So much for assumptions! We did however lay another 60 odd metres of line, extending the cave a little bit further. David tied off the line at a blockage in the tunnel that we could not pass. This appeared to be a relatively small restriction that would be passable blocked with large boulders. Beyond the boulders, the continuing passage is clearly visible. Importantly though, the water flow through this reduced restriction was small, hinting that there may be an alternative route for channelling the cave water. Twenty or so metres back from this end point, on the left hand side, there was another potential continuation of the tunnel. Unfortunately, we didn't have the time to investigate this possible lead, but given the low current flow through the small restriction where the boulders are blocking the tunnel, we were confident that another flow-through conduit must exist.

This second sump dive lasted 2 hours and was a bit of a problem for Tim. On the way in while carrying his heavy twin cylinders (approximately 60kg) over a waterfall in *For your eyes only*, a foothold collapsed under Tim's weight plunging him headfirst into the stream under the weight of his gear and the water flow. With a considerable amount of effort and stretching, Tim was eventually able to push his head above water and struggle to a standing position unhurt. However, by the time we finished transporting gear to the start of the second sump, Tim felt slightly wet inside his drysuit, but decided to continue on regardless. Since his last visit to *Junee Cave*, Tim had acquired electric heating for inside his drysuit, so despite being in for a very long and cold dive, Tim was counting on this new hi-tech warming device to make up for the wetness. This is the fourth dry-suit failure in *Junee Cave* during the history of its exploration.

After spending nearly 2 weeks hauling gas tanks we had had enough! After a couple of days rest in the nearby caves and some walks in the National Park, we headed for home.

2004 Trip

Dive 1

Our intention for this trip was simple and optimistic: to find a route around or through the boulder choke in the second sump and find kilometres of phreatic or vadose passage and map what we could. We came equipped for this eventuality including a backup plan: push Junee as far as we could and use any remaining days to enjoy a few nearby vertical caves. Once again it was only the two of us to dive, all our friends, even those who had never dived Junee, were mysteriously busy.

Our planned first dive was to stage cylinders of decompression gases into "For Your Eyes Only" ready for subsequent exploration dives and to excavate and repair the line as necessary to the 40m depth limit of air diving into the second sump. The first sump line was not as badly buried as in 2002 and remains in good condition and although separated from one anchor this does not alter the line position and was not repaired. The diving conditions were quite good with the water flow only marginally higher than we had experienced on previous trips. As a result of a regulator malfunction upon reaching *For your eyes only* and David incompletely charging his head torch the dive into the second sump became impossible but Tim carried the four oxygen cylinders to the beginning of the second sump.

Dive 2

Despite not having done a preparatory dive to renew the shallow part of the route in the second sump, spurred on by the good condition of the line in the first sump and the good diving conditions we planned a deep dive out to the end of our previous exploration for the next dive. After a day spent preparing and filling cylinders with the various gas mixtures for our second dive we carried these to the beginning of the first sump late in the afternoon and were pleased to find the water level had dropped, conditions were improving.

Our early start the next morning was met with a minor disappointment, the water level was back up again. The first sump dive and the two trips carrying gear up *For Your Eyes Only* were uneventful,

perhaps mysteriously easy, we paused for a Powerbar and headed into the second sump each wearing or carrying six cylinders. We dropped three oxygen cylinders at 6 m and carried on breathing from nitrox (oxygen/nitrogen) stage cylinders dropping these and a spare at 35 m. We continued on breathing a mixture of 20% oxygen /50% nitrogen /30% helium. The heavy guideline in the beginning of the second sump was more extensively buried than we had expected and required considerable excavation beyond 35 m depth. Beyond 57 m depth we had used 3 mm polypropylene guideline and we had expected some breakage, we were not disappointed. The line through the restriction that descends from 60 m depth was shredded and about 10 m of loose line streamed back up the tunnel with the water flow. Fortunately in this gravel bottom section of tunnel the visibility was a glorious 2 to 3 m so this entanglement hazard was easily dealt with. A segment of new line was installed through the restriction and the old line was found intact beyond where the tunnel begins to ascend from the deep point of 64 m. Another break was found further on and again a new segment installed. Along with line repairs made in 1998 the line was becoming fairly heavily patched and our distance marks intended for survey were becoming less meaningful. This line maintenance was time consuming and we reached the possible left hand side lead noted on our previous trip with only a few minutes dive time remaining. We marked this intersection with an arrow indicating the way out, tied on the exploration reel and started in only to be disappointed, what in the low visibility had appeared a separate tunnel turned out to be the far left hand wall of the previously explored tunnel, so we returned to the intersection removing the new guideline. We then had time for a quick recce up our old line and found it ended in another break. Having spent nearly 30 minutes deeper than 50 m we had reached the safe limit of our gas supply and were facing extended decompression time in the cold water so we headed out of the cave. We collected our nitrox cylinders and endured decompression stops at 35, 21, 18, 15, 12, 9, 6, and 3 m resulting in a total dive time of 106 minutes. This year both of us used electrical heating in our drysuit as well as home made drysuit gloves making the long cold exposures in the cave a little more tolerable.

Dive 3

We were disappointed that the apparent tunnel was not a way past the boulder choked restriction but decided we should have another look at the restriction. This dive was planned the same way as dive 2. In the second sump we reached the break in our old line past the intersection arrow. Tim was in the lead and tied on an exploration reel to this broken line. Not far up we reached the boulder choked restriction. At first it looked the same to David who being in the lead in 2002 had had the best look at it, fairly smooth, light coloured boulders blocking the tunnel. Tim found that the tunnel widened on the right and he had been able to traverse along and up the rock pile. The rocks at the top of the boulder choke were similar to the formations in shallower sections of the cave, dark, sharp and with a sedimentary appearance. Tim spent several minutes trying to push through a gap in these boulders behind which he could see the tunnel continuing but was unable to fit. In more pleasant surroundings this would be an amusing challenge, but at a total distance of over 1 km into this cave, at 55 metres depth in cold turbid water we soon ran out of time and had to return to the inevitable cold during decompression and the work of carrying our equipment out of the cave.

Dive 4

We debated long into the next day about whether we could manage to re-configure the equipment we had with us in such a way that we could pass this small restriction before deciding it was best left for another trip. We had to make a brief excursion into *For your eyes only* to collect the remaining cylinders we had not been able to carry out the previous day. It barely warrants a mention except as perhaps the shallowest trimix cave dive we have ever done, since we used the remaining gas in our twin cylinders from the previous day instead of carrying them out of the cave for refilling.

We had been stopped again; Juneé does not yield its secrets easily. We finished up our stay in the Florentine valley with a through trip from Slaughterhouse pot to Growling Swallett and a hike in Mt Field national Park, before that interminable trip home.

In summary, our dive pushes had extended the passage length of Juneé Cave by another 140m including a further 5m in depth. Future gains are likely to be harder to achieve as the number of tanks and the length of the decompression time increases. Indeed the restriction at our furthest point may not be able to be negotiated at all, and if it can be it will significantly constrain pushes beyond this point. Given the finite amount of gas that can be carried during these cave dives, activities tend to be rushed with a focus on exploration and line maintenance. Consequently, little effort has been put into mapping the new passage in Juneé Cave and only major direction changes and approximate distances have been noted. Nonetheless, a sketch of the new passage has been drawn and it apparently puts us about four hundred meters from JF-341.

Tim Payne.

