

CEGSA NEWS

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



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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: Nullarbor Cave Search by Ultralight Plane.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 16th May 2000.

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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 51 Number 1 (Issue 201) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **8th FEBRUARY 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

CEGSA does not do any speleology. "BUT I've helped others do some!" I hear you say. Yes, individuals do do speleology whilst a member of CEGSA. These scientific projects are instigated by those individuals, NOT CEGSA. Should the Group actively promote and select research projects?

From my experience, the dedication and time commitment involved in completing worthwhile studies requires an individual who will persist, usually for years, to complete the specification of the project; the many trips to collect the data; the analysis of the results; and the final report. Most persons that appear to be able to do this are post-graduate students writing a thesis.

Maybe we could approach scientific societies that specialise in aspects of speleology (but don't know it!) to invite individuals to become involved. Most speleology is just an "ordinary" field of study that happens to be underground. What many scientists do not know is that their field of study can be enhanced by studying their speciality in the cave environment. Giving a talk about caves and the cave environment to a meeting of each of these groups might be just what is needed to start things off. CEGSA would benefit from the input of knowledge and further awareness of our preferred habitat.

Graham Pilkington

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Letter from Beth Baker to Grant Gartrell

15 / 11 / 05

Dear Grant,

It was nice to meet you again and talk about the early days of C.E.G.S.A. I know Harry enjoyed them. I have enclosed a cheque for \$200. It was Harry's wish that I give it to C.E.G.S.A. but it has taken me a long time to do so.

Joan and I send Best Wishes to the Club Members.

Yours sincerely,

Beth Baker.

(Harry Baker lived in Naracoorte and was a guide at the Naracoorte Caves for many years and also did a lot of caving with the group. He was a Life Member of the group in recognition of the large amount of effort he put into the in the Naracoorte region. Ed.)

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**THE CEGSA COMMITTEE
WISHES ALL OUR MEMBERS A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**

TRIP REPORTS

Nullarbor Flights of Fancy -- May 2000

Introduction

The Nullarbor is big, really big. At around 750 kilometres from east to west and an average of 250 kilometres north to south it is about the size of the United Kingdom.

During a trip to the Nullarbor in April 1999, Ken Boland and I were discussing the obvious "speleological track effect" -- evident only in an area as big as the Nullarbor. In earlier years there was a strong correlation between navigable tracks and the distribution of caves. We did not think this represented a true picture of Nullarbor speleogenesis. We were rash enough to think it much more likely to be a manifestation of the reluctance of cavers to leave the beaten track to look for caves.

In 1999, whilst I was surveying with others in Old Homestead Cave (N-83), Ken decided to test this theory by taking a three-day nature walk to the southeast of Old Homestead Cave. He found nine new features.

The Germ of an Idea

Ken is a gliding instructor as well as a caver, and looking for caves from the air has proved successful in the past. Captain Maitland Thomson used biplanes piloted by Ian McRitchie to spot a total of 43 new caves in 1939 (Thomson, 1952). The 'Plane Cavers', a Western Australian caving club, used motorised hang gliders to locate several new caves in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Gliders in the Nullarbor did not present a practical option. So, Ken asked around his gliding friends and found he could purchase a third share in an ultralight plane, known as a 'Flightstar'. This was a kit plane constructed from a tubular aluminium frame with fabric covered wings and tail section. It could be disassembled easily and weighed only 127 kg when empty. Powered by a 38kw 'Rotax' two-stroke motor driving a 1.73 metre wooden-bladed propeller, it had a cruising speed of 60 kilometres per hour and a maximum range of around 100 kilometres. It could take off and land in 30 metres in still air, less in a headwind. It was as close to being the ideal cave spotting plane as one could imagine.

The Trip Begins

Just after Easter 2000 (Ken is a priest so is a bit busy during Easter itself) Ken and I drove west towing a 2.85 metre high, 6 metre long trailer containing the disassembled Flightstar.

