

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> (under reconstruction)

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:

Lance Hoey and Eddie Rubessa with ducting at Hawaii Five O Cave, F205. Photo Bill Binks.

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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 **10th AUGUST 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**

Not all trips are advertised in the NEWS. This occurs for many reasons including the short time between initiation and the actual trip; attendance by invitation only (usually because of number restrictions or skill level required); and by request of the cave owner.

Many of these trips are reported to CEGSA Records but do not appear in this NEWS. Often this is a good idea; they would bore most of us with lists of recorded data.

However, it means that many of the more research/survey type trips are not disclosed to people outside CEGSA who then get the impression that we do very little other than enjoy our caving. I suggest that we should begin to publish summaries of these trips to indicate to others that we expend much of our effort in collecting speleological data. The report would only need to indicate that the trip existed, the reason the trip was conducted and the progress made – a couple of paragraphs at most.

In this way, outside organisations would have a better idea of the scope of CEGSA activities.

Graham Pilkington

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MOST POWERFUL BITE

Lance Hoey asked me to pass on this interesting bit of news for the newsletter. It was taken out of The Advertiser, Mon....(?) March 2005:

Most powerful bite.

A MARSUPIAL lion that roamed Australia during the Ice Age had the most powerful bite of any known animal in the world, living or extinct, an Australian and Canadian research team has discovered.

More closely related to a wombat than an African lion, the 100 kg marsupial lion known as *Thylacoleo carnifex* could out bite a sabre-toothed tiger, bonecracking spotted hyena and Tasmanian Devil.

Barbara Wiesner

TRIP REPORTS

H5 “Chain Of Ponds” Discovery. Tasmania. Part II of II. July 04.

Participants:

Damian Grindley (CEGSA, CRF, AKMA, CSS, SFBC)

Paul Nelson (CRF)

Analisa Contos, Steve Contos, Phil Maynard, & Richard Pfeil. (SUSS)

JUST TO RECAP:

Following an ACKMA article penned by Sharples 2003¹ and detailing some possible karst features in the Hastings area. Chain of Ponds was discovered.

Being towards the end of an internationally flavored multi club (CEGSA, SFBC, SOCAL, CRF, CSS, STC) touristy trip to Tasmania Jan 2004. Only about 300 meters was surveyed in the two rather wet days available prior to departure. It proved extremely frustrating for all concerned, having to leave strong draughts and multiple open leads, some up to 15m high. The Dolomite cave contained; - areas rich in formations; - Cave adapted isopods; - Active canyons and fossil passages. Reported in Grindley 2004².

Dolomite caves are internationally rare. Particularly those of any length (greater than say 10m). Rarer still are those containing major stream ways. Southern Tasmania however is blessed with major dolomite deposits. One such, the Hastings karst, contains Newdegate tourist cave with its huge, abundantly decorated, chambers and large lower level stream. The terrain is rough and vegetation dense. Prospects for finding caves are good on the lower slopes above the logged areas from the 19th Century.

Of course having found a major cave of unknown extent with significant features and fauna. The photographs of Chain of Ponds were duly shown to Ian Household and Chris Sharples authors of the original ACKMA journal article. An agreement was then made to keep the cave hush hush until such time that a management plan could be created and implemented. This would involve completing the survey to ascertain the extent of the resource and help in producing the management plan.

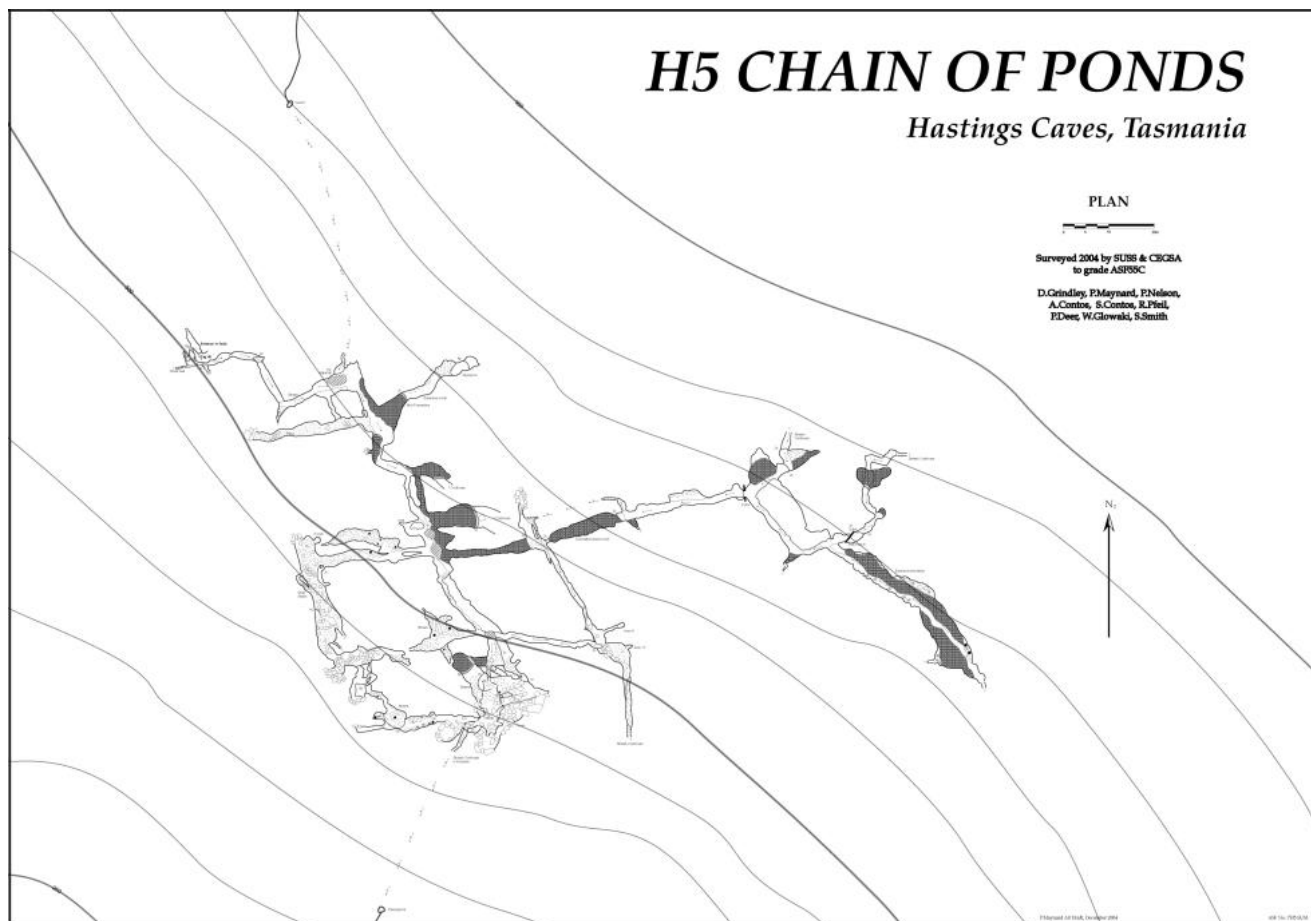
Another concern was that the cave might underlie the World Heritage area, as the entrance was rather close. This would have been good for the caves protection but have embroiled us in much bureaucracy. The answer would have to wait until our return in July 2004 (the subject of this article). Hopefully know body else would act on the ACMA article in the meantime.

BACK AGAIN:

Well the original plan to return at Easter proved problematic and Naracoorte Cave Park was graced with our presence instead. Not wanting to leave wide open leads too long, July 2004 seemed like the next suitable date. The prospect of cold, wet winter caving and the high probability of losing a couple of days to the weather, put off some, yet attracted others, such as Paul Nelson, all the way from California. At this stage we were still advised to keep the cave Hush Hush and not involve the locals. Luckily four SUSS members jumped on board and they certainly brought a lot to the team. In hindsight involving some locals may have had advantages.

Naturally we wished to finish the exploration of H5, Survey, track mark, photograph and conduct as much science as we could. Analisa stuffed water sampling bottles, a pH meter, a dissolved oxygen meter, and a spatula in her hand luggage!. Ian Household provided us with hydrochloric acid and a Disto (absolutely fantastic for large survey projects!!),

The following report is actually an e-mail sent to Ian Household after our trip detailing our exploits and making some observations. Somewhat formal in its tone it consequently misses some more eventful parts of the trip. The big influence was the weather. Three days were lost to rain and snow. It even snowed at sea level at Cockle Ck on the Monday. Paul somehow slid the rental car off Arthur Clarks drive in the resultant sludge! Arthur's accommodation was as ever invaluable in keeping morale up. Dry, Warm and ever so hospitable. That combined with pub's, distilleries and wineries made the damp days quite enjoyable. A couple of job interviews were also squeezed in. What has inevitably delayed publication yet makes this report come to life is the excellent survey by Phil Maynard first presented at the ASF conference in Jan 2005. As the World heritage area follows the XXXM contour (Removed to protect cave location). Its relationship to the cave can clearly be ascertained.



POST TRIP E-MAIL TO IAN HOUSEHOLD

TRIP REPORT

The group mounted three trips into the cave and one surface survey trip over the week of July 4th - 10th, 2004.

Sunday 4th saw the group familiarise themselves with the overland route too and rigging of the cave. AC and RP were joined by Jason Gardner from the Hastings Caves Reserve. They completed track marking the main passages and identified numerous species. Several small skeletal remains including those of bats were found; all seemed of fairly recent demise. Meanwhile DG, PM and PN continued the survey into the Upside Downs. Approximately 150m surveyed to ASF grade 5, culminating in a small window into a previously unknown decorated chamber.

Tuesday 6th. DG, PM and RP surface surveyed from Hot Springs Creek; tying in the cave entrance, suspected resurgence and known swallet. No further input points were found. GPS locations of the above were also recorded.

Thursday 8th. DG and PM surveyed many of the side passages left from the discovery trip none went far but proved important in understanding the systems layout. AC, SC and RP surveyed in a downstream direction. One stream sumped but with a possible high level continuation. The other ended in a boulder choke, but picked up an inlet on the left that later proved to be the sumped water from the first stream. Approximately 150m Surveyed in total.

Friday 9th. DG, PN and PM corrected a loop error from breakthrough trip then surveyed into large decorated chamber above breakdown at second stream way end. Several side passages were picked up. A further previously unknown input stream was discovered with an impressive 20m aven and a high level connection to the first stream way. SC and AC sampled extensively in the cave for water chemistry at various entry points. Samples were also taken of black and brown stream way deposits to determine whether their origin is organic or mineral.



Damian in Chain of Ponds. Photo: Paul Nelson.

Observations

The basic structure of the cave, even to the amateur's eye does indeed seem rather simplistic. Water does appear to run off the harder rocks above and sink at various points close to the contact. Underground, the survey reveals a system seemingly joint controlled, with water following and enlarging these joint-derived passages from various input points. The abandoned higher-level passages similarly follow this simple pattern, these being furthest from the current inputs/contact. Overall the line of the passages/joints seems to mimic the approximate line of the slope. A similar pattern of faulting is often seen associated with such steep slopes. Water analysis results are to follow. However all streams within the cave seemed to be surface-derived and carried significant organic matter thus indicating the cave was unlikely to extend deeper into the mountain.

Although possibly unremarkable in its structure, the cave's contents may be of significant scientific interest / importance particularly as the site is in a pristine condition and the land above undisturbed by logging.

Initially the stream way was considered very fragile. Interestingly this proved more robust than expected, though still unlikely to take heavy traffic. Higher water levels cleared much of the evidence of our previous visitation although some silting had occurred. However the cave itself proved much less robust. Sediment banks are prone to easy damage; mud formations and calcite formations are



Ornate Speleothem.

Photo: Damian Grindley

extremely fragile. Being dolomite the rock its self crumbled easily and many of the speleothems are significantly different from limestone caves. This is a highly decorated cave in places. Many of the speleothems are very fine and highly ornate. If undisturbed examples of such dolomite caves are rare within Tasmania, as they are elsewhere, this may well be reason enough for some form of protection.

The sediment banks mentioned above may well date from glacial times and contain valuable scientific information. Wildlife abounds throughout the cave. This is probably due to the high influx of organic matter. Much of this life is cave adapted to some extent and a full scientific inventory should probably be instigated. The microbiology/mineralogy of the cave could be of

particular interest. Both red and dark brown deposits are plentiful in the cave's stream ways. These deposits were subject of further analysis by members of our team. The results may not be known for some time. Consequently it is difficult to make recommendations here until the results become available.

As far as future management goes, the survey, track marking, photography and basic science instigated so far go some way towards understanding the cave, its extent and provide a good framework for the future. The pristine nature of the cave and its surface covering combined with the abundance yet fragility of its contents and their potential for scientific advancement does suggest that for the immediate future the cave should be closed to all but scientific trips accompanied by a suitable guide. Once the results of investigations are complete the management can be further reviewed. However general use as a recreational cave seems highly unlikely.

Presuming that the cave is indeed initially reserved for science or some other such restriction, how such a directive is enforced becomes an interesting question. Reliance on the cave's relative remoteness and limited knowledge of its location is by no means insurance against visitation/damage. Gating, although somewhat obtrusive and involving an initial outlay, may well dissuade all but the most persistent.