Juup Wauw, 𐀓𐀓𐀓𐀓

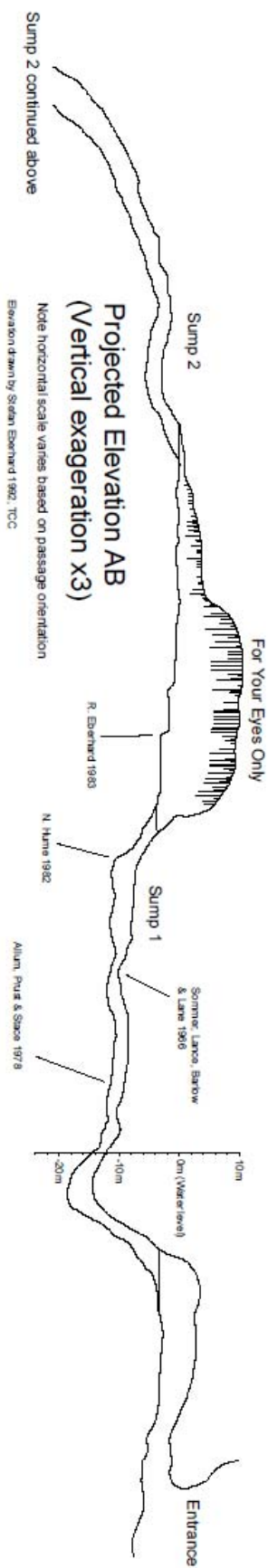
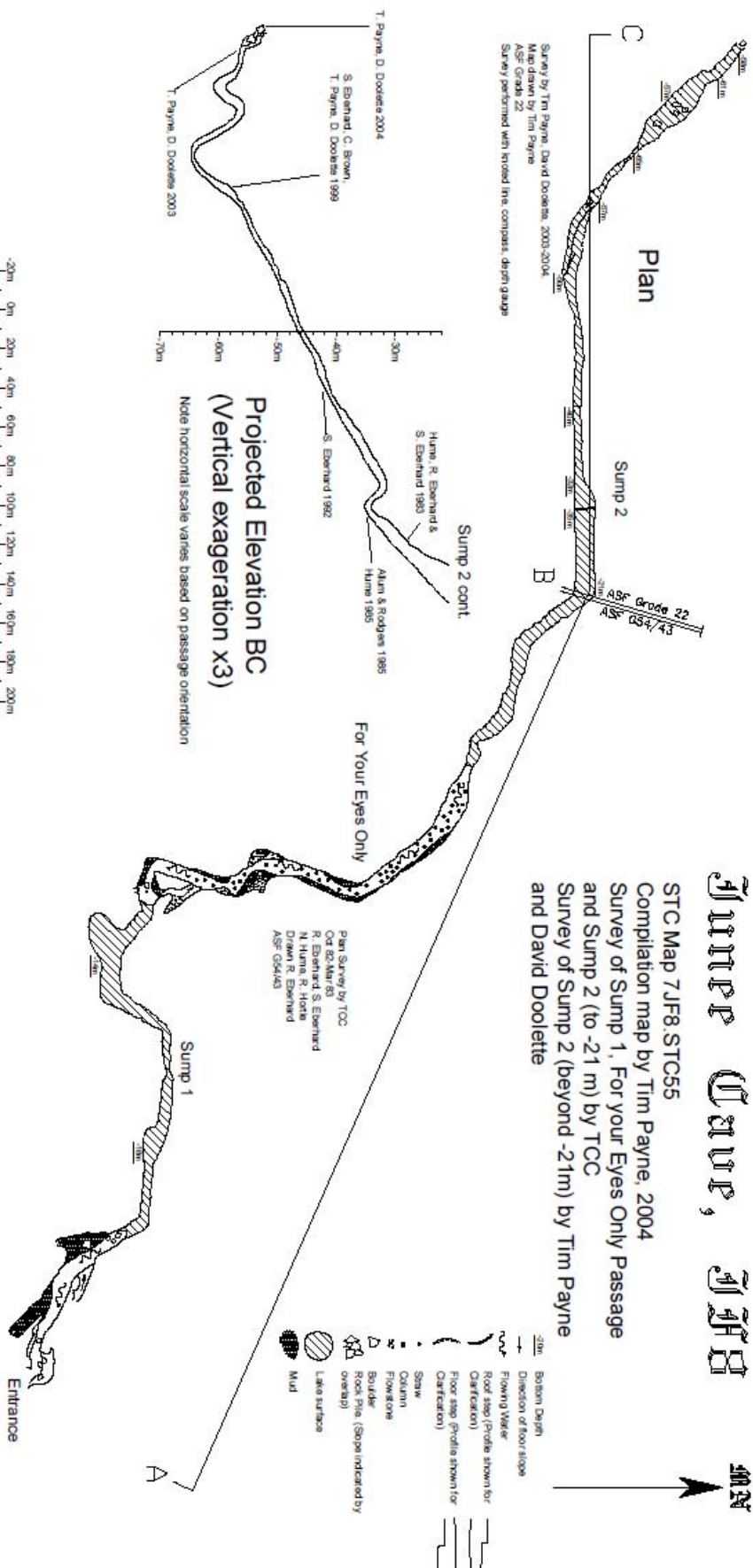
STC Map 7JF8, STC55