At Mundrabilla Airstrip on the Nullarbor, we assembled the plane and Ken took it for a couple of successful test flights on 28 April. After a quick lunch, Ken took off and headed north to meet with several CEGSA members who were already there, busy building a toilet at the Old Homestead Cave site (Pilkington, 2000). During the planning phase we too had decided to base our seat of operations at Old Homestead Cave.



Ken Boland assembling 'Flightstar' ultralight plane at Mundrabilla Airstrip.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 27 April 2000.

At the same time as Ken took off I also "took off", albeit a little more slowly, towing the now empty trailer for the hundred kilometres from Mundrabilla Airstrip to Old Homestead Cave. On the way I met up with CEGSA members Paul Devine and Kerry Ninnis (and friend 'Azza') heading the other way. They had left Old Homestead Cave to travel in a two-car convoy to the south: Kerry and Azza to head home to Adelaide, and Paul to meet up with a Speleological Research Group of W.A. (SRGWA) party. They had missed meeting with Ken at Old Homestead Cave but had seen him fly overhead on his way north. After a pleasant chat I continued north, arriving at Old Homestead Cave well after

dark.

The next morning a strong wind rose quite suddenly and threatened to flip the plane. Ken and I tied it down to make sure it didn't. Graham Pilkington took a survey party consisting of Dawn and Rob Klok and Ray Gibbons out of the wind and into Old Homestead Cave. Daryl Carr and Marg James and Greg Leeder (a Victorian caving club member who'd apparently turned up in camp on his motorbike a couple of days earlier with no tent and no food!) went off for a walk.

I had some respite from the wind, spending time with June and George MacLucas while they were learning about the features of their new Garmin GPS II. Most of the day, however, was spent in the gusty conditions adjusting the plane's tie downs so it always faced the wind, and in keeping people's tents from disappearing over the horizon.

A System Evolves

The next day (30 April) marked Ken's first cave search flight. He followed a meandering path to check the 9 features he'd found in 1999 in order to check their appearance from the air, and thus 'calibrate his eyes'. Upon his return Ken told me what he'd seen and we discussed how best to conduct future searches. I suggested that the most efficient method would be to adopt a systematic search pattern using longitudinal runs about one kilometre apart and, moreover, to log everything he thought may be a karst feature, not just the major ones.

We 'ground crawlers' would then go out in teams to his GPS coordinates to check what was on the ground. This method ultimately proved to be very efficient and enabled many new features to be found and tagged.

On 1 May 2000 Ken officially declared the Old Homestead Cave toilet to be open for business. After this moving ceremony most of the CEGSA members in the party left for home.

Ken flew more sorties. Ground parties went out to look at his logged features and reported back what they saw, allowing Ken to refine his spotting skills. On 3rd May Ken and I drove the 90 kilometres round trip (at an average speed of about 35kph) to Forrest for more fuel for the plane.

New Arrivals

On 4th May we had a surprise. Paul Devine turned up in camp. He had decided that he simply couldn't miss out on the opportunity to be involved in this new cave finding technique and so had "made



Paul Devine creating 'Stonehenge' (6N-1691).

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 8 May 2000

arrangements" to extend his stay on the Nullarbor for a couple more weeks. Later that day Rudy Frank arrived in camp as planned.



Paul Devine mending one of many punctures in the remoteness of the Nullarbor Plain.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 7 May 2000.

In the following days Paul demonstrated that it was possible to head off road in his vehicle and not suffer too many punctures, but mostly we ground crawlers continued to walk to Ken's logged points, sometimes up to 15 kilometres!

Early on the 8th of May Rob and Dawn Klok headed back home to Western Australia. Ken took off for the first of his two cave search flights for that day -- flying an east-west search pattern on either side of the new CEGSA Link Track. This track, connecting the Eucla-Forrest Road with the Mundrabilla-Forrest

Road a few kilometres north-east of Old Homestead Cave, was created only a fortnight before (Pilkington, 2000). The ground crawlers headed out to document and tag features Ken had previously identified. The bonus for the ground crews was that, in addition to Ken's features (given temporary 'NXK' numbers by Ken), many other features, missed by Ken, were found as well.