1. "The Hastings Karst, Getting it sorted out at last", Australian Cave and Karst Management Association Journal No 53, Dec 2003.

2."Chain of Ponds, Discovery (Tasmania), Part I Jan 04". CEGSA NEWS, Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) inc. Vol 49 #4 Issue 196 Nov 2004

Damian Grindley.

Tasmania 2005

There has been much about the ASF Conference already so I will briefly give my report. Special thanks must be given to Stephen Bunton (and family), David Wool Cobb and Arthur Clarke for the conference and post conference field trips in the Ida Bay, Maydena and Mole Creek areas as well as the 142 metre abseil of the Strath Gordon Dam (unreal!).

After the conference we had accommodation at the Southport Community Hall for five nights. This and caving trips in the area was organised by locals, Janine McKinnon and Ric Tunney. In the community hall ropes were set up and we had two days of vertical training by expert cavers from all parts of Australia who were amazed that CEGSA could not do any.

At Maydena we had a fantastic camping spot at the Junee resurgence. Janine and Ric ran the trips in this area as well. Barbara and I went to Growling Swallett.

Mole Creek was our last caving area where we stayed at the caravan park with about twenty other cavers. Local, Henry Shannon, led the trips to the beautiful Lynds and Croesus. I did a twelve hour through trip of Kubla Khan led by David Wool Cobb. David leads many trips into Kubla under the classification of Karst Care. At least two hours of cave cleaning must be done by the party – a small price to pay to see such a magnificent cave. The water was near freezing but I found two pairs of thermals and dive booties to be sufficient.

I would like to congratulate Jay Anderson, the new ASF president, Alan Warild, Australian Caver of the Year, and Greg Thomas for winning the prussik challenge again.

We had an excellent time in Tasmania and it was great to catch up with caving friends from all over Australia. It was also good to have strong representation from CEGSA – eight members.

Lance Hoey.

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Murraylands

Anzac long weekend I talked Barbara into going to the Murray for a relaxing caving trip. Bill Binks joined us on Saturday.

Starting off at Murray Bridge we visited M2 and M3. Murray Bridge Cave apparently has much local visitation and needs a good clean up. Several fires had been lit in it and there was the usual rubbish – papers, alcohol containers and even car parts.

Next we went to Mannum to see M26 and M27. We had great difficulty with the location map. Another visit is needed with a GPS unit.

Barbara and I tented Saturday night on the river bank near Younghusband.

Sunday was the day spent on Harry Appledore's property at Craignook to see M4 and M5. We spent several hours here. This is my second trip to these caves and I'm surprised why they're not visited more often. In M4 I noticed many spider webs and saw one spider. Barbara saw another 'bug'. On going through a floor hole near the end of M5 things became very muddy and slippery, much like M18 – great fun but a good wash was needed afterwards.

Speaking to Harry again afterwards he said that, in the gully about 200 metres from the caves the ground had a very shallow sound to it and he was sure that the ground is hollow underneath. We didn't have time to check this out.

We found a delightful campsite on the island at walkers Flat for Sunday night. We had a white sandy floor and were only metres from the river.

On Monday we made our way home via Swan Reach. Here we eventually found M15, M16 and M17. There was also quite a bit of rubbish in M17. M16 and M15 looked clean, but the longer cave, M15 had several bee hives at the entrance. As we didn't have time to explore it we decided to return another weekend later this year.

Lance Hoey.



Richard Harris

Caving and Cave Diving in Vanuatu (2 years in paradise)

All photographs are supplied by the author.

I arrived in Vanuatu to live for 2 years in January 2004, but it has taken me this long to get my act together and put pen to paper to summarise my caving activities here. I came here as a doctor to work with AusAid at the Vila Central Hospital, but I was also drawn by tales of amazing cave diving, sea diving and fishing. In all respects I have not been disappointed! I seem to be finding or hearing about new caves almost weekly, so at some point I felt I must send this report in, although it will never really be complete! Future cave reports/updates will be archived with the ASF and CEGSA for anyone planning a trip here. Also check my website on www.divedoc.net

Geography and geology

Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides prior to independence in 1980), consists of a Y shaped archipelago of some 83 islands extending 1176km north south, supporting a population of over 200 000. It lies

on the edge of the Pacific tectonic plate. The first islands of Vanuatu were pushed up from the ocean floor 22 million years ago (Espiritu Santo, Malekula and the Torres group), and the most recent less than 5 million years ago. The islands continue to increase in size due to slow ongoing uplift together with the formation of fringing coral reefs. Hence most of the islands are volcanic in origin but many are coral atolls and hence limestone in nature. In general, the limestone forms a series of terraces, each marking successive stillstands of sea level; caves often occur at the interface between terraces. The largest limestone area is on Espiritu Santo where the eastern half of the island consists of an uplifted block 60km long by 25km wide. Apologies for my otherwise appalling lack of geological knowledge!

I was aware of 2 main islands containing caves before I arrived. On the island of Efate (home to the capital Pt Vila) there are well-documented caves in the tourist guidebooks. To the north, the island of Espiritu Santo (home to the well known shipwreck the SS Coolidge) has been visited by cave divers from the CDAA starting in 1996 after the discovery of water filled caves in the south central part of the island.

Since coming here, it is clear from discussions with many local NiVanuatu people that caves abound on virtually all the islands and so the possibilities for exploration seem endless. However it requires significant time here to learn about and then find the sites, let alone organize an expedition to explore or dive them. For example I heard from several local sources about



a cave in the hills near Pt Vila where boys would carve their initials on bamboo sticks, throw the sticks into a deep cave and then run about 1 mile to the coast and find their sticks washing around in the surf! Such stories can make a cave diver's heart miss a beat and so I searched the area extensively for the alleged cave without success (I found a number of dry caves along the way). However I strongly suspect the cave may have existed but has perhaps been lost during a large earthquake several years before.

The object of this "trip report" is twofold. Firstly to propose a numbering system for the caves of Vanuatu that future cavers might add to, and secondly to document the tiny proportion of Vanuatu's caves that I visited. Where possible I have made a rough survey of the features, taken photos and recorded a GPS reference point. The GPS points for the caves whilst not published here will be archived with the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) and with the ASF.

Cave Numbering System, Vanuatu

I could find no record of a cave numbering system here in Vanuatu, or with the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) or Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS). Hence I have used the following for my own records, and put it forward for use by those that will follow. This has been ratified by the UIS and the ASF. The system is based on that in use and recommended by the ASF.

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----|
| 1. Country Code | VU | |
| 2. Province Code | Sanma | 2 |
| | Penama | 3 |
| | Malampa | 4 |
| | Shefa | 5 |
| | Tafea | 6 |
| | Torba | 7 |
| 3. Island Code | Torres Is | TS |
| | Banks Is | BK |
| | Espiritu Santo | ES |
| | Ambae | AM |
| | Maewo | MA |
| | Pentecost | PC |
| | Malakula | MK |
| | Ambrym | AB |
| | Epi | EP |
| | Shepherd Is | SH |
| | Efate | EF |
| | Erromango | EM |
| | Tanna | TA |
| | Futuna | FU |
| | Anatom | AT |
| 4. Cave number | 4 digit identifier | |

E.g. Clearwater Cave, Efate Island VU-5EF0002

Should a cave lie on an island not listed, it will be referred to the nearest named island. Similarly for sea caves. In all other respects the numbering code should try and conform to the system outlined by the ASF in its document entitled "ASF Cave and Karst Numbering Code".

Cave Features in Vanuatu.

Collapse dolines and cenotes, phreatic passage, lava tubes and sea caves all exist on these islands. Speleothems and cave decorations appear to be uncommon but a healthy bat and other fauna population exists in many of the sites. Tall coralline limestone escarpments veer across the landscape in many areas and dry caves can often be found at their bases. However most of these features have been quite small to date. In other areas, river resurgences like that of the Sarakata River on Espiritu Santo, may give rise to extremely long phreatic passage. Coastal blue holes in many of the islands hold the promise of significant caves also.

The Caves of Efate Island.

VU-5EF0001 Rubbish Dump Cave

Location Eastern Efate, Le Cresionairre Property near Eton.

This property extends from the coastal road up into the hinterland hills. Lush pasture supports beef cattle and racehorse bloodstock. A steep sided gorge contains a small river, which is rumoured to end in a resurgence up stream.

To the west of the river lies a paddock containing a number of limestone features. My first exploration took me directly to the most prominent one, which I have named Rubbish Dump Cave, signifying its use over many years by the farmers there. Around the immediate area hidden in the dense scrub, there is an impression of numerous other sinkholes that will warrant further inspection.

The sinkhole represents a classic collapse doline with a steep mud slope leading to the base. The main slope runs in an NE – SW direction. Smaller extensions run to the NE and SE. At the base of the cave a small tunnel descends to a cavern filled with guano and home to a large colony of ?Minopterus australis; small fine toothed bats covered in red ticks and spiders. These bats were also found in smaller numbers in other parts of the cave, some with babies on their chests. The small lake at the base of the bat cavern was explored with SCUBA but no extensions were found. It is only approximately 30cm deep in all areas.

Half way up the wall on the southern side is a window that leads in 2 directions along tall fissures. The origin of this formation is not clear to me ?? different period.

Only in two areas of the cave were speleothems found in the form of very small (<3cm) calcite straws and small stalactites. Active water flow was seen on these formations.

Common varieties of cockroaches and Huntsman spiders were present, and the guano was teeming with small invertebrates.

VU-5EF0002 Clearwater Cave

Location Bellevue near Pt Vila. The landowner prefers the cave location not be made public.

An exciting find for me after searching for a dive-able cave for the last year, this one at least has water deep enough to warrant lugging all my dive gear in to have a proper look!

The farmer stood guard on the surface whilst I made my first reccy of this pretty cave.

The 20m long, 4m deep collapse doline contains a central sheer chimney requiring an 18m abseil to the floor. In one direction, a large walkable passage continues east for around 25m. The floor of the cave contains a tiny flowing stream that was enough to get me excited about the possibility of a dive at the end of the site. At the end of the main chamber is a 3m crawlway. Down on my belly in the refreshing clear water with plenty of air space, the crawl through is pretty easy and exits into a second chamber about 10m square. Some very old looking bones are cemented in the guano and limestone here, which I was careful not to



Clearwater Cave Entrance.

disturb, although I suspect they will prove to be from an unlucky cow. This chamber is full of bats (?bentwings) and is particularly aromatic. Some freshwater prawns (Nowra) are to be seen in the stream. No speleothems were noted. Seashells are seen embedded in the walls.

At the back of the second chamber, lies a still pool about 4 by 5m. In the depths I can clearly see a black hole >1m circumference.... a dive at last!!! I could barely contain my excitement and did a little war dance with my batty companions.... I have looked at a lot of dry caves! A quick duck dive with a mask confirmed that the hole in the rock continued out of my small LED torch beam. Next weekend I will return with sidemount tanks and helpers.

8th Jan 2005. Saturday morning dawns windy and very wet due to cyclone Kerry just to the north. Maybe too wet to visit the cave again. My trusty sherpa Anthony picked me up early with pastries and coffee and we loaded up the gear and head off to meet the farmer at the entrance to the farm. An hour later we are all standing around in the rain after a slippery 4WD trip, rigging the cave to enter. Anthony down first, then I lower the dive gear. The farmer wants to come down for a look so a quick abseiling lesson and he is also down in the cave. I change into my wetsuit and join them on the rock pile under the chimney. We see some more cave fauna on this trip.... brown and green skinks, a nice fat eel in the water and the usual spiders, bats and other critters. Despite the heavy rain, I am reassured to see that the cave water level has not significantly risen. Certainly drier down here! A closer inspection of the edge of the collapse rock pile shows a crack between 2 rocks full of water. The water is crystal clear and goes at least 2m down. The area may warrant a bit of digging at a later date. We move the dive gear through the crawlway and into the 2nd chamber. I kit up at the water's edge, tie off and enter the water for my first Vanuatu cave dive! A long time coming and I am very excited.

Sinking down to the floor of the cave lake at 3m, the tunnel entrance of two square metres leads off in an easterly direction. On the topographical map there is a river about 1km to the east, which is encouraging. The tunnel is not large, definitely a single file job, and every few metres a log or two blocks the way forward. It takes a while to gently move these aside without disturbing too much silt, and proceed. After 15mins I have only gone about 15m into the gradually narrowing passage and the visibility is deteriorating as the almost imperceptible current is coming from behind me. The passage starts to head up after a max depth of 6m. A rock slope climbs in front of me at about 30 degrees and the passage becomes a wide flattener only just high enough to squeeze through with 7l sidemounts. At this point with the visibility all but gone, I make a final tie off and turn around and survey my way out. I think a little gardening will allow a way forward. The next dive may well reveal another dry chamber I hope.



Preparing for First Dive.

March 2nd 2005. A further recent dive ably assisted by visiting cave divers Gary Barclay and Simon Doughty confirmed just how tight the terminal passage becomes. Even with side mounted 7L tanks and a bit of rock shifting I only moved forward a further 2m and glimpsed ahead into tight passage disappearing up the rock pile slope. I might try one more time in a couple of weeks! In the meantime we dug some rocks out back in the first dry section and found some reasonable looking water below. I'll see how it looks when I go back and the silt has settled. 2 fat Pacific Boas kept us company on this occasion, obviously pretty content with their life amongst the bats!