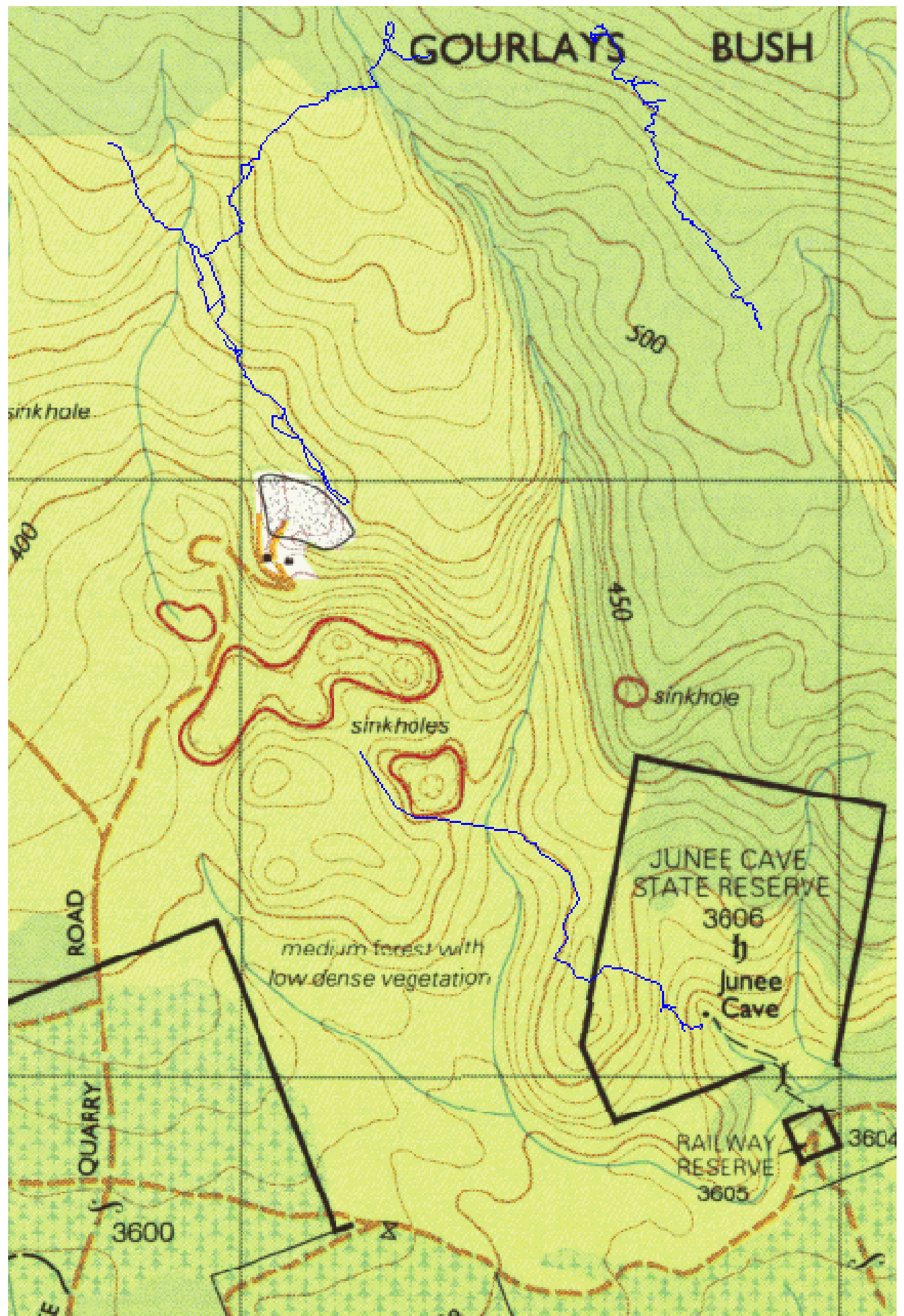
Compilation map by Tim Payne, 2004

Survey of Sump 1. For your Eyes Only Passage

and Sump 2 (to -21 m) by TCC

Survey of Sump 2 (beyond -21m) by Tim Payne and David Doolette





Location Map of Junee Cave JF8.

CEGSA CHRISTMAS / END OF YEAR TRIP

To – Gulfview Heights Sinkhole

Participating – Graham Pilkington, Bill Binks, Lance Hoey, Barbara Wiesner, Eddie Rubessa & children, June & George MacLucas, Chris & Ray Gibbons

A warm windy day dawned for the “trip”. Members who attended sat around and chatted, fired up the ‘barbie’ that kept going out and nobody took the plunge to investigate the sinkhole, even though the water was crystal clear.

A pleasant quiet afternoon spent with speleo members.

Chris & Ray Gibbons.

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TASMANIA 2005

The Tassie trip I coordinated this year took in the ASF conference at Dover, followed by caving at Mole creek. Adam, Brigid, Tim and interstate caver Matilda and I attended the conference. One of the interesting things that I got out of the conference was to realize just how lucky we are in SA with our relationships with Naracoorte caves and Forestry SA. The impression I got from many of the interstate cavers no matter what state they were from was that there wasn't the same level of cooperation, communication and consultation as we have here. Many cavers indicated a lot of frustration in dealing with similar bodies in their states. I was also given a lot of feed back and requests for the 2007 conference with most indicating that they were really looking forward to it and that the South East was an excellent location for it. I will report at a future meeting in more detail.

After the conference we met up with Michael, Grant, Belladonna and Northern Caveneer Chris Riley at Mole Creek. We did most of the usual caves in the area, spent quite a bit of time at the Mole Creek Tavern and Belladonna had a close encounter with a snake whilst walking back to the house. I will let other participants tell you about the rest of the trip.

Marie Choi.

ASF conference.

Down under at Dover was my first experience at an ASF conference. Dover is located about 90 minutes south of Hobart in Tasmania's far south. Marie, Brigid and I stayed in the Dover Caravan Park, whilst other CEGSA members, Tim, June, George, Barbara and Lance stayed at the Far South Wilderness Lodge. The majority of the conference was held in the main hall of the Dover High School.

At 10:00 on the 3rd of January, the conference was opened by the Governor of Tasmania, his Excellency Mr. William Cox. This was immediately followed by a keynote address from Australia's foremost sporting caver, Alan Warild. He presented an excellent talk on his adventures overseas including South America, Asia, Oceania and Europe. He concluded his presentation on his latest trip into the worlds' deepest cave, Voronia. Alan's presentation was excellent as he kept the entire audience enthralled with his often funny and intriguing stories of speleo-mercenaries and world travel.

After morning tea, the serious side of the conference started with the presentation of posters and papers. The presentation of papers went from Monday the 3rd until Friday the 7th. Topics presented at the conference throughout the week included Karstcare, lava caves, karst and subterranean wetlands, digital imaging for cave photography, cave fauna, factors affecting glow-worm light output, stalactite morphology, karst management and fine tuning SRT rigs. Locations and karst areas discussed included Tasmania, Kimberly Ranges, Bullita,

Naracoorte, Antarctica, Lechuguilla, Northern Iran, Hawaii, Western Madagascar, The Nullarbor and Western Victoria.

Later on the 2nd, the 4th International Speleological Art Exhibition was opened at the Dover Art Gallery by local poet Adrienne Eberhard. There was a range of works on display from a range of local and international artists. CEGSA cave artists June McLucas and Brigid Larkin both sold several of their artworks. Following the opening we went to the Dover wood fired pizza shop for what could only be described as the best pizza in the state.



Mystery Creek Cave.

On Wednesday the 5th, conference participants went off on field trips. We went for a look into Newdegate cave at Hastings. The cave was very pretty, with a massive chamber being the centrepiece of the tour. We also went for a crawl around in Mystery Creek Cave. The highlight of this cave was the masses of glow-worms located throughout the cave. These creatures were in large groups, emitting a soft luminous green light in patches throughout the main chamber of the cave. The worms put on a stunning show for all cavers who made the trek into the cave. It was certainly the most brilliant glow-

worm display I had ever seen. Later that afternoon, conference participants attended a BBQ dinner at the Hastings thermal pool. A few foolish souls braved the sub-Antarctic temperatures and went for a swim, while the majority just stood around, in the rain, watching in awe.

Thursday night participants were invited to view the entries in the Photographic competition. There were many categories with a very high standard of images overall.

On Friday afternoon, at the conclusion of the conference, the bi-annual Speleosports competition commenced. This was held in the biting cold on the high school oval. Speleosports involved teams of four who were provided with four eggs. Teams were required to move around the course in the shortest time possible whilst keeping the eggs intact. Obstacles included slippery slides, water filled passages, straw crawls and flatteners. The competition was most amusing to watch, with all entrants finishing the course cold and wet but happy.



Speleo Sports Activity

The last activity was the prussik challenge. (see cover photo) This involved participants' prussiking up a 30 metre rope. This was great to watch with the fastest times being sub 3 minutes. At the end, entrants were absolutely stuffed. It was very interesting to see someone demonstrate ropewalking. This was an impressively quick way to ascend the rope, but very time consuming when it comes to passing knots and re-belaying. Later that night the Cavemaniacs dinner was held at the Dover RSL. After tea, an auction was held to raise money for the ASF envirofund and awards were presented to winners of the photographic competition. John Dunkley presented the ASF awards and the conference was closed.



John Dunkley presenting the ASF Awards

Congratulations to the organisers for putting together what was a most informative and entertaining conference.

After the conference we headed straight for Mole Creek for a week of follow up caving. I'm not going to waffle on about all of the caves we did, just Croesus, Genghis and Marakoopa 2.

Croesus Cave is without a doubt, my favourite cave. The cave follows a streambed that is quite deep in parts. I was determined not get too cold this time around and so I wore a layer of thermals under my wetsuit. I only wore the bottom half, which was ample. I also wore my wetsuit booties to keep the feet warm, needless to say that I was toasty warm all through the cave. Last time we only got about half way through the cave, but this time we made it past the Golden Staircase. The Staircase was an awesome sight, with its cascades working their way down the rock. We also had a good look at the shawl with the hole in the middle and other amazing sights. I took a stack of photos up in the end of the cave where there were small helictites growing inside the curls of a large stalagmite. The end of the cave is a bit of a sandy crawl, so we didn't go up there for fear of spreading dirt and mud throughout this mostly pristine cave. With its combination of crystal clear but freezing cold water, delicate straws, massive rimpools and gourpools, assorted stalagmites and stalactites, and other spectacular formations, it is no wonder that Croesus is a very special place for many cavers.