Some Good Finds



Peter Ackroyd at entrance to
'Skin and Bones Pit' (6N-1776).
Photo: Rudy Frank, 14 May

I was fortunate enough to discover a largish cave missed by Ken's search. I named it 'Skin and Bones Pit' (6N-1776). It is a small entrance leading directly into a shaft. It descends as a single pitch for 17 metres to a huge mound of animal mummies and bones -- some dasyurids and phascogales amongst others. Unfortunately the chamber in which these remains were located did not have any open passages leading from it, although there were some enticing draughts from openable holes. Time did not permit any sustained digging on the single trip made into it and there were only two of us in any case. We did make a survey however.

Other good finds included a cave with a perched sump requiring roof sniffing. After stripping off all my clothes (very much in the Casteret mould) I immersed myself in a two metre long "lake" only to find it was more mud than water and was marginal as to whether I could sniff my way through. As I had only a single torch and no one else available as backup I decided discretion was the better option on that day. I quickly dried off the water (and brushed off the mud) in the howling gale emerging from the hole.

The other noteworthy discovery was several large rockholes. Most were found by Ken from the air, but one beauty was found at sunset by our ground party out in the never-never. Three rockholes, including that one, were particularly large and held a lot of water (upwards of 1,000 litres). They all seemed to have many flints and stone arrangements near them.

A Minor Setback

Right near the end of the trip, on 16th May, Ken had a minor crash landing in a remote spot. He was not hurt and the damage to the ultralight was not



Paul Devine documenting a large rockhole.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 May 2000.

very great. The left hand undercarriage had partially collapsed and made it impossible to attempt a take off. Ken had a small UHF radio with him in the plane for emergencies but in this instance he'd spotted us ground crawlers where we were looking at one of his aerial finds and had decided to land to join us. So, we saw the whole thing.

Ken camped with his forlorn plane while the party returned to camp. Two of us then broke camp and moved ourselves to where Ken was; me towing the trailer in rather tricky conditions -- it jumped its springs once, leading to a lot of crawling about in the dark under the trailer with spanners and what-not.



Ken contemplating a slightly bent plane.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 16 May 2000.

Using a GPS was essential, as he was way off track. I had to travel about 20km on the roughly made CEGSA Link Track then 10km across country in a two wheel drive utility towing the ungainly aircraft trailer. We reached Ken at 1.00am the next morning and camped with him at the plane.

On 17 May 2000 we helped Ken dismantle the plane and I did a quick and dirty rebuild of the plane's undercarriage -- just enough to allow it to be wheeled into the trailer. The jobs were finished by mid afternoon, and that's when the rest of the crew arrived from Old Homestead Cave. It was too late to leave for Eucla, so we went caving. The site was quite good and there were many unexamined "NXKs" in the vicinity so we planned for next year's trip to be based here at "First Landing Campsite" (see Ackroyd, 2002 for that story).

On the walk back from our caving and tagging we could see an object in the sky. Rudy was flying an enormous kite from which he'd hung a wide-angle camera to capture the sunset. We prepared dinner with stars, and a sibilant kite, suspended high above us.

It was a long slow day on the 18th of May as I nursed the plane in its trailer over the rough road south to Eucla. The trailer had a wider track than the utility, which made it doubly difficult to manage. However, I scored only one puncture for the trip so I was well pleased.

Aftermath

The Flightstar's undercarriage was completely remade a few months later by an aircraft-man Ken knew. The plane was test flown with complete success.

Summary of results

New numbers allocated, tagged and documented: 6N-1665 to 1699 and 6N-1750 to 1797 (Total = 83).

Temporary numbers allocated by Ken: 6NXK-1 to NXK-480 (Total = 480).

Temporary NXK numbers located and allocated an 'N' number = 52.

Old numbers visited and data collected: 6N-384, 385, 386, 683, 684, 685, 686, 1348, 1620, (Total = 9).