VU-5EF0003 Elluk Cave

Location End of Elluk road, Pt Vila

A very small feature that may now have been destroyed by, or incorporated into a housing project in Pt Vila!

VU-5EF0004 Moth Cave

Location Pango escarpment near Pt Vila

One of the small caves I found in this escarpment. Full of beautifully coloured moths which gave it the name. Further along the same escarpment lies Chimney Cave.

VU-5EF0005 Pango Well

Location Pango Village sports ground.

The old drinking well in Pango village got my pulse racing when I first saw it! It looks like a small cenote close to the coast, full of drinkable water whose level changes with the tide. Reminded me a lot of pictures of village wells in Mexico! However the locals assure me that when they clean it out every year, it has solid walls and base, with no tunnels leading off. They have invited me back to verify this when they clean it out later in the year.

VU-5EF0006 Siviri Tourist Cave (Falefa Cave)

Location Escarpment near Siviri village.

Siviri Cave lies next to the village of the same name, on the northwest corner of Efate. It starts at the base of the escarpment and after a short dry section, reaches a T-junction at a lake. To the left the lake (only a few metres deep) finishes after about 5 metres. To the right it continues about 40m and then goes further as a low muddy dry cave for at least 50m more. I plan to formally survey this cave soon. I have snorkelled around the lake with a torch but found no obvious dive-able extensions. There is a reference to the cave in the NSS News, April 1990 page 95.



Pango Well.

VU-5EF0007 Chimney Cave

Location Pango escarpment near Moth cave.

Chimney Cave lies on the Pango escarpment, close to Pt Vila. One main entrance and 2 chimney openings are found on the top of the escarpment, whilst a second large entrance is found at the base of the escarpment. The cave contains a number of speleothems including some nice draperies and flowstone. Appears to be regularly frequented by humans.



Chimney Cave

The Caves of Espiritu Santo

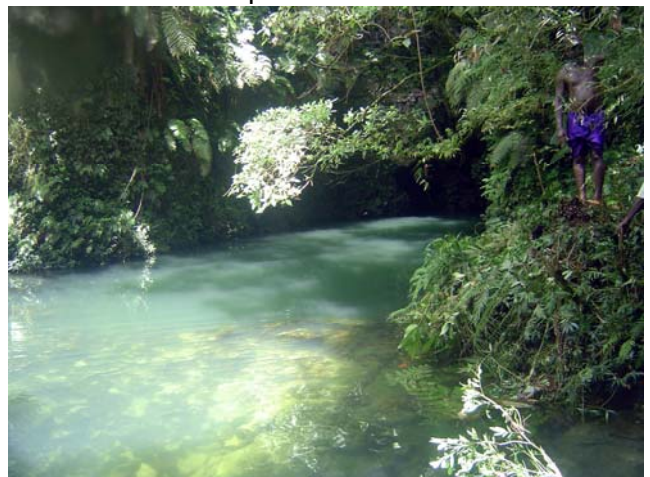
This island holds the greatest potential in my opinion for significant finds. The eastern half of the island is uplifted limestone. A drive along the eastern coast shows numerous crystal clear streams and small blue holes by the roadside. But at this time the best finds have been those associated with the tributaries of the Sarakata River, which empties into the Second Channel just west of Luganville.

The Sarakata resurgence cave and the caves on Mt Hope Station nearby (2ES0010-2ES0032) were first brought to cavers' attention by Russell Donovan, the expatriate leaseholder of the Mt Hope cattle property. It was his original intention to develop one of the sites as a tourist site, offering the adventure of a "duck through" of the short sump in 2ES0015. With the help of local cave diver and dive operator Kevin Green, a group of CDAA cave divers came to explore the cave and discovered many more as part of the same system. These explorations occurred between 1996 and 2000.

VU-2ES0033 The Sarakata Resurgence

Location At the top of a tributary near the village of Butmas

The exact history of the exploration of this site has been difficult to pin down. It was first dived in early 1997 and then again later in that year. I think another expedition occurred in 1999 and possibly again in 2000. The groups contained different members but instrumental in the



Sarakata Resurgence.

exploration was Steve Sturgeon (WA) who coordinated much of the exploration. Unfortunately I have been unable to obtain any maps of these dives, and different accounts described a total distance of either 1204m or over 1700m, terminating in a breakdown room with only a very narrow way forward (if at all).

I first dived the site in March 2005. It involves a difficult one-hour hike through the dense jungle (only 830m as the crow flies according to the GPS) carrying dive gear. The resurgence pool lies in a north south direction and is approximately 40m long. The water wells up at the base of a cliff, and at this point divers drop straight down to the gravel at 30m depth. The cave entrance lies before you and flow in the early section is considerable. A number of masks have been lost in this section! Visibility improves as you enter the cave but in the wet season can be 2-4m with a water temperature of 22 Celsius. The water is drinkable. The resurgence pool contains numerous species of colourful tropical fish and freshwater prawns (Nowra). Further into the cave no life was seen in the fast flowing water. The cave continues at a consistent 29-30m depth until the first air chamber at approximately 400m in, after which the depth is more in the 15-20m mark.

VU-2ES0037 Bat Cave

Location At the top of a tributary near the village of Butmas.

The mouth to this dry cave lies a short distance above the flood run-off area next to the resurgence. I am told it continues for approximately 100m and is dry throughout. Several side passages. Bat roost.

VU-2ES0010 – 2ES0032, 2ES0034 – 2ES0036. Mt Hope Station caves

Location Mt Hope Station, Espiritu Santo

Found in 1994, first dived 1996. I have included the names and numbers of these interconnected caves for future reference, unfortunately I have not been able to visit them myself. Gary Bush and other Australian cave divers produced an excellent map showing this amazing cave system on one of the Sarakata tributaries. The notes attached to these sites, were provided to me by Gary Barclay, one of the divers involved in the early exploration. I must emphasize this extensive work is not mine and all credit goes to those earlier explorers, however I feel it is important that this information is now archived. These divers used a similar numbering system to that proposed by me, so I have used the same numbers that they assigned.

Unfortunately the leaseholder of the station is not permitting divers access at present.

2ES0010 Pump Sink

Small sink below ES0021. Entrance is RHS looking upstream, 5m by 7m pool, connects to ES0011.

2ES0011 Three Way Spring

Still blue hole, 11m by 8.5m, depth 12m. 1 inflow from ES0010. 1 outflow to ES0020. 1 extension (Eel passage) to ES0012. (Penetration only, not fully negotiable).

2ES0012/0013/0014 The 3 Sisters

Sink. 1 sink (ES0012) and 2 resurgences (ES0013 and ES0014 minor) in the vicinity of ES0011. Both resurgences are non negotiable. Possible connection ES0021 to ES0013.

2ES0015 Bush Rope Hole

10m abseil to stream running west-east. Upstream to 4m duck, 100m stream passage. Standing pool with extension in bottom. Not fully explored. Downstream chokes towards ES0018.

2ES00??The Drinking Hole

Penetration rated. Sink leading to Clam Shell requires side mounts 600 metre traverse. Starts at 1 metre deep, ends at 36 metres deep. Passage 3-5 metres in diameter.

2ES0016 Unnamed feature

3m drop entrance leading to mud slope to tight water entrance (negotiable). Silting problems would occur with entry. On line from ES0015 to ES0018.

2ES0017/0018 Earthquake Gully

0017 – Sink in earthquake gully. Proven connection to ES0024. Minor leads past initial squeeze heading downstream. Sidemounts required.

0018 – Resurgence in earthquake gully. Upstream is choked and entrance would require significant work to clear. Water comes from ES0015.

2ES0019 Tourist Hole

Proven connection to ES0011. Still pool with log lying across, outflow of water on surface stream towards ES0019.

2ES0020 Plunge pool

Short passage through hill taking water from ES0019 via above ground stream. Stream falls into small pool with surface stream exit.

2ES0021 Champagne Hole

Resurgence from ES0022. As below. Water runs from here via surface to ES0010.

2ES0022 Cliff's Sink

Downstream from ES0023. Water sinks through hillside and appears at ES0021. Daylight visible throughout. Side passage (non-negotiable) may take water to ES0013.

2ES0023 54m Hole

Resurgence from shaft with depth 54m at bottom, restriction then heads towards ES0024. Connection not made.

2ES0024 The Clam Shell Hole

Standing pool with proven connection to ES0017 upstream. Downstream connection to ES0023 not possible due to restriction. Refer survey for detail.

2ES0025 Little Bit Long Way Hole

30m drop into collapse chamber with passage to water. Possibly negotiable with pony cylinder. Enjoy!

2ES0026 Bushman Shelter

Small feature with undercut sides.

2ES0027 Tourist Cave

Located in vicinity of ES0020. Used as tourist cave by Russell Donovan. Bat roost with stairs to exit. Through trip.

2ES0028 Unnamed feature

Small low cave with stream and mud leading to low sink (downstream so silt problem). Doubtful potential for diving.

2ES0029 Unnamed feature

Small resurgence from hillside in vicinity of ES0020. Possibly takes water from ES0034. Examined. Doubtful potential for diving.

2ES0030 Unnamed feature

Conical depression with narrow lead at bottom heading to water (deep). Difficult to negotiate with dive gear. Found on traverse from ES0018 to ES0024. Not surveyed.

2ES0031 Bullock Hole

Small depression to mud and choke in the vicinity of ES0032.

2ES0032 Trukky Buggery

Small depression with 2 non-negotiable holes leading to water.

2ES0034 Unnamed feature

Small abseil (2m) to running water. Non-negotiable, Water running towards ES0029?? (unconfirmed).

2ES0035 Unnamed feature

Small sink, 5m drop to floor of entrance, narrow passage leading to T-junction after 50m crawl, high CO2 and formation to RHS. Passages narrowing, not fully explored. No water. Partial survey only.

2ES0036 Unnamed feature

Sink in vicinity of ES0035 at end of watercourse. 5m drop (abseil) to high CO2. No obvious passage. No water.

Other Santo Sites2ES0033 Sarakata Resurgence

See detailed description.

2ES0037 Bat Cave

See detailed description.

2ES0040 Shark Sinkhole

Small sinkhole max depth 7m, 4m diameter, no noticeable flow or leads. Pool that lies at end of Sarakata runoff??

2ES0041 Batunard

Large sinkhole located in South Santo. Vertical sided hole 50m diameter and 40-50m deep. Trees, stream with waterfalls in bottom, resurgence at base of upstream end and a cave full of swallows at the sinking end small lake leading to sink.

2ES0042 Batunard resurgence

Resurgence below Batunard. Consists of resurgence and series of waterfalls leading down stream from it. From entrance small duck with roof sniff to large internal room with stream way and lead off to

another duck which leads to another stream way and big room, ends in another sump heading towards ES0041.

2ES0043 Shark Bay Blue Hole

29km north of Luganville. Has a man made jetty leading to it. Approx 30m across and 11m deep. Spring comes up through sand at base, no diveable extensions. Downstream creek leads to ocean. Fresh water.

2ES0044 Matevulu Blue Hole

20km north of Luganville. Approx 50m across and 18m deep. Fresh water.

2ES0045 Blue Lagoon

58km north of Luganville. Another spring fed blue hole. Not visited by me.



Shark Bay Blue Hole

Other sites – rumoured and unvisited!

Efate

1. Lelepa island Cave. Feles Cave on Lelepa Island contains charcoal paintings dated to 900AD.
2. Lelepa Island. Flying over Lelepa I have noticed a circular depression on the western side that looks like a cenote covered in green weed/plants.
3. Moso Island. Rumoured to have multiple sea caves on the western side.
4. La Colle River. Walk up La Colle River 2-3km from "Singing Bridge" ??cave
5. Eboa River Cave. Walk up river ?distance. ??River disappears into cave.
6. Harris Plantation Cave (Undine Bay Cave). I am sure this cave exists if only I could find it! Siviri cave is referred to in the Lonely Planet Vanuatu guide "it's said that an expedition of scuba divers once travelled 5km into it before turning back". This is obviously not the cave in question. Elsewhere (communication from Dave Walton, Australia) I found a reference to a French cave diving team pushing a cave in this area several km before going to dive Cocklebidy in Australia (?Francis and Eric Le Guen et al). Emails to France did not confirm this. An old French map shows a "grotte" in the hills behind Undine plantation however a long day in the bush in this area failed to find the cave. The local caretaker of the Plantation "Charlie" (who keeps eels in a tank for export to China!!) led us up the right fork of the river without success. The cave may well lie on the left fork. The river is the one that passes under the road after you pass the turn off to Undine Plantation (travelling around the island in a clockwise direction).
7. Deep cenote style feature behind Bouffe Station near Pt Vila. Source of info Johnny at Club Hippique. 90 mins jungle walk to reach site.

Santo

1. Caves apparently plentiful in Big Bay area.
2. Another cave near the Sarakata Resurgence, owner of the lease is Alan Cort (Bokissa Island).
3. Hokua, Cape Cumberland. "Large underground caves" on tourist maps.
4. Loru Conservation area, 41km from Luganville. Bat cave.