Tim Moulds in Croesus Cave.

Genghis Cave is equally spectacular but for different reasons. The masses of Leeches at the cave entrance were pretty spectacular but I guess the most striking features in Genghis are the Aragonite crystals and the Big Stal in the main chamber. Genghis is also loaded with much decoration, but the flowers of Aragonite that have grown along the left side of the cave, particularly in the main crack, are amazing. Combined with an assortment of straws and the occasional pendulite,



Tim Moulds detrogging at Genghis.

the aragonite section is a cave photographers dream. Marie and I spent much time in this section playing around with cameras and flashes in the hope that we'd capture the desired image. Further in from the aragonite section is a small chamber with a large column that appears to be made of wax. The creamy white colour has a tinge of pink in it makes for an interesting feature. From here there are other sections of cave that are heavily decorated with all manner of decoration. After having a bit of a poke around, you work your way into the main chamber, home of the Big Stal.

This massive feature is something to behold. There is a huge creamy coloured dome on the cave floor, directly



Belladonna in Genghis Cave.

under the Big Stal. The dome is far bigger than cavers and flash bunnies, and when photographed, provides a mass of small sparkles. We tried to get pictures of the whole chamber, but due to its size and shape, this is rather hard to do. In the end I managed to get a reasonable photo, but unfortunately it is a bit dark in places. After we'd left the cave and the other group had returned, I managed to snap a few lovely photos of Timmy Moulds wearing his blue lollie bags and putting on a rather interesting pose. Alice... you are one lucky girl.

The last cave I'm going to tell you about is **Marakooa 2**. This starts at the end of Marakooa 1, the main tourist cave. Marakooa 2 is a really fun cave with some very nice features towards the end. After the 10 metre ascent into the creek bed, you very quickly climb up to a huge water tank hidden from public view. I've been told that the tank is used to ensure that water is always available when tourist groups go through however I don't know how true this is. We took some lovely group shots in the vicinity of the tank before moving on through the cave.

The first item of interest is a nice little crawl named the firebox. Now this is my kind of crawl. Loose pebbles in the sump allow for generously proportioned cavers to easily fit through. A simple job of clearing a few rocks here and there make the job of passing through the firebox less than a challenge. From here we wandered about until we came across the ascent to the higher levels, where the aragonite tree and selenite crystals are located. After tying on a hand line, we moved our way up onto the level of the huge straw and aragonite bushes. Around this part of the cave there is much decoration, with moon milk, bushes and trees of aragonite, straws and all manner of weird and wonderful helictites. From here another small climb takes you up to the selenite crystals. The area that hosts these unusual crystals is suitable for one caver at a time, due to their extreme fragility and chamber size. After we'd all had a look around and seen what selenite looks like, we all exited. The trip out seemed to go very quickly and in no time we were standing outside in the twilight, tired but excited at the trip we'd just had.

Off course, these types of trips don't just happen over night, and someone is usually left to do all the planning, organise permits, accommodation and the like. On behalf of the group, I'd like to thank Marie for all her efforts in ensuring that the trip ran smoothly and with a minimum of fuss. Well, that about ends my report on Tassie. If you haven't been caving down on the Apple Isle, I strongly suggest that you do so. It is awesome.

Adam Branford.

Tim Moulds shares his thoughts below.

My Cave January 9th 2005

For a pleasant introduction to Mole Creek caving, Marie and Chris took us into My Cave. It was a great reminder to cold wet caving, but not too bad to scare us off. The cave is a 20 min walk from the cars through luscious (thick) Tasmanian undergrowth of ferns and moss covered trees. The entrance despite appearing steep and foreboding is actually very easy with a long tape hand line. After a little initial navigational problem involving small squeezes and very cold water we entered the cave proper. The passages are joint controlled with an ankle to waist deep stream running along the bottom. Interesting formation lines many areas on high mudbanks. We broke into two parties and explored as far as we wanted before exiting to a delightful walk back to the cars and a hot meal.



Belladonna & Chris Riley
in My Cave

Kubla Kahn – The Pleasure Dome January 10th 2005

It was with some excitement, or was it trepidation, that I climbed the small hill from the car park to rig the entrance pitch into one of Australia's most famous caves. After a great conference at Dover a small group of CEGSA members had assembled in Mole Creek under the guidance of Marie Choi and her mate Chris from Tassie. Today we were rigging the Entrance pitch to make for a faster trip the next day. The rope was rigged around a large tree and then Chris and Matilda abseiled down to rig the rebelay off the bolts above the main pitch.



Tape destroyed by animal overnight.

The next day we returned and were getting geared up for a bounce trip to the Pleasure Dome when Michael asked about the tie off around the tree. The brand new tube tape had been *completely* eaten/torn through by an animal! We all stopped to think about the consequences if we had proceeded with a through trip starting from the other entrance and were prussiking up this rope without checking it first... After using some new tape we proceeded into the cave. The enormous first chamber is impressive in its own right but we quickly moved down to the stream way and into the chilly water for the wade into the main cave.

After admiring the numerous flowstone shawls and stalactites we climbed upwards towards the pleasure dome. After a detrog and wash station we finally climbed up and over the enormous dry rimstone pools into the Pleasure Dome proper. It was a glorious site, on a scale I have never seen before. After recovering from the mass of flowstone formation I noticed all the other pretties, a gigantic flowstone wall, delicate aragonite clusters on the far wall and the intricate detail of the edges of pools (like little oyster mushrooms). Matilda and Michael were similarly impressed and after rushing around (carefully) like small children we took some photos and headed out. Thankfully the trip back through the stream way seemed shorter than on the way in as it was just as cold.

Tim Moulds

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder to Members, that Membership Fees were due on 1st January, 2005.

Would current members intending to re-join, please pay their accounts as issued with the November 2004 CEGSA News by 31st March. Under the Constitution, if fees are not paid by the 31st March, written re-application for Membership will need to be completed, approved by the Committee and in addition to the fees, the \$12 Joining Fee paid.

Note the discount fees offer for receiving the CEGSA News by e-mail in place of a printed copy.

Please include the completed additional information sheet with your preferred fees option.

To assist with the ASF database, alterations and additions need to be finalised by the 31st March.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR YEAR 2005

Full Membership	\$ 46.00
Full Country Membership	40.00
Associate Membership	38.00
Long Term Associate	46.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00
Joining Fee	12.00 (not applicable to 3 month intro)
Discount for email CEGSA NEWS	15.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR YEAR 2005

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	121.50
3 Month Introductory	20.00
Student	61.00

YEAR 2005 FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$ 46.00	\$ 68.00	\$114.00
Full Country Membership	40.00	68.00	108.00
Associate Membership	38.00	68.00	106.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00

Variation for Family Membership

1st Full Member + 2nd Full Member

Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$77.00	\$121.50	\$198.50
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1st Full Member + 2nd Associate Member

Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$69.00	\$121.50	\$190.50
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1st Associate Member + 2nd Assoc Member

Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$61.00	\$121.50	\$182.50
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Please make sure your payment of fees includes CEGSA and ASF, if applicable.

Chris Gibbons

Treasurer/Membership Officer

Review of unvisited or unallocated WA Jennings NX Features

In the last follow up report in CEGSA News Vol. 49(2) which described the positions of 4 of Jennings Dolines NX389, 391 to 393, I reported that all of Jennings NX features derived from Air Photo coordinates needed a revision and a recalculation of their coordinates.