References

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

Pilkington, Graham (2000) Nullarbor Trip Report, 17 Apr to 2 May 2000, *CEGSA News* **179** (Aug 2000): 68-71.

Thomson, J Maitland (1952) "The Nullarbor", *Walkabout* **18(11)** (Nov 1952): 30.

Peter Ackroyd, 16 September 2005

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Summary of Data Collected on Nullarbor Trip: April-May 2001

Upon checking an earlier report I had written about a trip to the Nullarbor in April and May 2001 (Ackroyd, 2002), I discovered I had omitted to include a summary of the data collected. It was a Ken Boland led flying trip -- a particularly productive one.

Summary of Results:

- Temporary 'NXK' numbers allocated by Ken from his plane: NXK-481 to 723 (Total = 243).

- New 'N' numbers allocated, tagged and documented: 6N-1704 to 1743, 6N-1803 to 1870, 6N-1901 to 1949, 6N-2010 to 2023, 6N-2050 to 2089, 6N-2110 (Total = 212).

- Old 'N' numbers visited and further data collected: 6N-948, 956, 958 (Total = 3).
- Temporary NXK numbers located on the ground and allocated an 'N' number = 104.
- Temporary NXK numbers located and found to be non-karst = 3.

Reference:

Ackroyd, Peter (2002) "On a Wing and a Prayer" *CEGSA News* **185** (Vol **47** No **1**) pp. 5-12.

Peter Ackroyd

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Corra Lynn Trip Report, 3 Sep 2005

Party: Graham Pilkington, Tom Szabo, Ray Gibbons, Paul Harper.

This trip was to decide which loop-routes would be suitable, and to familiarise trip leaders with them, for the forthcoming 4-day trip taking up to 100 students and teachers from Blackfriars Prior School. Three independent parties would be involved each day and each would need alternative paths depending on the aptitude of the students on the day. We would have to avoid parties running into each other from opposite directions because in many cases the passages are too small to pass others and too long to back out off. We also needed to prevent a party running into the back of another at "constriction points". Only 5 hours of caving was available each day and could not be wasted. I have also found that if you keep beginners on the move, they don't have time to ponder if they are thirsty, hungry, tired or bruised – they are too occupied not being left behind.

Graham Pilkington

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Corra Lynn Trip Report, 19-22 Sep 2005

19-22 Sep : Graham Pilkington, Ray Gibbons, Paul Harper, Tom Szabo, Adam Kilpatrick

20-21 Sep: Bill Binks

Each day : 1 Blackfriars School teacher and between 20 and 15 students (a total of 4 teachers and 71 students)

A very successful event. The kids enjoyed it. However, some teachers were not quite so flexible in their "old" age and suffered a bit from muscles that don't get used in normal activity. The school had not had a caving activity before this. Some instructions and information went unheeded, mislaid, and misinterpreted. We even had students turning up without torches and expecting to be led on a typical tourist-cave type of tour. Our previous experience has always been with schools that have had caver-teachers leading them. We are now drawing up a comprehensive instruction set to hand out to schools prior to any trip.

Ray, Adam (and Bill) travelled up with the school on the bus each day and Ray was able to play caving and outdoor activity videos for them because the coach was equipped for tours. Paul stayed at the farmhouse. Tom, Bill for one night, and I stayed at an army museum 20km south that has accommodation. The museum was an unexpected thing to find by itself, 14km from the nearest town. It's worth a visit if you are down that way, but be prepared to take all day to look around. The museum also has a school display (it was a bush school at one time), early farm equipment and household memorabilia.

Graham Pilkington

Visit to Kelly Hill, 1 to 4 October 05

Party: Grant Gartrell, Frank Hankinson, Lance Hoey, Barbara Weisner, Gary Woodcock & Jeanette Chapman, Alex and Russell.

The principal purpose of the visit was to continue exploration and survey of remote sections of the main Kelly Hill system. In each of the sections in question, the existence of further extensions is indicated by airflows detected from time to time. On this occasion the airflows were insubstantial, consistent with insubstantial changes to barometric pressure over the period, and no obvious leads were identified. Some surveying of low passages in the easternmost area of the cave helped to resolve a few questions.