Erromango

1. Suvu beach caves, 6km from Dillons Bay. 2 caves containing human skeletons and hand stencils.

Other Islands

Ask any NiVanuatu about their home island and they will tell you of caves on it! There is a lifetime's work here!

Acknowledgements

My thanks for all those who gave me information about their exploration and discoveries, especially the cavers who have explored and mapped the tributaries of the Sarakata River on Espiritu Santo,

including Kevin Green, Steve Sturgeon, Gary Bush, Gary Barclay, Linda Claridge, Dave Walton, Warrick McDonald, Tony Davis, Craig Challen, Paul Hosie, Dave Warren. Apologies to any of the original explorers who have been forgotten or overlooked. My thanks also to Peter "Puddles" Horne who has been very generous in giving of his time and enormous experience, and in helping me learn the basics of cave surveying. A special thank you to the people of Vanuatu who allowed me explore their beautiful land.

Richard Harris.

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Nullarbor Trip Report, 25 march to 14 April 2005

CEGSA: Graham Pilkington.

Britain: Rob Davies, Martyn Farr.

To 30 March: Chris Edwards and Paul (Australia), Richard (Britain).

All photographs are by the author.

Features visited, all in WA:

91 pre-numbered N; 26 newly numbered N including 9 converted from NX; 7 NX not converted and 6 features that might be reported but are not karst. Totalling 117 karst features and 13 non karst.

N62, N24, N37 to N42, N68, N131 to N133, N165, N192, N193, N201, N206, N219, N312, N359, N360, N428, N431, N481, N483, N530, N579 to N588, N611 to N613, N640 to N642, N699, N701, N731, N739, N740, N742, N743, N750, N751, N753, N755, N756, N765, N766, N872, N967, N968, N1190 to N1192, N1195 to N1199, N1221, N1316, N1320 to N1322, N1330 to N1332, N1368, N1378, N1379, N1386, N1390, N1429 to N1434, N1474, N1475, N1497, N1498, N1619, N3238 to N3263

6NX32, NX33, NX56, NX59, NX67=N3259, NX68, NX111, NX126=N3254, NX476=N3238, NX483, NX484=N3261, NX588=N3247, NX611=N3256, NX628=N3240, NX634=N3239, NX812=N3241

This trip was arranged so that I could act as a guide for three Welsh cavers. Martyn wanted to obtain information and photos for a new book he is contemplating writing whilst Rob wanted to test some new meteorological instruments on suitable blowholes. My plans were to record as many accurate GPS locations and entrance photos as I could of the pre-2001 collected data, which have poor location information due to the inaccurate GPS being broadcast then.

Thursday 24: I travelled to Max Meth's place at Ceduna and stayed the night. We discussed the new Nullarbor database and how to expand it to suit mass data input. I left a copy of the new Cuttings database containing the first few hundred entries to show how ACCESS can pull in image files automatically without having to enter links or references.

Friday 25: I was to meet the others at Madura Roadhouse at midday. I got there slightly late but no worry, they were not there either. This gave me the chance to change my van wheels from my "bitumen" set to my old off-road set and install a metal vegetation wire mesh guard in front of the radiator. Still waiting. I took the opportunity to visit N68 less than a km away up the old Madura Pass. The western slope of the pass has several interesting small caves in the cliff. N68 is a horizontal network of very small tunnels and although the 4 entrances (along 7m of roadside cliff) all "blow", it is a blowhole without the normal blowhole entrance – probably because the road cutting removed it. For a further 30m uphill there are at least 3 more blowing holes/slots intersected by the road cutting.

I had left my van at the roadhouse so that the others would know I was there, and returning I found their two vehicles parked next to mine. Dragging the five of them out of the air-conditioned pub, we left for *Mullamullang Cave* N37, stopping at *Walpet Cave* N38 on the way for a few quick photos and a GPS location.

Saturday 26: First task for the day before the others woke up was to GPS and photograph N37 and its enclosed features – N1330 (*The Refrigerator*) in the south doline; N1331 (*South Cave*); and N1332 in the north doline. Both N1331 and N1332 were located under the lip of N37 and their locations had to be made in the open where satellites were "visible". N1332 was easy; I recorded the

location above the lip and dropped a vertical line – only 2m away and easily adjusted for. For N1331, I recorded out in the open in two places and triangulated to it from them using my laser rangefinder adjusted for dip.

I accompanied the others who were off on a “Dome” trip (well, to the bottom of it as per the rules) as far as the *Southerly Buster* checking out an alternative way down the entrance rockpile as given to me by Max. A much easier route as it is a simple walk down instead of an awkward climb. There were many bats and black beetles. The beetles were most numerous around older decaying guano. Much fresh bat guano was evident, more than I have seen in the first section of the cave over the last thirty years. Chris later reported that he had seen 2 live Mullamullang cave cockroaches just past *The Drop-off*.

For the rest of the day I walked out to nearby features to record their locations – N699 a rockhole only 130m from camp; NX33 a wombat dig by the side of the track to N37; N1475 a rockhole; N1474 a mostly dug hole; and NX32 a series of embayment-like features running for 300m along a north/south rise. Each embayment was typically a 15m diameter flat silt-floored crescent with the high end having a 0.2m high sloping rocky lip. This type of feature is common along rocky rises. Some have high sides of over a metre and can be a hundred metres across. Occasionally the embayment is caused by a filled doline. These are distinguishable by having a slightly depressed centre, vertical lips in places, and the arms of the crescent close in and project out from the rise. Of course one form grades into the other and the two cannot be separated uniquely. CEGSA is not cataloguing embayments.

Sunday 27: I headed out a dozen km south today and located rockhole N766 close to the fence. The main target was Joes Cave N39 which has hole N872, rockholes N1320, and cave N765 in and next to the large 10m deep doline. The N39 cave is on the south end, under but not connecting with N765 which is just outside the lip of the doline. I made a GPS survey of the extent of N39.

N1497 is about 500m NE of N39 and consists of a large 1.5m deep smooth-sided saucer with a flat silt floor with some exposed rock areas around it. Typical of what I would expect N39 to look like many years from now.

Monday 28: I returned down south to visit rockholes N1498 and N1321. N3238 (=NX476) was a 40x20x1m deep soil depression while N3239 (=NX634) had several small rockholes in a multitude of rock pavements. NX59 was just scrapes for Nullarbor-style “dams” – these are bulldozed out depressions in clay flats that hold water for longer than would otherwise be the case.

N201 is a 450x200m valley-like doline with a rock rim slope 1.5m deep on the northwest end that fades out to near zero on the southeast. N3240 (=NX628) was a rocky hill noted from a vehicle passing on the nearby track. It turned out to have a dozen or so rockholes all 0.2m diameter or smaller. NX60 could not be found from the location information given. This is not unusual, the original coordinates for NX628 placed it 6.3km away from where it was due to switched figures in the easting but fortunately several descriptive and track distances enabled me to still locate it.

Rob and Martyn attempted to break through the blockage in N1332 at about 30m depth. They succeeded in extending the cave by 6m but could not increase the depth by more than 1m. It appears that large rocks are in the way. Chris and Paul moved to *Weebubbie Cave* N2 to set up for a dive.

Tuesday 29: Rob and Martyn transferred camp to Weebubbie via the cliffs 111km into SA (a 250km detour!) They had decided to tourist for a day while they had the chance to see the cliffs and have a hot shower. They had started their Nullarbor trip a week before me and had been diving in several caves already. It was time for a rest day.

I took the opportunity to visit some features to the north of Mullamullang before travelling over to N2. These included the *Kestrels* N40 N42 and *Spider Sink* N41. These three holes are very similar but in different stages in their evolution. The doline of N40 is fresh with overhanging cliffs and about 27m deep. N41 has some cliffs but you can walk down the 20m in several places. N42 is essentially a clay-filled depression only 2m deep, however, it has reactivated at the northern end by collapsing into

a cave along the northern rockface leaving a rift no more than 8m wide but 30m deep with the southern side being an eroding dirt pile.

I also located NX111 and NX483. Both turned out to be wombat warrens but NX483 was just the southern depression of a wombat city. N1322 was a blowhole with two connecting surface tubes in a 1m deep depression only 400m west of N40.

Wednesday 30: I first walked down to N24 to make sure that three-corner jacks had not reinfested it. It was still clear. Max Meth and I have been eliminating them from here over the last 20 years before they contaminated N2, which is just 500m north up the claypan track.



N42 Rift.

I found the shallow soil depression N3241 (=NX812) just where it was supposed to be, way out in the scrub. Attempting to find NX588 I came across a small caprock cave N3242; a soil doline N3243; a 1.3m deep blowhole N3244; and two rockhole groups N3245 and N3246. By the end of the day I finally located N3247 (=NX588). The location given was 2km out because the description of how to find it was misleading. The nearby detail was good but the "track heading south off the Old Coach Road" failed to mention that it had joined another coming in from the Weebubbie Road and swung northwest. The feature was another reactivated cave. The north wall was one rock mass but the other walls and roof of the 3.5m deep cave was only cemented soil and rubble. On arrival, the 1.5x1.0m entrance was obstructed by dead vegetation growing from the soil under the entrance. I removed this to get access into the cave and to obtain clear photographs. Being too dark to take photos I waited until the morning.



N3247 Conglomerate Roof.

Thursday 31: While the sun was still rising, I documented rockholes N3248, the largest being 1.3x1.2x0.4m. Just after my return to cave N3247, I noticed a few Fairy Martins arrive and "buss" my van. They also took an interest in the doline, flying over it again and again. More arrived until about 20 were present. They got bolder and bolder; some even hovered for a few seconds in front of me, only 1m away. They also got bolder with the cave, swooping lower and lower into the doline until a couple flew into the cave to investigate it. When Rob and I visited the cave next day, the birds were found inside. This disproves my previous assumption that Fairy Martins were loyal to their own cave and shows that they readily colonise new caves as they become available. Alternatively, they have been waiting for ages for someone to clear their doorway!

Another blowhole N3263 was discovered while looking for a Quartermain-Wheeler blowhole. But by now it was too hot for me to walk around and the van was also complaining of the heat. I quit for the day and retired to the shelter of *Weebubbie Cave*. I was told later that it had been in the 40's this day.



Dive Shop.

Friday 1: Rob and I went off to place met instruments into N3247 since it had a constricted breeze point. The others had their third day diving

in *Weebubbie*. Martyn was having a great time doing photography and appreciating being able to see all the large underwater chambers. In Britain, the sumps are usually muddy, small, have fast-flowing water and often almost zero visibility.

Saturday 2: Chris, Paul, and Richard left for home. Richard had decided to cut his visit short and return to Britain. Something about heat, dust and flies. The flies weren't that bad, the divers had always remembered to remove their fly-nets before submerging.

Rob and Martyn set off in their 4WD along the Old Coach Road heading for *Thampanna Cave N206*. I struggled along behind them in my van. It had been raining and the track was waterlogged in places. I managed OK by driving around all the wet bits, watching Rob ahead of me to see when I needed to leave the track before I was trapped. On one occasion I came across a blowhole N3249 hiding under a few bushes completely hidden from the track 100m away. A later minor detour of 10m was even more eventful. A pointy rock was hidden behind a low bush in a patch of ground of the type that NEVER has rocks. I cleared it easily even though I never saw it. At least the front end did before it sank slightly into the boggy ground. This brought the rock up into my petrol tank which was promptly ripped open. All I felt was something like an earthquake but I couldn't stop until I had cleared the bog. On stopping, I saw the wind whipping a waterfall from the tank onto my hot exhaust pipe. Luckily the pipe was covered in thick wet mud. A quick slapping on of "instant sealer" filled the 10cm gash. I had only lost about 4 litres, much less than it had looked. This kept me going for the rest of the trip to Thampanna camp.



Flyproof Descent.

Once there, Rob set up his met station 3m down the 3m diameter entrance tube. He did this by using tent poles strapped together and spanning between wall notches. Ropes secured the lot from falling down the hole and a weighted bag secured the lot from flying up the hole. For the next few days and nights the cave sucked.



Meteorological Station.

I took my usual photos and GPS readings of N206 and nearby rockholes N743. Interestingly, the N206 location had had an estimated easting/northing accuracy of 100m (which it had) while N743 which was located as a distance and bearing from it had had a estimated accuracy of 50m even though the given E/N placed it at the edge of the N206 doline not the 70m away that it was. This kind of discrepancy is common in the older records but enough data is usually present to relocate the correct feature.

Sunday 3: I revisited the N743 rockholes to get better photos; the sun had been setting yesterday. I was surprised to discover that the holes had dried out overnight when they had been nearly full the evening before. They obviously leak and are useless as emergency reserves.

Rob and Martyn spent the day touring N206 in the *Drain*, *Railway Tunnel* and *Crystal Dome* areas. I spend my day enjoying the countryside. Mundrabilla Station has many hills and rises in the southern zone (actually the *Hampton Tableland*) with the hills having a good, even dense by Nullarbor standards, covering of trees (we call them trees but tall scrub would be a more accurate description). At least with some distinguishable horizons to look at it makes navigation easy. I did not need my GPS unit nor my compass except for working out where to head off in the first instance and in taking readings at the features.