I have recalculated positions and cross checked the original 61 Photos for all WA Nullarbor Jennings NX features.

NX406 to NX410 are in Quadrant "B" and had relatively accurate coordinates, the remainder NX395 to NX405 and NX411, NX412 had substantial error.

There are still 7 NX Jennings Dolines in SA which need careful discernation and crosschecking.

In the process a revision of recent air photos (89/90 series) of the Malcolm and Balladonia sheets I have located a number of new features off the air photos. The resulting list is approx. >400 features consisting mostly of eroded Dolines and shallow collapses. To add to this there are approximately. another 600 possible features (Air Photo Points).

An undetermined number of these features, both the previously unrecorded and NX features, have been found independently by Max Hall over previous years, during flights passing over this area (Max Hall Pers. Comm.).

During the last couple of Months I have managed to sight David Lowry's original field note books (Max Meth also holds copies of these note books). As a result a number of new correlations have been noted.

On the modern Air Photos I have picked out the original Lowry Features N51, N86 to 90, at least 2 of these appear to have differing positions to what is in both CEGSA records and Lowry's original notes / photos.

Lowry in the case of N89 has circled on his photos, several possible locations for the one feature. One of the circled locations contains the obvious N89, but it is not the final position given to N89 on his photos, and therefore the position in records. With N51, 86-88 he appears to have circled all the features, but not all descriptions of the Points 16-19 located on the traverse line, fit the same features visible at the points marked. At least N51 (Point 16) appears to be in the position of N87 (Point 18).

The reasoning for the apparent miss plots is most likely due to the thickness of the timber cover and difficulties he would have faced with pinpointing his exact location after a 20+ km traverses.

Lowry recorded another feature Point 87, described as a general depression 100 yards diameter maximum depth of 12 feet and he gave an approximate location within 1.5km NE of NX402.

Off air photos NX402 is a roughly circular depression approximately 100m diameter and 3m in depth. There is only one other feature, P672 which is in the same area and has similar dimensions. Although at the time of this traverse, Lowry appears not to have yet had access to Jennings locations for the features on the Balladonia & Malcolm sheets (Max Meth Pers. Comm.). One of the features found by Lowry during his fieldwork may well be NX402. Even though he states in his later publication (Lowry 1967), that "none of Jennings Balladonia features were examined".

He also states in respect to Gecko cave "Ten dolines nearby were also examined" (Lowry 1970). This leaves 3 to 6 features, which appear to not have been recorded. (Depending if N89, 90 & Point 87 are taken into account, they are not exactly nearby).

In the process of logging the air photos I have to date calculated accurate coordinates for around half of the features noted so far.

By enlarge most of the features logged on the air photos in this area appear to be consistent with the general structure which Lowry described as the Gecko Cave type for this region, "numerous craters 5 to 20 feet deep and 15 to 300 feet across, caused by the collapse of the kankar crust into shallow caves" (Lowry 1970). Where collapse is not the process the features are a result of erosion of the surface cover, where material is or has been actively washing into the cavities below. The more recent have deeply incised erosional sides, where

as the majority are older with more gradual and degraded sides. Collapse and "Erosion dolines" appear to gradually become smaller and shallower on the Photo Runs further to south along the Mardabilla Plain. This includes less visible overhangs and an appearance of being generally more degraded. Although the latter trends also reflects a reduction in visibility due to an increase in vegetation cover.

The region of Gecko Caves had been shown by Lowry previously (Lowry 1970). This region can probably be extended further to the NE and also to the SW as determined by the structure of the features viewed from Air Photos. Very high numbers of karst features would be expected in this region especially towards the North and in Southwest, as Karst feature densities visible in air photos alone are at the highest levels I have viewed in WA so far. See Fig 4.



Fig 1. N-2550 Cave Entrance @10deg 14102004

I undertook a brief excursion to the southern area of the Balladonia sheet in October 2004, targeting for NX398, 397. I ended up around 10km short from NX398 but decided against continuing, due to technical difficulties, broken clutch/gearshift levers (sweat, flies and rugged going). In app 6 hours of traverse time by Bike, resulted in finding 10 features:- 2 collapse dolines 20m apart N2551 and N2552, one shallow collapse cave N2550, 6 BH's N2553-5, N2648-2650 and also 1 small doline N2556. Only 3 of the 10 features were ones previously found using the air photos, N2550-2.



**Fig 2. N-2551 Colapse Doline
@350deg 14102004**



Fig 3. N-2552 Colapse Doline @300deg 14102004

In the area visited, although not closely investigated the features appear to be formed in strata with less kunkar cover than those found by Lowry further to the SW. The collapses appear to be more through a layer of harder limestone near the surface which gradually changes to a more friable form at variable depth. The surprising outcome of this short excursion is the relatively high number of BH's encountered. This could be due to the more exposed and weathered surface topography in areas closer to the edge of the Scarp, which is in the area adjacent to the northern end of the Israelite Plain. It is in this corridor up to

10km wide, next to the Wylie Scarp where this change in ground structure is visible on the Photos. The change is to that more akin to the exposed limestone surface in the Donga regions near the rail. Further away from the Scarp the soil horizon cover slowly increases to a point at around 15-20 km distance, where the terrain reverts to an evenly undulating surface where no solution depressions and very few features are visible in the photos.

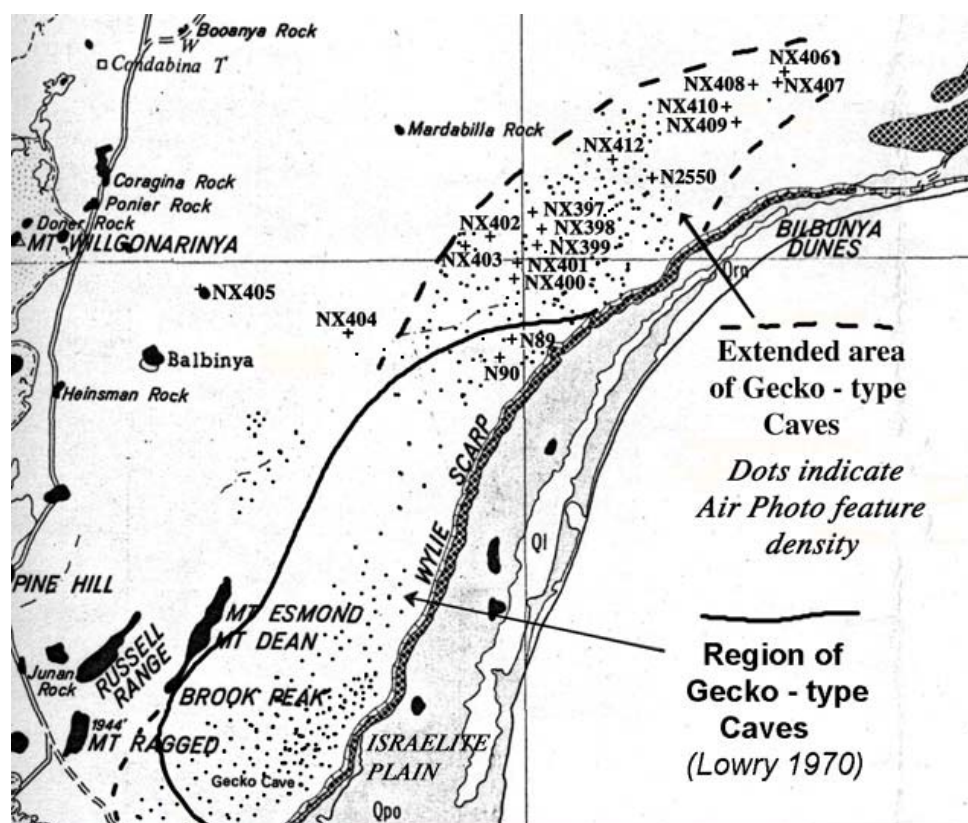


Fig 4. Karst Features in the SW Nullarbor Region, Based on Lowry 1970.