The first to be visited was another numbered wombat doline N1198. It was a couple of hundred metres west of camp and a northerly outlier of a wombat city. It is easy to see how it could have been

mistaken as a karst doline. Many wombat warrens are thousands of years old and degrade into an almost if not identical form to small filled karst dolines. Partly this is because wombats often use natural karst dolines as starting points for their digs and create a mound of dirt around the natural feature leading to weathered depressions with the same characteristics.

A large rockhole-peppered hill N1199 still had water in some holes. N1368 took some locating as it was 400m "out of place". Again, description of the surroundings came to the rescue. The photos I take always include some broad shots that record the feature's setting. The photos are digital. Film location and descriptive photos taken in the past (mainly by Max Meth) are being digitized to add to the electronic collection. It is expected that handheld electronic photo libraries and descriptions of all the Nullarbor karst features will be in common use within my lifetime. A photo library can be done now using digital cameras with LCD screens and flash cards using low resolution compressed images. But brighter larger screens, larger capacity cards, and being able to zoom in on the image are needed for effective application.

After giving up on immediately finding rockhole N1379 since it was nowhere near its specified coordinates and its descriptive location put it as "400m north of N1379" ??? I went in search of rockhole N1377 which seemed to be central to the rest of the features in the area in terms of descriptive locations and had itself got a good description to the landscape – including direction and approximate distance (1.1km) to a windmill. It was easily found except that it was tagged as N1379! From there I quickly found N1378, assuming a number change. I never did locate N1377, even after trying again 2 days later. From the number I figured that Max had allocated it and he confirmed this later when he pulled out his field book. What had happened was that it had been very late in the day when Max had discovered N1377 and N1378 and he had not tagged them. He returned the next day, on the way finding "N1379" but tagging it with the next unused tag – N1377 – which is why it was 400m north of itself! After the trip I used Max's notes to more accurately determine the location of the feature tagged N1377 – it is about 700m north of the tagged N1379, which is why my searching had not found it. By a fluke, several rocky rises, which is where rockholes are almost always to be found, ARE close to 400m northward of tagged N1379 and I had assumed that 700m to the north was outside the guesstimate.

In the afternoon I took in the features a km or two north of Thampanna. Three were rockholes N612, N613, and N1390. N742 was another wombat dig, this time riddled by a rabbit warren but again an outlier of a series of decayed wombat warrens. NX68 looks like a very large 40x20x1 to 0m deep old wombat complex but it is very hard to determine without scientific research – not the kind of thing people would like to spend weeks and lots of money to clarify!

Monday 4: I went east and southeast today visiting rockhole groups N611, N1190 (Thampanna Rockhole was full of water), N1191, N1196 (Yelangurra Rockhole), N1316, N3257 and N3258. N483 Hurricane Hole started out as a blowing crack between horizontal rock slabs and is now a cave with maybe a 1km of passages – surveyors please apply. The dig started by Max Meth took many years to complete and the resultant spoil can be seen in the photo as can the hidden nature of the entrance. N1195 is a 50m diameter silt-filled doline with a 1m high cliff on the north and a rock slope on the east. It looks very much like a filled Thampanna on a larger scale, complete with a catchment basin and shallow drainage valley. Rob and Martyn spent the day touring *The Tube*, *Enigma Chamber* and the *Mudmen Chamber*.



Water Pool in N1190.



N483 Hurricane Hole

Tuesday 5: After leaving Rob and Martyn at N1368, I went south to N1197 a caprock cave excavated by rabbits. Nearby is N1192, a 1m deep doline with a 0.5m high inner cliff with a breathing hole alongside it. N731 could be either a karst doline or an old wombat dig.



Martyn Farr in N1368.

While I was wandering about, Rob and Martyn had been busy getting rid of excess energy by moleing their way into N1368. The original hole had been 1.6x1.4x1.1 at the bottom of an 8x8x1.0m doline. They had managed to excavate out a tunnel following a strong draft for 3m @240 to enter a shallow cave also @240. Cave length is 16m up to 3m wide to a maximum depth of 4m below the Plain. The floor of the cave consists of at least 1.5m of washed in surface rubble as evidenced by the dig at the far end following the breeze down the wall. Apparently both Rob and Martyn are diggers at heart, not respectively scientist and cave diver as most people associate them. This was confirmed at a later date.

Wednesday 6: Today we went to visit some of the more interesting nearby caves. *Kelly Cave* N165 was first. As usual I pointed out the entrance to the other two, described what they would find, then went for a walk. Rockhole N755 was my first target. Instead I found rockhole N3250. It did not fit the description of N755 or the supposedly nearby rockhole N756 even if it was the only rockhole near the given coordinates and descriptive location. It took another hour to find N755 only 200m away and southeast not south of N165. It doesn't sound far, but thick scrub and being all rocky hills to the south of N165 with pavements everywhere does slow things down when searching a half km square area. I'd walked past N756 before realising that the immovable rock lying on the pavement was cracked into two manageable halves. Yes a rockhole was under it full of water and teeming with life. Many rockholes are covered by rock slabs as a way of reducing evaporation. The Aborigines used to fill the larger reliable water holes with rounded rocks. This apparently preserved water for their use. Europeans covered them with logs. From the state that we now find these rockholes in, it is obvious that the Aborigines used to keep them clear of soil and rubble. Descriptions from 50 years ago give the depths of many of the larger rockholes as many metres (20feet or more) but few of these are now more than 1 metre to mud. There is also evidence from lines of rocks placed along the uphill sides of some limestone pavements that they actively reduced soil from flowing into the holes.

Next we visited *Purple Goringe Cave* N360. On the way stopping at *Which Sucking Hole* N219 when Rob discovered that not all blowholes are enterable even if you remove your skin. The roofhole N481 into cave N360 is now so grown over that birds can no longer use it. N359 is a cave only a few metres below Plain level that Max and I dug into years ago. It has a good breeze but is blocked by a rock slab after about 10m. N579 which is 1 km south, was hidden behind bushes and 200m from the given coordinates. From the debris lying around, most of what you see has been excavated, however, it does have a 3m long barely enterable cave.

And the best was saved for last – N193 *Witches Cave*. At least Rob and Martyn considered it the best of the three they visited today. It is over 500m long and averages 20m wide 8m below ground level. The roof is supported by many thick decaying columns. Everywhere in the cave, the rocks and decoration are being shattered by salt wedging.

I photographed the three witches dolines N193 N640 N641 and nearby doline N642 and another unnumbered depression. N530 is a reactivating blowhole that looked like a shallow doline. In the clay is a vertical hole 0.6m deep 0.2m diameter opening out at the bottom and a home to wetas. It has a small runoff streambed leading to it from off the sloping rock to the southwest.

Thursday 7: Rob and Martyn wanted to visit the fabled *Old Homestead Cave* N83 but I was not willing to drive up there with only one patch left for my leaking fuel tank. I suggested a quick one-day visit in their vehicle, taking most of the day just to get there and back. They wanted a few days there so they volunteered to go down to the highway and get me some more tank sealant. What an epic

journey they had. Apparently Mundrabilla Roadhouse had sold out. The Homestead manager said that he could resolder it and even tow me in if it was needed but this would have delayed the N83 trip and might have made it too late as Rob and Martyn needed to be back in Perth by the 12th. They finally drove over to Madura (after ringing to make sure they had some!) and got tank sealer there. Not wanting to waste the day, they had a hot shower.

I did my usual thing and enjoyed wandering through the scenery but to see something different, they dropped me off on the way to the highway about 10km from camp. Rockhole N3251 was on the way to N750 and N751, two caves in the same rock pavement. N750 has a roofhole that drops into the main chamber while N751 has a 11x9x0.2m deep depression 50m east. This area has been scanned by the Plane Cavers and most of the features visited today were first detected by them. Which is why blowhole N3252 was missed. It looks like disturbed ground until you get close, then it becomes a 4x4x0.8m deep soil doline with two soil holes blowing air. N3256 (=NX611) is a rockhole pavement with two holes joining below ground. Rockhole N1429 and dolines N1430 and N1431 were right where they were supposed to be – a nice change. N1432 turned out to be a wonderful blowhole with a series of five entrances along a fissure. The entrance chamber is at least 25x20x2m high; not having a torch I had to use my laser rangefinder and camera flash to see and take measurements. I stayed inside for a while to cool down. The next doline cave N1433, doline N3253, and blowhole N1434 were just a matter of walking to them. NX56 was an 8x8x0.1m depression with a slight mound typical of a degraded wombat dig. Blowhole N312 had three entrance holes and a doline next to it; all within 10m of a main track. Another two holes near tracks, N428 and N753 were small. N753 is collapsing a fence with it. Being too dark to continue photography, I waited for my ride to pick me up which they did just after dark. I did search for N644 while waiting but it was the first feature of the day that was not close to the given coordinates nor near the descriptive location. Maybe it was ignored by the Plane Cavers or maybe they found it at its true location!

Friday 8: We shifted camp to Old Homestead Cave. Rather a late start as I had to re-do my fuel tank patch first, this time having the luxury of cleaning up the gash before applying sealant. The new sealant was not the fast-acting type that I had used before; it took 3 hours to set. Arriving at OHC I was delighted to find Ray Gibbons and Peter Ackroyd ensconced there. They had come in from the SA border area to collect water, clean up, and have a day off. Because they did not have enough fuel for the rest of their 4 week trip without having to return to Eucla (a more than 200km round trip), I supplied them with 40 litres of mine – the extra that Rob had got for me yesterday just in case my tank seal failed. The seal had held well – not a hint of a leak.

Saturday 9: After Ray and Peter left to continue their searches for NXK (spotted by Ken Boland from his plane) and Quartermain-Wheeler features, we went into OHC for a dig. Yes a dig! I had offered to escort them to wherever they wished to see, even displaying the map for them to pick from but they just wanted to contribute by finding more passage not yet on the map.

It was too late for a long trip hence I took them into the *Officers Mess* – plenty of dig spots there. I had intended to go through to the far end of *The Froth* but the breeze was slight and the 5 hour round trip through small tunnels was not appealing just then. Luckily I remembered another dig spot just above our heads as we were about to enter the low tunnels at the end of the *Officers Mess* and start into *The Dregs*. It was a rock pendant blocked passage 5m up that came off the 250m of upper level tunnels and crossed the access tunnel with a convenient roofhole access just there. Up we went and Martyn went down to the pendant and kept going; it was not a blockage for him, nor for Rob who followed. As Rob and I were making it big enough for me to get through, Martyn declared that it only went 6m and not to bother.

Well it had seemed a good idea at the time. Still not wanting to do the hard trip into the Froth I remembered another even more interesting spot that I wanted to dig and it too was close by. I had been stopped by another rock blocking a roofhole down the end of the main southeast drag of the *Officers Mess* back in 1991 and it had never been visited since – too much else to explore. The trip was as I remembered it - low, twisty, and lower, finishing after 100m in a roofhole off to one side. Rob just went on through after minimal effort. Martyn followed after helping me enlarge the access tunnel. I spent 5 minutes shifting the original blocking rock so that I could join the others exploring the 6x6x3m chamber (*T-Pot*) that lay above. You wouldn't think it would take long to explore such a tiny thing but the walls at roof level enter the usual spongwork at that level in the cave. Several "indentations" of 3 to 4m were pushed into but Rob finally excavated a small upward-sloping tube (*T-*

Spout) that popped out into another small chamber after less than a metre. It was obvious to everyone that I was not going to be able to fit through that. They left me the hammer and jemmy bar to entertain myself with while they went off to explore further. Their lights, voices and caving sounds drifted into nothing. It took me half an hour to get to the other side of the constriction using a combination of patient chipping and millimetre movements. If it had been downhill I wouldn't have attempted it, but uphill meant that I could always retreat.

On the other side I easily followed the others because they had not explored, just making a single track through the passage options. I'm glad I brought the tools along with me. In several places they had ploughed ahead whereas I had to enlarge it for me to fit (I do miss my younger slimmer years!) After maybe 100m of these mainly crawl and belly-drag tunnels I was overheating and stopped to cool down. A nice breeze was definitely present even if the cave was hardly breathing. About 10 minutes later, Rob and Martyn could be heard and shortly appeared. They reckoned that they had travelled close to 200m and had reached a couple of small fissure type chambers. With the zigzag nature of the traverse, they had probably gone 150m from the breakthrough point. Rob named the area *The Sweetener*. It being late and I, if not the others, was exhausted, it was time to return to camp. The long grovel from *T-Pot* to the *Officers Mess* has been named *T-leaves* because this is where the contents of the T-Pot drains to. A great find of several hundred metres and another area close to the entrance that can be surveyed without having to first spend hours getting there. My first estimation is that *The Sweetener* is running northeast, parallel to the surface rise to the south of the hut, but I did not take my compass through the *T-Spout* and it is pure estimation.

I was badly dehydrated after my T trip and stopped in the *Officers Mess* to re-hydrate and recuperate. The others carried on so that Martyn could take photos. I caught up to them before they had finished (surprise, surprise) and returned with them to the *Mesa* at the start of the *Officers Mess*. Rob lead the way out followed by Martyn with me dragging along behind. I never did catch them up but slowly exited the cave at my own pace. Getting out in the dark it was hard to see where the hut was. No Moon, no stars, no light at the hut. Strange. On arriving at the hut it was obvious that the others had not returned before me. I was too weak to rush back to the cave and look for them, besides, they might have exited and walked off in the wrong direction – an easy thing to do on dark Nullarbor nights. I could not see how I could have passed them on the way out unless they had gone off caving. I knew by now from all the other caves visited that they were excellent cave navigators hence I decided to wait a while, clean up, get my strength back and see if they showed up. First I placed a light in the hut window to guide them home. Two hours later they arrived back which had given me plenty of time to have a bath and wash my clothes. It turned out that they had become geographically embarrassed while still in the cave. Many a good caver has had navigation problems near the entrance of OHC.

Sunday 10: Today I took them for a trip “up north” for 1½km to RDF NF. This was to give them an appreciation of what the cave offered in morphology and what large caves would be like before they started to collapse. It also helps in comprehending how it might be possible for most of the Nullarbor to have gigantic cave networks and yet no access into them. Martyn took lots of photos. And I mean photos, all I ever take are snapshots.

Monday 11: Before leaving N83 I took a picture of a large guanomite for Tim Moulds {PHOTO 9} on our way into the *South Cave* for a final look-see. Packed up and returned to Mundrabilla boundary fence to wave the others goodbye. They were on their way back to Perth and for Martyn back to Britain, and Rob on to New Zealand where he has just relocated to.



Guanomite in N83

I took what daylight I had left to get to N131, a blowhole cave that had been shown to me by Charlie Goringe in the eighties. We were camped close to *Snake Pit* N133 at the time and he had raced in really excited about a new blowhole he had found and wanted us to investigate it. We found a typical bottle-type blowhole that had cut logs in it to climb in and out on – probably fence-post log cutters had found the hole years ago. At the time I had estimated the location by dead reckoning from

Christmas Dam, Charlie's take-off point, using his odometer reading and trying to keep track of the direction to adjust the distance and average bearing. I could not remember what the surface above N131 was like, even though I remembered what the inside of the cave was like. It was not where the coordinates put it nor near the dead-reckoned position which GPS put it as 200m away. I camped for the night where I was.

Tuesday 12: It took all morning to find N131 which was 500m off coordinates. At least I'm cleaning up my own mess. I'd got the distance right but the bearing was 5 degrees out and I'd looked the wrong way first. There is almost no doline but a clear patch of rock like other patches having no 0.5m diameter hole. Most of the rest of the day was occupied looking for N192, which was also about 500m "out of place". The descriptive directions were quite clear, unfortunately the track mentioned wasn't. I gave up trying to find the track and just headed out towards the coordinates, coming across an old overgrown track that lead me straight to the given coordinates. As I said, it wasn't there. I estimated the distance along the track back to the supposed junction and determined that I was close by but the track I was on was east-west here whereas the description put N192 30m east of a north-westerly trending track. Studying regional maps I discovered that the maps displayed only one track BUT plotting distances along that track placed me 500m to the west. It was obvious by now that there was another track involved. This is a common problem in locating features when the location description involves tracks. The tracks come and go and usually never get onto the published maps. Many of the QW features are described as distances along rabbiters tracks used in the 1950's which have long since disappeared. At least we know that tracks that are well-used for a short time can recuperate within 50 years. I easily found N192 by driving back along my track to the take-off point, which was just where the description said it should be but had faded out for the last 500m across a clay pan, then drove back out. An alternative track became obvious on the other side of the clay pan since I was looking for it. This "new" track was older than the overgrown one that I had originally located and even harder to follow. Several times I had to get out of the van and clear the way or search for the way on, but since it traversed very rocky scrub covered ground there was not much chance of loosing it just a good chance of loosing more of my undercarriage or getting badly punctured tyres. I did well with punctures, I only had two for the whole trip unlike Ray who was in thick bluebush country.

To complete the day I went to rockholes N740, N739 and N3254 (=NX126). A simple task since they were near a major Station track running between water tanks. N739 had water in it. I camped by N3254 in the fading light. It was a very hot evening so I did not attempt to make dinner until the flies had retired but instead entertained myself by removing the soil fill of what looked like the two main rockholes. Soil filled rockholes often have clean water in them if you excavate the right one and let it



Soil filled rockhole.



With water after excavation.

settle for a while. The flies did not bother retiring this night but competed with the mossies for landing space. A lightening storm passed me to the north and south, a very good show. I prepared to sleep in my van but never had to as no rain fell. I gather that Ray and Peter got some since they were much further north than I.

Wednesday 13: I decided to have an easy day and go to well-known features and those along tracks. *Snake Pit* N133 was first and appropriately it was the one and only time that I saw a snake this trip – down inside the pit. I don't know what kind but it was but it was black, about 2m long, and a

nearly uniform diameter of about 5cm. I also visited the other nearby features N431, N1386, N701 and *Webbs Cave* N132. NX169 was nowhere to be seen but there were many “south track” options to check out and I might not of tried them all. I then followed a trip done many years ago along fence lines picking up N580 to N585 and adding a blowhole-like rockhole N3255 0.17x0.16x2.3m which was only 9m off the main access track to major rockhole N585. N583 was another re-activated blowhole.

Thursday 14: I had camped close to where N586 was supposed to be. I found it a few hundred metres away. What had confused me was that the off-track distance was supposed to be 100m but it turned out to be almost exactly 200m. Up until now, these features had been accurately described in terms of off-track distance. While documenting the major rockhole complex N587 two ponies appeared and took an interest in what I was doing. I had to pass them on my way east looking for NX545 which eluded me. While searching on foot, the ponies trotted by following the Old Coach Road just like I was. A short time later it was my turn to overtake them, when they finally allowed me to pass. I raced off the five km or so to N588 where they caught me up, checked what I was doing then trotted south down the very track off the Old Coach Road that I had planned to take. I think I saw them a few hours later in a mob of cattle at a dam about 10km south. N3259 (=NX67) is a pair of rockholes on the same hill as N588 but 200m away from the 10 or so found on the two adjacent large pavement areas at the top of the hill. Rockholes N967 and N968 are just about on the southerly track. N1619 is a large pavement with rockholes that Ken spotted from his plane when flying off north to one of his “airfield” campsites after assembly at the highway. Ken prefers to fly the plane out after transport along the bitumen to eliminate possible damage if kept in its trailer travelling over the rough bush tracks.

Friday 15: Searching for the rockhole at the top of Kuthala Pass N3261 (=NX484) I located N3260 which is a 2m long cave at the foot of a 1.5m high “waterfall” {PHOTO12}. Another cave N3262 was located 6m down a quarry face at the top of Kuthala Pass. It has a chamber 7x6x0.2m high with a floor of rubble and soil fill that appears to be surface material. The original source tube was probably removed by quarrying. Hole N1221 that Max documented years ago, was just one of several in a small gully in the cliffs behind Mundrabilla Roadhouse. They look like solution holes caused by water leaking out of the cliffs. The largest was a horizontal slot 4x2x0.6m high. Near the top of the cliff were several talus caves big enough for me to get out of the sun.



N3260 “Waterfall”.

Having to return home, I left for Max’s at Ceduna. It gave me the opportunity to research some of the mystery locations using his extensive records before reluctantly returning to Adelaide on Saturday.

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%

Narrina Pound, Flinders Ranges.

Easter, March 2005.

All photographs by Bill Binks.

Party: Eddie Rubessa, Bill Binks, Stan Flavel, Marie Appelt, Lance Hoey, Barbara Weisner.

The main intention of this trip was to enter F205 and explore the potential of this cave in a safe manner. A previous cursory exploration found high levels of foul air, suspected to be CO₂. At a pre-trip planning session we discussed what equipment and procedures we would utilise to carry out a safe exploration without incident. The equipment we sourced was a CO₂/oxygen analyser (ex-

operating theatre), a 240V generator, 50m of 300mm flexible ducting, a high power reversible fan blower, and joining flanges made up for the ducting.

We met late on the Thursday night in Eregunda Creek, where we camped for the night. Next morning we headed up Narrina Road and turned off onto a 4WD track into the western end of Narrina Pound. After locating a suitable and secluded campsite within a few hundred metres of the cave, we proceeded to set up and test the equipment, before engaging it in situ. We rigged the cave ready for entry.

One of the key steps we needed to do was drop a plastic sensing line to the bottom of the cave, so we could measure the level of CO₂ initially and once we established this, we would be able to continuously monitor the level. The initial level was extremely high (6.4%). Our aim was to displace the CO₂ inside the cave with fresh air, so as to lower the concentration to a safe level. Normal atmosphere is 0.03% CO₂.

The next step was to put together the ducting and try and position it from around 20m below ground level, out to the surface and away from the entrance. This proved to be a difficult task. The cave is a joint enlarged rift which drops steeply for about 8 metres, with a width of 300mm, until opening out into a small alcove chamber where there is room to stand up. At the base of this alcove is a very tight floor hole leading to a large lower chamber, with the floor approximately 12m below the hole. The difficult part was trying to push the ducting through this irregular shaped hole – as we wanted to get as much ducting into the lower chamber as possible. The jagged rock sides of the upper rift also caused the ducting to catch and rip. Exhausted, and without the ducting in place yet, we stopped for the night.

With renewed energy on Saturday morning, we got the ducting connected up, and just after lunch we were ready to start pumping fresh air into the bottom chamber. We monitored the gas levels and operation for a couple of hours (including reversing the blower and sucking air out from the bottom). Most of us went for a walk, exploring for new features. When we returned to Stan at the cave, there was a positive result; the CO₂ was slowly dropping. The generator and blower were set to run continuously and Stan monitored it several times during the night. At our crackling warm fire that night, we sat around discussing CEGSA politics, and wondering how the CO₂ levels were going.



Ducting set up into F205 entrance

Sunday morning. The CO₂ level at the bottom of the cave was the same as atmospheric level!! We were satisfied with the result, and dragged out the ducting. Bill and Eddie rigged up, ready to enter the unknown. Bill abseiled in first, squeezed through the mid level squeeze and continued to the bottom floor. The sensing tube was in the intended spot, right on the bottom. The ducting however had only made it to about 10m above the floor, but apparently had been effective enough. Eddie followed Bill in to the bottom chamber. It was an eerie sensation to be now walking around the bottom where previously the CO₂ level had been so high.

The bottom level was unfortunately not as extensive as we had hoped, but contained some impressive formation. There is an elevated alcove on the left side of the chamber with more decoration. There are no noticeable bone or decayed vegetation deposits. One end of the main rift (due south) is a possible, tight lead. However when we entered it at floor level, we very quickly found breathing was slightly more strained, and suspected the air displacement was not as complete in this more constricted area. We decided that there was no more left to do apart from a brief survey, which Bill started as Eddie self lined out.

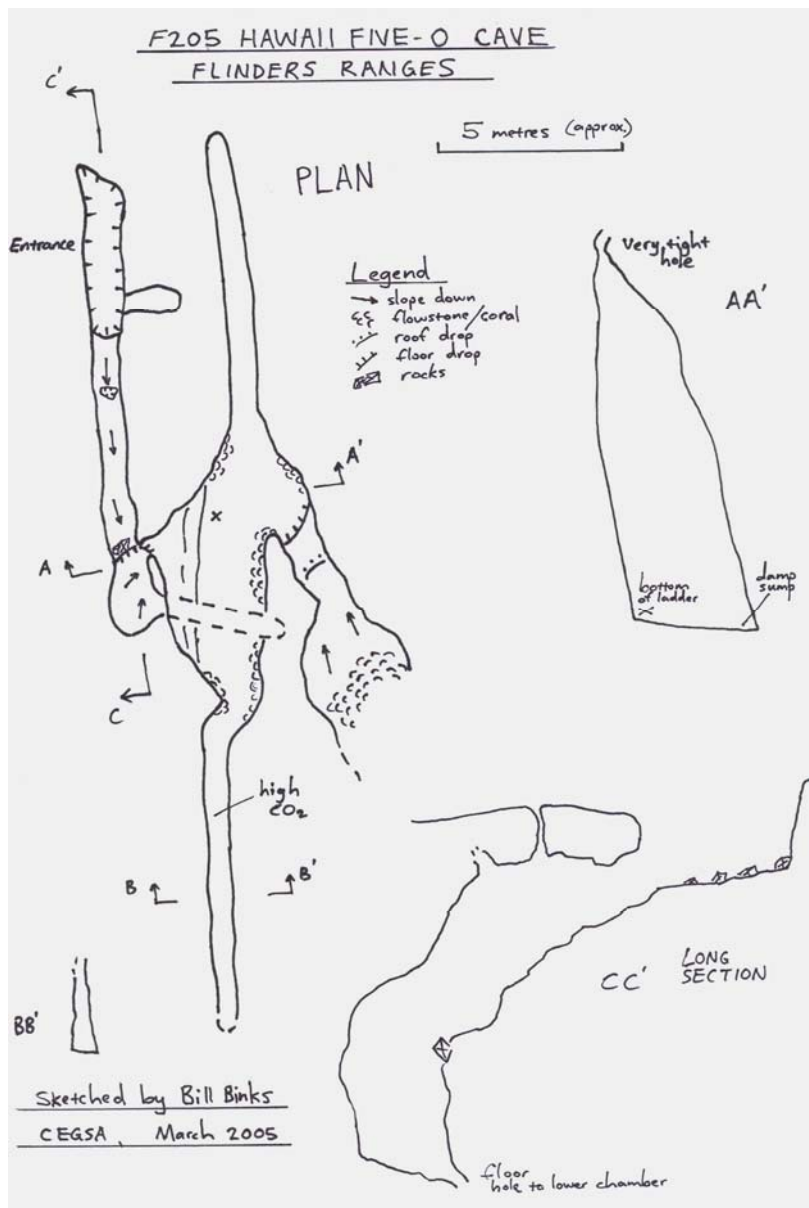
As carbon dioxide is heavier than air it sinks to the bottom of a cave (in this case a bottle shaped cavity with tight neck) and accumulates. Sucking from the bottom to remove bad air to the outside was the preferred option but the inability to site the tube at the bottom of the cave and a number of rips in the casing made this less effective. Blowing large volumes of fresh air (approximately 10 to

20,000 cubic metres) over the course of 12 hours caused a significant dilution of the carbon dioxide and brought oxygen into the cave to allow unassisted breathing.