In brief all bar 2 of the NX features noted in records as Jennings Dolines in WA now have accurate locations.

NX391 On Eucla map sheet (as mentioned in the last report) is at the position of P301, NX394? Only 2 Jennings Dolines appear in earlier data on the Culver sheet not 3, this record may not be attributable to a Jennings feature (Max Meth Unpub. & Pers. Comm.)

NX395 is on Culver (Caiguna 100000) sheet. The other Jennings Doline apart from NX396 listed on the Culver sheet in earlier data (Max Meth Unpub.) appears not to be NX394 as recorded previously in (Meth 1997). The Jennings Photo coordinates:- 3/5296 C0.3/1.83 rather match NX395.

NX396 is on the Culver sheet. Both NX395 and 396 are relatively degraded.

NX397-403 are on Balladonia (90)Run 14, are mostly large and degraded. NX403 appears the most likely for a shallow cave.

NX404 is on Malcolm (98) Run 1, is smaller and appears to be a little more recent.

NX405 is on Ball. Run 14 is the depression surrounding the Murtadina granite rock inlier. More than likely picked for the slight internal depression where rainfall runoff pools, on the NW side of the Rock, at the lowest point of the large, inlier surrounding depression.

NX409, 410, 412 are on Ball Run 13. They are mostly large and are all are degraded.

NX406-408 are on Ball. Run 12, these are all large and degraded

NX411 is described by Jennings as small fresh doline. The old photo coordinates 7/5488 A2.65/0.25, are erroneous as no feature, comparable with the description is visible on the 61 series and modern Photos at the position of the Photo Coordinates given, or in the near vicinity.

This could be due to an error in the Photo number or coordinates. There are three other clearly visible Dolines on the 61 series Balladonia Run7 which are not shown as Jennings features, P841:- 7/5487 B1.43/1.81 is compatible to in size and visibility to NX406-410, P850:- 75489 A1.82/0.63 is similar but slightly smaller. P842:- 7/5487 A1.55/1.37 is smaller again but has steeper incised sides although not a collapse, it is similar to NX409 which Jennings also classifies as "fresh". Although it is possible, these three features appear unlikely to be NX411 as the coordinates all differ substantially, and apart from P842, their structure also does not match Jennings description.

The only other alternative is on the photo immediately to the west 7/5489, there is a feature (P-B14/5175 09:- N2550) it lies at A2.75/0.1 which is almost the same as the NX411 photo measurements on 7/5488. Having at this time not checked, one would assume that it does not show up on the 61 photos, as on modern photos it is barely discernible. I had listed this point as only a possible Doline, slight 3D. There is also many similar but larger features in this vicinity, which Jennings did not record. All of the Jennings features in WA- NX391, 395-412, and apart from possibly NX411, still remain to be visited on the ground.

At this stage I have forwarded app two and a half photo runs of Air Photo data (Balladonia Run 14, Malcolm Run 1 and 2, around 350 points) to Wayne Tyson, Max Meth and also to Max Hall for cross correlation with previous data he has collected.

Postscript regarding the last report:- after viewing David Lowry's notes:-

Lowry did visit N2138 which is Point 188, 2 more features in records which Lowry did visit during his fieldwork in the Haig Cave area are, Doline N1554 = Point 186, Doline N1655 = Point 187.

References:-

LOWRY D.C., 1964-67 Unpublished Field Note books and associated records.

LOWRY D.C., 1967, List of large collapse dolines in the Western Australian part of the Eucla Basin, *Western Caver* 7(3):1-7.

LOWRY D.C., 1970, Geology of the Western Australian part of the Eucla Basin, *W. Aust., Geol. Surv., Bull.* 122

METH M. G., Unpublished compiled data on Jennings and Lowry air photo features.

METH M.G., 1997, Result of Nullarbor Doline Search. *Proc. 21st bienn. conf. Aust. Speleol. Fedn.*, Quorn SA 1997

Paul Devine.

Warraweena and the Public Access Route

I read in the CEGSA News Vol 49 No 3, August 2004 a trip report by Eddie Rubessa et al (page 65).

In this report a mention was made of the padlocked gate at the entrance to the private Conservation Park. The statement was made "We had assumed it was a public access route" etc.

I have had private discussions with the Public Access Officer (David Oag) and his comments are that:

- 1) the Public Access Route scheme is managed by the Pastoral Board, a section of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
- 2) the track from the western side of Warraweena station through to Mt Hack is a 22Km long Public Access Route
- 3) the padlocking of gates **as a matter of course** is contrary to the spirit (if not the letter) of the Public Access Route scheme
- 4) the department and/or the station owner can close a route if weather conditions or stock management requirements necessitate it. However this would be expected to be a fairly short-term measure, not a permanent situation. The "requirement to negotiate a key prior to use" would probably not be regarded as a valid track closure due to the above.

David indicated that if CEGSA members encountered a padlocked gate, then they and/or CEGSA should contact him officially so that he could take action and resolve the situation.

The Pastoral Board maintains a website (www.rangelands.sa.gov.au) which contains some information re the Public Access Route scheme, a downloadable pamphlet re the routes and some conditions re their use. It also contains David's contact details.

I am aware that when you encounter a padlock, it is often difficult to immediately contact the Pastoral Board. I would also countenance against the use of the universal key (a bolt cutter), but David should be contacted as soon as possible to ensure others are not prevented from access.

I should also point out that the Warraweena cave is more than 50 metres from the Public Access Route and, as such, the owner's permission must be obtained prior to visiting the cave.

Trust this is of some use.

Bart Jansen.

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Forestry SA Circuit Sinkhole Clean Up

In the years that I have been in CEGSA it's been great to see Forestry SA develop a range of policies and projects that are protective of the caves that are located in their forests. There was a time that they were little more than a nuisance and when logging was undertaken little consideration was given to the caves. On occasion you would rock up to a cave in a freshly logged forest only to find debris from the logging pushed down the entrance.

Well this has all changed in recent years. Forestry has taken a strong conservation role with the caves on their properties. When sensitive caves with fossil deposits have been found they have organised and paid for gating whilst consulting with members. There have also been a number of clean up projects on the 'Clean Up Australia' days such as Wandilo cave

and Snake Hill. On these occasions Forestry has arranged for heavy equipment to remove large items and then supplied trailers and equipment to cavers to remove the smaller stuff with Trevor joining in the clean up.

Forestry has also developed a strong relationship with NPWS at Naracoorte caves and become involved in some projects and policies. Our local members and I are regularly kept up to date with projects and are often asked if there are projects we would like to see undertaken. Years ago when I first saw circuit sink hole I couldn't believe how much rubbish had been dumped in it and when I raised the idea of cleaning it up most people just laughed. Then 2 weeks ago Trevor rang to ask what I thought about cleaning it up, I'm afraid I just laughed a little and said that it had been a dream of mine since I first saw it. Well that dream is reality, Forestry has organised heavy equipment to remove all the large objects (car bodies, boats, household items etc.),



One of the things that I picked up from the Tassie conference after talking to many cavers from various states is just how lucky we are to have such a good relationship with both National Parks (particularly Naracoorte) and Forestry. It seems other states are not so lucky to have the level of co-operation and communication that we have here. And in the case of Forestry to be so cave conservation conscious. So a big pat on the back for them and the work they are doing. Just an added note, Forestry SA is utilising a Green Corps group to undertake a cleaning and restoration project in Morgans cave. For those that haven't been there Morgans is a well known cave regularly visited by people other than cavers and constantly vandalised with ugly spray can graffiti. The project is to remove all the graffiti and gate the cave to prevent future vandalism.