The recording of the CO₂ and O₂ levels at regular intervals allowed a good idea of the rate of change of CO₂ removal and indicated effectiveness of the system flushing / sucking system. This is not normally done in a bad air cave where readings are done occasionally by understandably anxious cavers using less sophisticated apparatus. We had a continuous and reliable means of assessing caver safety with regards to air quality at the sampling port which was sited near to the caver during the penetration. There was a few minutes lag between movement of the sample line and sample arriving at the surface and then readings and instructions to proceed to be relayed back down to the cave but this was quite acceptable considering the tightness and self limiting nature of the cave exploration.

The blower was not able to be used while cavers were below the first constriction due to limited access and it was noted that the CO₂ levels slowly increased at about 0.1 percent per hour most likely due to seepage from the reservoir of gas in the cave surrounds and disturbance of pockets of the denser gas during human movement. However the risk was minimal during the exploration time but had risen to a less acceptable 2% by the end of the exercise. A sampling line left in place and the use of smaller diameter blower tube for simultaneous degassing will allow future explorations at

leisure.



CAUTION: No cave with suspected bad air or high carbon dioxide level should be entered without appropriate equipment and training. This particular cave is lethal and the restricted access would not allow a rapid recovery of an affected caver. 6.5% carbon dioxide will cause unconsciousness in a matter of minutes and death in under half an hour. The symptoms of rapid breathing, shortness of breath, tunnel vision and intense headache are unmistakable and should not be ignored.... Get out and stay out is the recommendation.

Exhausted but victorious, we de-rigged, happy with what we achieved in exploring the cave. Our plan had been a success!

We learnt how important it is to maintain clear communication between surface and underground for the safe execution of this type of exercise. The plastic sampling line was left in situ for future monitoring.

Later that afternoon we explored an area close by and located a number of features; some dolines and a large collapse. A new number, F223 was allocated to a hole

approximately 1m diameter and 3m deep, which Eddie enlarged slightly. Unfortunately we ran out of time to dig this further. On the way back to camp we came across some lost 4WD tourists and helped them out how to get back to the Narrina Road.

Monday dawned and Blood Cave beckoned. This also became an interesting exercise, because of our decision to haul a bloody generator 1.1 km uphill through scrub to the scree slope where the cave (F220) is situated. Our aim was to set a chemical anchor and bolt into solid rock, as there were no suitable natural anchors in the surrounding stunted bushes. Bill and Eddie didn't appreciate Stan's experienced opinion of what a suitable anchor was. After some trouble with the generator stopping, we successfully used a 12mm hammer drill bit to get a hole down to 90mm deep, and set the bolt! Lance and Bill entered the entrance alcove, and began clearing the tight vertical rift of debris. The slot is very narrow and will need some enlargement if we are to get further down in the future. We packed up and struggled back down the hill, sharing the burden of the generator between us. Eddie bled for the cause again.



Lance clearing the rift



Drilling hole for bolting F220

Next morning we packed up, with Eddie and Marie heading north for non-caving travels and the rest of us returning to Adelaide.

Bill Binks, Stan Flavel, Eddie Rubessa

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Corrections to Annual Report

Fred Aslin's missing address – 29 Elizabeth Street, MOUNT GAMBIER SA 5290

Paul Arbon's missing Address - 20 Kara Crescent GULFVIEW HEIGHTS SA 5096

New Email Address

Damian Grindley – cavin.pom@gmail.com

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

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member			
Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$77.00	\$121.50	\$198.50
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$69.00	\$121.50	\$190.50
1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$61.00	\$121.50	\$182.50

Please make sure your payment of fees includes CEGSA and ASF, if applicable.

Chris Gibbons

Treasurer/Membership Officer

Records and Library

For this year's project, I have selected to re-invigorate a project started three years ago - the binding of periodicals. This was done for many good reasons:

- To condense the Library and Records to fit into the room in my house that I have available.
- To protect the periodicals from damage caused by using ring folders.
- To reduce the loss of individual issues from inadvertent filing or unrecorded extraction from folders.
- To encourage me to obtain a complete electronic list of all issues held (and missing!)
- To ensure complete sets are obtained.
- They look nice!

The April General Meeting approved the purchase of up to \$1000's worth of hard cover binders – about 200. Together with the 100 binders already on hand, this will keep me supplied for this year.

So far, we have one complete bound set of CEGSA NEWS (16 books) and two more sets half done. CEGSA will end up with three bound sets of its own publications. Bound sets of CEGSA Annual Reports (6 books) should be completed in June. Part of this project is to create an electronic version of CEGSA's publications and to sell/distribute/dispose of the 2 metre high pile of paper back-copies. If you want to complete your own set, please let me know what you need. For the cost of postage and a donation to CEGSA, I'm sure that we can supply! The electronic copies of NEWS and Annual Reports go back 13 years nearly complete. The missing electronic issues will be simply scanned as JPG images for now.

Other sets started are CAVEX (1 book – complete); HELECTITE (5 done, about 14 left); ASF Caver (9 prepared, 3 in prep); SSS Journal (45 in prep); VSA Nargun (20 in prep); FUSSI (2 in prep). Most are "in prep" because missing issues prevent binding or knowing how to divide up the following issues into books. There are several "books" in our Books collection that are held in ring binders. These will also be hard-bound as will some of the more popular soft-bound books such as CEGSA Occasional Papers.

There are nearly 200 different periodicals held, containing an unknown number of issues. Required shelf space for the periodicals has already been reduced from 30m to 25m just by replacing some large but nearly empty ring folders with small plastic cases. It is expected that binding will shrink the requirement to 2/3 of the ring folder space needed. Of course, not all periodicals will be bound. Some we only hold one or a few issues and others are cave-related issues from otherwise none-cave related periodicals. Shelf requirement for periodicals (loose) is increasing at about 0.3m per year.

As a second project that should be finished this year, I am creating a scanned JPG collection of the newspaper cuttings. Most of these have been catalogued by Fred Aslin and Kevin Mott. The new database will simply be able to pull in the scanned image of the actual article as you browse through the catalogue. There are about 5000 entries, increasing by several hundred per year. Most of the work is being done by Fred as he reads through newspapers many written over a century ago and then has to obtain copies. The rest are from members that spot relevant ones in local newspapers or periodicals that would not be expected to contain cave related topics. The articles contain references to caves and cave history, mostly pertaining to South Australia, others to Australia, with a few from overseas. Scientific and larger articles go into the Monograph section of our Library.

Graham Pilkington

50 years of CEGSA- what it means to me!

I MUST HAVE HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE of the inaugural meeting of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) that evening, April 19, 1955. Around 6.15pm, I guess an hour or thereabouts before the Group's first formal meeting commenced, I was engaging in a very personal form of 'cave exploration' of my own as I battled my way into the world via my dear Mum at the nearby Memorial Hospital in North Adelaide! (I had one quick look, decided "Nuh, not for me!" and turned around, but the entrance had closed!!) I'd already said g'day to good ol' Albert ("E=mc squared") on my way in since his departure from Earth a short time earlier – no doubt he was keen to explore whether indeed anything could exceed the speed of light in a vacuum! – and I seem to recall vaguely hearing a few tips such as "Eh, Herr Peterrrr, don' forget to check out zat new cavink club in Adelaide!" (as well as "*Eh, hair, who needs it?!'*"). Even today I wonder about what relevance there was (if any) in the fact that both CEGSA and I were born at almost the same time, just a few blocks apart, on the very same night!

My interest in all things mysterious commenced at a very early age; as a youth I loved exploring "unknown places", initially things like pristine beaches, rolling hills and unpolluted rivers, then old gold and copper mines (especially Mongolata and Clare, and Jupiter Creek in the Adelaide Hills), the odd cave or two (including Jenolan etc on my early-1970s travels), and even stormwater drains under the city, accessed via smell, cold and smelly outlet pipes at Brighton Beach. It was all great fun and so it's not that surprising that after I fell in love with the ocean (originally as a fisherman, then a self-taught snorkeller, then a spearo 'til the big thing with teeth paid me and my mate Russell Dudley a surprise visit, and finally a photo-loving scuba diver) I found my attention being drawn to waterfilled caves. This occurred thanks mainly to three people – a skydiving buddy named Bob Cunningham (an old-time Mount Gambier pioneering cave diver who'd thrill me with his stories while we sat in the heat at Lower Light, beating off locusts while waiting for the plane to come back down for the next group), fellow Telecom Australia worker Rupert Faderl who introduced me to Ewens Ponds near Mount Gambier when we visited the area to see a spectacular total solar eclipse in 1976, and my regular Scuba Divers Club dive buddy, Mark Nielsen, who was keen to get back into sinkhole diving after a break.

In 1979 whilst undertaking research into South Australian diving accidents, I bumped into noted cave divers (and CEGSA members) Peter Stace and Ian Lewis of the Caver Divers Association of Australia whereupon I learned of their fantastic Nullarbor cave-diving explorations (giant hand-pushed underwater "sleds" loaded with more than a dozen scuba cylinders and food/water containers, arduously pushed through kilometres of waterfilled passages), and after our chats I felt that it would be "nice" to give Mount Gambier's nice and easy cave diving a go. Mark and I then commenced training for the cave diving assessment test, and when we went to West Lakes we buddied up with another budding cave diving buddy, one Terence ("Batman") Reardon, where we all bumbled around in the dark without masks, being attacked by sand crabs until we got our "Cat 1 and 2" qualifications from the CDAA. And so it was with Terry and Mark that I shared my very first cave diving adventures in such places as Gouldens Hole and The Sisters, and especially the mighty Black Hole (where Terry also introduced us to our very first rope-assisted wire-ladder climb ... EXcellent!). In fact, it was really only through Terry's expression of support for CEGSA when we were standing around the rubbish-filled Engelbrechts Cave taking photos one day, that I first really heard about the Group, and later I gave them a cave diving slide night presentation (I've still got my freebee copy of Lewy's Naracoorte Caves booklet!).

I joined CEGSA soon afterwards, in late October 1981, after I started to become more seriously involved in the scientific issues involving our discoveries of rare life-forms and other aspects of Mount Gambier's wonderful underground mysteries. Nearly 25 years later I now look back with great fondness that I've spent almost half my life with CEGSA (and 25 years

with the 31-year-old CDAA) and am very proud to be an Hon Life Member of what I believe is the best caving organisation in Australia. CEGSA on the 'hole' has played a major role in my life; I will especially treasure the many wonderful memories I have of my numerous fabulous Kevin Mott/Grant Gartrell camping and cave-exploration/discovery expeditions, our Flinders Ranges projects, scary Yorke Peninsula abseiling caving trips, and of course, the several hundred South East expeditions I have shared with so many other cavers and divers. I mean, can any of those who were involved in the infamous "S102 dead cow" incident ever forget that?! I've also enjoyed the family-like camaraderie of the Group with such terrific people as Mac MacDonald, Graham Pilkington, Athol Jackson, Marie Choi, Stan Flavel, Paul Harper, Chris Hales, George and June MacLucas and Neville Pledge et al playing such major roles over the years.

I feel that we are also very fortunate that, unlike many other hobby-style clubs, CEGSA's foundation membership included many academics and others with a penchant for meticulous record-keeping which of course was the basis for CEGSA's famous "Records" system – an incredible archive of documents and artefacts dealing with CEGSA's activities and discoveries since the late-1950s. That this amazing compendium was totally compiled by dozens of individuals in a voluntary capacity speaks volumes itself about the dedication shown to speleology by so many 'normal, everyday people' in South Oz.



October, 1984: Kevin "Sphagnum" Mott, John "No-nickname" Johnstone and Peter "Puddles" Horne search the skies for **Carrickalinga Cave**
(photo by Lee Nielsen nee Dixon)

I am so very grateful to all those early-days inspirational leaders (some of whom are sadly no longer with us) who set CEGSA up, and all those later fantastic cavers with whom I have shared so many treasured moments over the years. I really hope that I will be able to serve CEGSA and underwater speleology in all its myriad forms for the NEXT 25 years as well!