Marie Choi

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BIRTH NOTICE

Tess Adelaide Kendrick was born at 4.56am on Friday 31st December 2004 at the Queen Alexandra Meternity Service, Royal Hobart Hospital. Weight 3560g (7lb 13.5oz) and 51cm long.

Tracy's labour was 5 hours long and all started after going to the R.H.H. for a regular weekly check-up. Because of a belief that Tracy's "waters had broken" sometime on either Wednesday or Thursday and Tess was now exposed to the air (and a subsequent risk of infection), labour was induced just before midnight. Tracy was stoic during the labour relying on gas, music, support from her husband and advice from her mid-wife.

Simon was present for the entire labour and even cut the umbilical cord. We have returned home to Huonville and all family members are well.

Simon Kendrick.

The Trials and Tribulations of Organising Trips

There are lots of things to think about when organising trips, whether it be a local one for the day, a weekend trip to the Southeast or Flinders, or an interstate trip to Tasmania or Western Australia. As someone who organises quite a few along with having organised a range of dinners and other social caving events, I thought I would just remind people who may not have done it for a while, or for those newer ones who may start doing it in the future. Talking with others in recent years it seems that some who attend these trips as participants may not fully appreciate just how complex and time consuming they can be. Then there are all the little issues that can arise, so I thought I would just give people an insight of what I do for some of these trips, especially the bigger interstate trips.

The first thing is to decide if the trip is open to all or if it's a group of members who have decided they want to go somewhere together. In nearly every situation I have opened my trips up to all members as was done with the most recent Tassie trip. Using that as an example the issues I next have to consider is what size group I want, I have to think about people's skill levels, Fitness, experience and personalities. You need to work out what caves you are going to do, what group gear and personal gear is required accommodation and in the case of Tasmania transportation for those that fly in.

With caving in Tasmania you need to apply for permits for many areas and in some cases there are limits to the number of permits you can have. Take Kubla for instance its 1 permit a year per club and then there are a limited number of permits available. The permits must also be spaced at least 2 weeks apart so if 2 clubs are at mole creek at the same time then only one is going to get a permit. To top it off Kubla permits are only for 6 people and one of them must be an approved Kubla Guide, leaving only 5 places for cavers. So how do you decide who goes. There are the obvious things that help you, first they have to be proficient in SRT, and then they have to be fit. I also based my decision on if they have had experience in cold wet caves because it is very different to caving in wet warm ones like we have here. The cold and wet can really sap your energy. Of course they need to have the correct gear and from there it's up to you or the group to decide and of course the final decision comes down to the guide. Now there are a number of things that you can work out easily from that list but the 2 issues that are difficult are the level of SRT experience and fitness.

I try and make sure that I have been with most people in SRT trips prior to this one and have had a chance to assess their fitness and abilities, but what do you do if you haven't had those opportunities. You could question them about what SRT experience they have had but then you have to take their word on it. I have had a number of people over the years overestimate their abilities so if I haven't personally caved with them then I will ask them who they have caved with and if there is someone I know and trust then I will seek feedback from them. Some people may not like this process but as the trip leader the buck stops with me and I have to ensure everyone's safety, and it's proven itself just to give you an example:

A group of us were at a new cave site in SA with a 20+metre pitch and a very nervous land owner watching on. A relatively new person who I had never done any SRT with wanted to go in but I did not feel comfortable giving them the okay so they suggested I ask another member of the party about their abilities, which I did. I trusted this person's judgement and they did not believe they had the skills yet so I said no. On the next trip when we didn't have the anxious land owner looking over our shoulders I decided to let this person in but stood by and watched them. I watched them thread their descender upside down on the rope! So my decision on the previous trip had been a fair one. They were new and enthusiastic and overestimated their abilities / knowledge.

I have also had similar situations where experienced cavers have overestimated their skills or fitness. Unfortunately we all get older and our fitness will drop off and if we don't practice our vertical skills we can get a bit rusty.

Trying to ensure that everyone is properly equipped is another issue especially when people are caving in a different environment. You can prepare a list of equipment and gear requirements but mishaps happen or people just plain forget or as on this most recent trip someone mixed up caving suits and one of our party turned up without his because someone mistook his suit for theirs and left behind one that was way too small. Luckily having worked with young people for the last 14 years doing these type of activities I always makes sure that I have extra gear. Infact I had a couple of spare caving suits, sets of thermals and even spare boots as well as spare SRT gear, packs and other items.

Transport is another thing to consider. On my early trips to Tassie I and most of the rest of the group had flown over. This then requires organising transport and this can be a problem as often only one or two people are listed to be able to drive the hire cars. You can take the risk of letting someone in the group who isn't listed drive but if there is an accident that can be costly and they have some crazy drivers on those windy roads in Tassie. Then you have the problem of the listed drivers having to chauffeur people every where and if you have a rest day and want to go sight seeing you may find your self left behind. So because of these issues the last couple of years I have taken my car and for me anyway it's worked out well.

Finally there's the food and accommodation. This year worked out well as we were able to rent a house in mole creek that comfortable slept 10 of us, it meant having to drag less gear over for those that were flying in and if the weather turned bad we could all still socialise undercover. This isn't always possible in tents. Food is such a personal thing that I usually recommend that people team up with someone with similar tastes. That way at least you know you are going to eat all the food and not hunger for something that is a normal part of your diet. I seem to remember chasing cows around the paddock with my knife and fork on my first Tassie trip with FUSS after a week of vegetarian meals.

So there are a lot of things to consider when organising trips, and sometimes hard decisions have to be made by trip leaders, but that's why they are trip leaders. The organising of trips like Tassie takes place over a long period. Lots of things can happen. People change their mind, leave booking planes or ferries too late or try and organise their personal gear too late and much more. But I suppose that's all part and parcel of organising trips.

Marie Choi

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NOTICE OF MOTION

The committee has recommended that George and June MacLucas have Honorary Life Membership bestowed upon them. This is in recognition of the extraordinary past services that they both have given to the Group. For the past twelve years half their house has been taken over by the Library and records and they have worked tirelessly to maintain them. They have always thrown open their house to anyone who required to access the records and for working bees to do maintenance work on them..

A motion to this effect will be put forward at the March General Meeting and voted upon. I would urge all members who can to attend this meeting to show your appreciation for the work done by June and George.

Athol Jackson.

INDEX TO VOLUME 49

Volume 49 contained the following issues

49 (1) February 2004 Issue 193
 49 (2) May 2004 Issue 194
 49 (3) August 2004 Issue 195
 49 (4) November 2004 Issue 196

The index is divided into the following categories

Caving activity by region

Technical and Other Articles

Key to abbreviations used in the index

B Biological	Bo Botanical
D Description	Di Diving
E Exploration	F Fantasy
G Geological	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 of the article.

ADELAIDE HILLS

No trips recorded

EYRE PENINSULA

No trips reported

FLINDERS RANGES

F19	49 (3) p67	B Binks	Tg
F57	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
F61	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
F67	49 (3) p67	B Binks	Tg
F70	49 (3) p66	B Binks	
F76	49 (3) p67	B Binks	Tg
F158	49 (3) p66	B Binks	
F159	49 (3) p66	B Binks	
F178	49 (3) p66	B Binks	H
F181	49 (3) p68	B Binks	
F182	49 (3) p68	B Binks	
F199	49 (3) p68	B Binks	
F200	49 (3) p65	B Binks	W
F203	49 (3) p68	B Binks	L
F204	49 (3) p67	B Binks	
F205	49 (3) p67	B Binks	L
F206	49 (3) p65	B Binks	T
F208	49 (3) p67	B Binks	L

F215	49 (3) p65	B Binks	D
F216	49 (3) p68	B Binks	H
F217	49 (3) p67	B Binks	D
F218	49 (3) p67	B Binks	D
F219	49 (3) p67	B Binks	D
F220	49 (3) p68	B Binks	H
F221	49 (3) p68	B Binks	L
Fx53	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
Fx54	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
Fx55	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
Fx56	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
Fx57	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
Fx63	49 (3) p66	B Binks	L
Fx73	49 (3) Cover	B Binks	P
	49 (3) p68	B Binks	
Fx75	49 (3) p69	B Binks	
Fx76	49 (3) p69	B Binks	
Fx77	49 (3) p69	B Binks	

KANGAROO ISLAND

No trip reports

LOWER SOUTH EAST

L23	49 (2) p52	A Branford	E
L31	49 (2) p41	A Branford	D, E, H
L60	49 (2) p47	M Choi	B
L61	49 (1) p15	P Fundova	D, E
	49 (1) p16	P Fundova	M
L69	49 (2) p47	M Choi	B
L119	49 (2) p47	M Choi	B
L186	49 (1) p18	P Fundova	Di

MURRAY PLAINS

No trip reports

NULLARBOR PLAINS

N? (adj N607)	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	L, P
N17	49 (2) p43	G Pilkington	
N25	49 (2) p45	G Pilkington	H, L
N45	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	
N48	49 (2) p43	G Pilkington	
N55	49 (1) p14	P Devine	
	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
N63	49 (2) p57	P Devine	
N141	49 (2) p55	P Devine	
	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
N142	49 (2) p55	P Devine	
	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
N143	49 (2) p43	G Pilkington	P, S
	49 (2) p55	P Devine	
N168	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	H
N389	49 (2) p57	P Devine	
N391	49 (2) p57	P Devine	

N392	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
	49 (2) p57	P Devine	
N393	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
	49 (2) p57	P Devine	
N596	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	L
N606	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	L
N607	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	L
N650	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	L
N713	49 (2) p57	P Devine	
N734	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	
N1017	49 (2) p45	G Pilkington	L
N1188	49 (2) p44	G Pilkington	
N1602	49 (1) p12	P Devine	H
N2138	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,G, H
	49 (2) p55	P Devine	
N2237	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D, G, H
	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
N2238	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,G, H
	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
N2255	49 (1) p12	P Devine	D, H, L
N2401	49 (1) p13	P Devine	D, H
N2402	49 (1) p13	P Devine	H, L
N2403	49 (1) p13	P Devine	D, H
N2404	49 (1) p13	P Devine	D, H
N2455	49 (1) p13	P Devine	B, D, E, H
N2515	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,H
N2516	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D, H
N2517	49 (1) p15	P Devine	D,H
N2637	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,H
N2638	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D
N2639	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D
N2640	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,H
N2642	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,H
N2643	49 (1) p14	P Devine	D,H
N2655	49 (2) p43	G Pilkington	Sc
Nx325	49 (2) p55	P Devine	
Nx389	49 (2) p57	P Devine	
Nx391	49 (1) p12	P Devine	D, H, L
	49 (2) p56	P Devine	
Nx392	49 (2) p55	P Devine	
Nx393	49 (2) p55	P Devine	

TORRENS

No trip reports

UPPER SOUTH EAST

U/n	49 (2) p49	D Grindley	E, S
U2	49 (2) p50	M Choi	B
U7	49 (2) p51	A Branford	E
U8	49 (2) p51	A Branford	E
	49 (2) p53	M Sefton	E, P
U10	49 (2) p51	A Branford	W
	49 (2) p53	M Sefton	T
U15	49 (2) p53	M Sefton	E, L
U16	49 (2) p53	M Sefton	L
U37	49 (2) p52	A Branford	B

U44	49 (2) p51	A Branford	E
U93	49 (2) p49	D Grindley	E
U174	49 (3) p71	A Branford	B, D, S
U192	49 (2) p46	D Grindley	S
	49 (2) p46	P Deer	E, P, W
	49 (2) p50	P Deer	E, S
	49 (2) p51	A Branford	
U215	49 (2) p48	D Grindley	D, E, S
U217	49 (3) p70	A Branford	B, D, S
U218	49 (3) p70	M Choi	E, S
U219	49 (3) p70	M Choi	

YORKE PENINSULA

Y1	49 (3) p69	G Pilkington	E
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INTERSTATE & OVERSEAS

BAA34 (NT)	49 (1) p4	M Sefton	E, H, S
Bullita System (NT)	49 (1) p5	B Kershaw	M
Skeleton Key (NT)	49 (1) p7	M Sefton	
H5 Chain of Ponds (Tas)	49 (4) p82	D Grindley	B, P, S
Croesus (Tas)	49 (2) p37	A Branford	E, P
Exit (Tas)	49 (2) p32	P Deer	E
Ghengis Khan (Tas)	49 (2) p38	A Branford	P
Growling Swallet (Tas)	49 (2) p34	M Choi	E
Hailie Selassie (Tas)	49 (2) p36	A Branford	E
King Solomon (Tas)	49 (2) p38	A Branford	E
Lynds (Tas)	49 (2) p39	A Branford	E, P
Marakoopa 1 (Tas)	49 (2) p40	A Branford	T
Marakoopa 2 (Tas)	49 (2) p40	A Branford	E, P
Milk Run (Tas)	49 (2) p34	P Deer	E
Wet (Tas)	49 (2) p32	M Choi	E, P

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

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

Air photo features - N - pt 1	49 (1) p12	P Devine
Air photo features - N - pt 2	49 (2) p54	P Devine
AGM 2003	49 (1) p3	
Awards 2003	49 (1) p3	
CEGSA Xmas BBQ	49 (1) p20	G Gartrell
Corrigenda to 49 (2)	49 (3) p64	D Grindley
General Meetings	49 (3) p76	
Index - Volume 48	49 (1) p24	
Letter to Editor	49 (2) p31	Dr R Harris
Letter to Editor	49 (3) p63	S Kendrick
Library & Records	49 (1) p22	G McLucas
Pigeon Post	49 (1) p23	D Grindley
Privacy of info statement	49 (3) p77	
Social jottings	49 (3) p75	M Choi
Steve Bourne's 40 th	49 (3) p74	M Choi
Trip Leader status	49 (3) p76	

Kevin Mott.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
23/02/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Graham Pilkington
26/02/05	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
06/03/05	Working Bee	Clean-up Australia. Circuit Sinkhole.	Marie Choi
06/03/05	Caving	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
9/03/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
March	Caving	Nullarbor	Graham Pilkington
23/03/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Video Presentation	Athol Jackson
25-28 /03/05	Easter Long Week End	Avenue Range. Exploration and surveying.	Marie Choi
		Flinders Ranges.	Eddie Rubessa or Bill Binks
13/04/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
23-25 /04/05	Anzac Long Week End	Mt. Gambier or Avenue Range	Marie Choi
27/04/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Tasmania Conference Report, Marie Choi.	Graham Pilkington
30/04/05	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
11/05/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
11/05/05	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
14-16 /05/05	Adelaide Cup Long Week End		
25/05/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Old Homestead Cave, Graham Pilkington.	Graham Pilkington
28/05/05	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
11-13 /06/05	Queens Birthday Long Week End	Naracoorte Caving	Marie Choi
01/2006	Caving	Tasmania	Marie Choi
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil Survey contact	Garry Woodcock
	Caving	Regular trips to Sellicks Hill 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.