All the best on your **50th anniversary, CEGSA!**

Peter Horne April 2005

***4th International Cave Art Exhibition:
25th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation
Dover, Tasmania.***

I guess you could say that the International Speleo Art Exhibitions that have occurred during the last four Conferences of the Australian Speleological Federation started as far back as 1993 when both George and I were on holiday in the UK. There we met an English cave artist Robin Gray, during a visit to the caving area of Cheddar. Robin talked about starting a Speleo Art Club and asked me as a caver and an artist would I be interested. Shortly after in 1994, Robin became one of the founders of the International Society for Speleological Art (ISSA). This was the first speleo art organization to go International and I was delighted to become a member. Since then ISSA's art exhibitions and workshops have become popular throughout Britain, Europe and America. With their success in mind, under the auspices of ISSA, I was keen to see a similar event taking place here in Australia.

Therefore, in 1998 as a member of ISSA, incorporating their criteria and guidelines for cave art exhibitions and with Peter Berrill's encouragement, then President of ASF, I set about approaching Australian and overseas artists to take part in our first Speleo Art Exhibition at the 22nd ASF Biennial Conference held at Yeppoon in Queensland. Since then the cave art exhibitions have accompanied each ASF Biennial Conference: Bathurst in New South Wales, Bunbury in Western Australia and finally Dover in Tasmania. During the Bunbury ASF Conference John Dunkley, then President of ASF expressed his interest to make the exhibition a regular feature of the Conference. This is now our 4th International Cave Art Exhibition and with each exhibition the interest on the home front has grown. Hopefully it will continue to grow, encouraging cavers to express their own experiences through their own art form.

I know speleo art is only one small facet of caving, but think about it, cave art has been around for some 40,000 or more years, especially here in Australia. From the perspective of an Aboriginal person, cave art takes on a complete different image with a different meaning... expressing the rituals of hunting, ceremonial activities and sacred iconography as well as giving a presence of having been there in the form of hand stencils. This sense of being there is also applicable to modern day cave artists, especially when the speleo artwork is commenced and/ or completed in a cave; the artist experiences the acts of caving as well as coping with the challenges of drawing or painting from inside a cave; experiencing the wonderment of the subterranean landscape mostly unseen by people outside caving groups.

This time around, the 25th ASF Biennial Conference offered – for the first time – a chance to have the exhibition in an established art gallery: the Dover Art Gallery, at the Old Dover School, where the display continued for the duration of the conference. Although the gallery space was small, we managed to exhibit 89 pieces of work contributed by 14 artists: including three cavers from overseas, plus five from around Australia and six local artists from Dover. The art work included oil paintings, watercolour, pastels, charcoal drawings and sculpture, that either arrived through the post - or delivered by cavers themselves. Other exhibits from local artists consisted of jewellery, embroidery, photography and film. Unfortunately, due to the Christmas postal rush, art works listed by Eve Taylor in Western Australia, did not arrive in time for the exhibition. To avoid this kind of disappointment, artists should try to organise for their art work to arrive by the arranged due date. Or alternatively, ask a caver attending the conference if they will carry and deliver your work.

Unfortunately, although exhibiting at a gallery was an exciting prospect for the artists involved, it did pose a few problems. The gallery was situated about ten minutes walk from the conference venue, plus the accommodation for most of us at the Far South Backpackers was about 8km away. Hence, it made it difficult for cavers attending the conference to just browse through the art work between and after lectures and during lunch breaks. Nevertheless, from this collection of work, the exhibition sold 19 pieces in 5 days, from



The Governor and his wife at the exhibition

Monday afternoon through to Saturday, the full duration of the exhibition. Given these circumstances – at a location remote to the conference site – the attendance and sales were very pleasing.

In spite of this difficulty this last exhibition in Dover was full of surprises including a private preview visit of the artworks by the Governor of Tasmania and his wife: The Hon. William J.E Cox and Mrs. Cox accompanied by their aide de campe (Steve de Haan). His Excellency viewed and commented on all the art works making a statement that: although he admired our tenacity, unfortunately caving was not for him.



Adrienne Eberhard opening the exhibition.

We were fortunate to have the talented Adrienne Eberhard, a Tasmanian novelist and poet open the exhibition with an enlightening speech and a rendition of her poetry. Jenny Robson, a guide from Hastings Caves, entertained us with a delightful melody of a locally composed song of the epic construction of the road to Hastings Cave during the depression. We were fortunate; many locals supporters of *Cavemania* helped and donated various items of food and wines for the opening of the exhibition. Robyn Claire kindly baked delightful sweet meats to be served at the opening along with various donations from Pale ales by Cascade

Brewery, CaveMania 2005 "Limestone Coast" wines, fruit and flower wines from the local Creek Winery, and fresh cherries donated by the local orchard of Bruce Morrisby. Add to this list, the varied selection of pizza from the nearby wood-fired pizza restaurant of which many of us also ended up spending the rest of the evening dinning on pizza and drinking fruit wines made and donated by Arthur Clarke and Robin Claire. Add this altogether and you will have some idea of the work that went into making this a memorable evening. The Dover Art Gallery organized by the Far South Regional Art Group carried out a tremendous job serving drinks and food to at least 100 cavers and visitors that attended the opening. Steve Bunton designed the art poster that was posted throughout Dover, Arthur Clarke was especially busy updating the gallery catalogue for the exhibition and many cavers took time to staff the gallery during the opening hours by a roster system. Each year the exhibition has grown, but this year the layout, the tremendous support and effort carried out by all those involved was truly outstanding and I thank you all. (All those involved and there were many, have been personally named and thanked in both the Conference Proceedings and the article for the Australian Caver).

The artists involved.

For a start, Robin Gray who exhibited 29 pieces of art work and sold 6 of them comes from Cheddar, Great Britain, a founding member of ISSA - International Society of Speleological Art. Robin who has participated in all four of ASF Speleo Art Exhibitions has sold many artworks during our previous exhibitions is an accomplished artist in various fields of interest. He also organizes and takes part in many 'drawing on the spot' workshops in various English

and European caves. You don't have to look long or hard at his work to realize that it has been carried out with skill and speed while on the run through a cave. Not an easy task in their very wet caves, where all paper has to be carried sealed in plastic bags and the different mediums, especially pencils, most often refuse to mark the damp paper.

The work of Ian *Ellis* Chandler also a member of ISSA now living in Spain, presented some interesting small sculptures. This is Ian's third time exhibiting with us but in this exhibition his work has shown tremendous growth by amalgamating his talents. Ian combined his sculptural work along with his love of poetry to produce four interesting and delightful works.

I found one of the big differences with this exhibition was to see known cavers taking the chance to exhibit their art works for the first time. Arthur Clarke a reluctant participant at first exhibited two confident early pen and watercolour artworks completed back in the 70's. plus an artistic photograph of a Chinese cave scorpion. Robyn Claire also a hesitant exhibitor, presented a delightful embroidered cushion, depicting a Tasmanian cave spider. To her delight and joy she sold this piece in the first 5 minutes. Steve Bunton, our ASF Conference Convener, presented a small oil painting. Quite a few copies circulated Dover in the form of a poster.

Another local artist Brent Fraser from Dover submitted for the first time, two wonderful digitally enhanced photographs of ice caves. Brent smiles broadly when he relates the tale of how he came by these great photographs. The story goes that recently while on an expedition to the Antarctica, Brent along with others travelled the icy surface all riding three wheeled skidoos, or motorized toboggans, when they came upon a great find. They discovered one of the icebergs had developed a huge cave. They immediately set about exploring inside this cave while taking several photographs. They decided to hurry back to the station camp to tell the others of their spectacular find, only to return shortly to discover that this huge cave had completely collapsed, with mountainous clumps of ice lying where they had recently been taking photographs. Needless to say, they narrowly escaped with their lives.

Other new faces exhibiting for the first time were; Rosemary Balister from the USA, her mother came from South Australia. Brigid Larkin a promising young artist and caver from Mt. Gambier included five works, of which she sold two. Marjorie Winning, Robyn Claire's mother, an octogenarian now living in Queensland, presented a watercolour. Marjorie paints from her wheelchair.

Local artists are always encouraged to join us. However, Howard Whitehead approached us at the last minute (the day before the opening) and exhibited seven pieces of beautiful silver jewellery that he had made during the night; he sold 2 pairs of earrings. Another local, Meryl Moscrop presented a film that beautifully captured views of rocks, water and the caves of Hastings, set to music and verse in a video called "Soperifica"

There were other artists in the exhibition that exhibited interesting and successful art works. Coral Thompson of Western Australia sold her two small oil paintings, one depicting the cave used as a hideout of the legendary Aboriginal warrior Sandamarra, an ex-police tracker who became an outlaw in the Kimberleys in the 1890's. Coral claims she is not a caver, but since she was approached by the organizers of the Bunbury ASF Conference exhibition, she has delighted in painting caves entrances wherever her travels take her.

And of course there was me, I exhibited 33 pieces that included, original framed pastels, framed oil paintings, original lithographs and small prints of original pastels. I sold five artworks - one large pastel, three lithographs and one print.

I am pleased to report the 4th International Cave Art Exhibition was successful. Exhibiting 89 pieces of artwork in a small gallery space contributed by 14 artists were no small task and I wish to thank all artists, helpers and organizers involved.

The next exhibition, the 5th International Cave Art, will be part of the 26th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation and will be held in 2007 at Mt. Gambier.

Due to the enormous interest shown towards the cave photography competition and the art exhibition itself, it seems apparent that there is a need to amalgamate and include artistically enhanced photographs as part of the 5th International Speleo Art Exhibition. Therefore, for all those that are interested - start working on your art work be it painting, drawing, sculpture, craft or photographic images. If it's to be photographs and many of you visit the same caves, I will need to select from your slides and/or prints for the 2007 exhibition. All works to be exhibited, including photographic images for exhibition purposes, will need to be mounted.

See you and your artwork in 2007.

June MacLucas

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CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO NEW 'COUNTRY' ARRIVALS.

Some of you would already know that Simon and Tracy Kendrick of Huonville, Tasmania, have a beautiful daughter named, Tess Adelaide.

Tess was born at 4.56am on Friday 31st December 2004 at the Queen Alexandra Maternity Service, Royal Hobart Hospital. Weight 7lbs 13.5 oz and 51 cm long. Simon was present for the entire labour and even cut the umbilical cord.

Apparently Tess is a 'chip off the old block' as I have been informed. Tess already has accomplished her first full day walk into the South West Wilderness to Lake Skinner, plus two 4WD trips. Simon claims, as yet Tess has not been caving, but at three months old, she already has her own kayak.



Another future adventurer has made his appearance. Paul Devine and Eve Taylor of Quinns Rocks, Western Australia, are proud parents of a beautiful son, Wesley Ryan born 9th March 2005 at 1.54pm, weighing 7 and 1/2 lbs. No doubt Wesley will inherit his parents thrill for adventure and eventually join them on the Nullarbor caving.

Congratulations to all.

June MacLucas.



CEGSA'S 50th Birthday Party

November 4th - 6th 2005

Naracoorte

**Come along for a weekend of caving,
partying, reminiscing and celebrating**

**Caving on Saturday around Naracoorte, BBQ dinner Saturday Night,
And for those still with a desire or energy, caving on Sunday.**

Cost of BBQ Dinner \$15 per adult, Children under 10 \$10, BYO Drinks

**Share Bunk Bed Accommodation available at Wirreanda (That's Naracoorte
Caves Accommodation) at \$10 a bed per night or camp sites available for \$5
per person per night.**

**Camp kitchen available with cooking utensils, cutlery, plates, stoves and
microwaves. Only 2 fridges available so you will need to bring eskies.**

Accommodation will be available from Friday night.

**Should you require private accommodation, Naracoorte has a range of
accommodation available, but you need to make your own arrangements.**

Dinner fees must be paid in full by October 15th
NON REFUNDABLE

**Accommodation Deposits (\$5) to secure a bed must be
paid at the same time**

**For more info & registration forms contact Marie Choi on 0429 696 299
or better still email me at battymariec@picknowl.com.au**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
25/05/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Old Homestead Cave presentation	Graham Pilkington
28/05/05	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
29/05/05	Fun Caving	Corra Lynn Cave	Graham Pilkington
8/06/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
11-13 /06/05	June Long Week End	Sand Funnel Cave, Naracoorte, Surveying	Marie Choi
22/06/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. New Zealand ACKMA Conference Report	Grant Gartrell
25/06/05	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
13/07/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
27/07/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Illustrated talk on Fiji	Stan Flavel
30/07/05	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
31/07/05	Fun Caving	Corra Lynn Cave	Graham Pilkington
10/08/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
10/08/05	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
24/08/05	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Flinders Ranges Caves	Bill Binks
27/08/05	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
19-23 /09/05	Caving	Corra Lynn Cave School Camp	Graham Pilkington
1-23 /10/05	Caving	Old Homestead Cave + much more on the Nullarbor	Graham Pilkington
Oct.LWE	Caving	Avenue Range	Marie Choi
5-6 /11/05	Dinner + Caving	Naracoorte	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.