The party walked to Hanson Bay, checking out known karst features along the way. Because the marked track now follows the southern side of the lagoon we did not have a chance to relocate the small caves known to exist just south of the old track which cut north of the lagoon across to the Southwest River in Grassdale.

Discussions were held with Kelly Hill Manager Michael Kidd about possible pre and post meeting field trips associated with the ACKMA AGM to be held at Kelly Hill next May, and the new interpretive signage located outside the entrance to the tourist cave was inspected and given a big tick. The signage is excellent in its own right and also recognizes the important role that CEGSA has played in the investigation of this fascinating cave system.

Every visit to Kelly Hill serves to remind us that there is a lot left to discover. On this occasion Michael told us that there are tentative plans for some controlled burning in the Park possibly some time in the next year. When and if that happens, we should be prepared to take advantage of it and carry out some serious surface exploration, hopefully finding some of those holes we have previously missed by only a few metres in the thick scrub.

Grant Gartrell

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CEGSA's 50th Birthday Bash, Naracoorte Caves

On the weekend of 5th and 6th of November 2005 and largely thanks to the extraordinary foresight, dedication and organizing skills of Marie Choi, Naracoorte Caves National Park saw an amazing conglomeration of old and newer "speleonauts" (including a variety of "living fossils"!) bunking down at the caves to celebrate CEGSA's 50th year.

Graham Pilkington's notorious yellow minivan arrived at my home around five-ish on the Friday night after Janeen Grimes (yes, I have spelt "Janeen" correctly according to Janeen) had arrived earlier, and we departed for Naracoorte, arriving sometime around 9pm to find a "pre-party party" in action...numerous CEGSA stalwarts were there as well as certain VSA and CCV people; it was terrific to catch up with them after such a long break! Many more arrived on Saturday morning and people got busy doing everything from sticking up CEGSA logos and blowing up balloons to preparing food (thanks especially to Chris Gibbons and June MacLucas for their hours of hard work). Several parties actually went caving as well, and it was almost like Rundle Mall at S102 (Mark Sefton really has to learn to grease up his kids so they will slide down the tube a lot faster; maybe another dead cow or two would do the trick next time?! God, sick idea, sorry I MENTIONED it!!).

Steve Bourne (aka "Big Kahuna") spent a lot of time there in the capacity of both a private caver and the Manager of the caves, and he also led all interested persons on a great "get to know our caves" walk, starting at Vic-Fossil and then to Cathedral (a great scaffolding-ladder system there I might add) before finishing in Bat Cave's remote-viewing room (no Robins

visible, however!). Having been a bit ill recently I took advantage of every chance to travel by vehicle where possible, so I was able to ignore my aching back and hips for long enough to appreciate all of this! Later, Adam Branford took charge of the barbecue and we all milled around, chatting and so on before Marie tried to organise a huge “group photo” of everyone there, and a “Life Members” shot ... but of course, just as we were prepared for the photos, someone asked “where’s Grant”? A huge search failed to locate Dr Gartrell (which wasn’t so strange since he wasn’t in the park at the time!), so we went ahead anyway...bad luck GG!....



Attendees at 50th celebrations. (Grant Gartrell has been generated electronically) Photo: Athol Jackson.

That night we had a very interesting and entertaining electronic slide-show with some great stuff by Noel Mollet and Athol Jackson (who apologized about having to show his “backup” shots since he’d misplaced his “real” presentation somewhere). Sue White then also announced that she had finally completed her PhD and she also presented a special copy to CEGSA; what a terrific effort it is, too.

Many folk stayed up rather late that night, chatting and plotting and so on (I was actually just too scared to go back to my bunk in case Kevin Mott (aka “Ttom Nivek” according to his name-tag) had done some kind of naughty-type thing to my sleeping bag (prickle-bush or pine cones as per in years gone by!), but fortunately the only terror he caused during the night was his snoring (I reckon even worse than mine; we must be getting old!). In true form, the other half of the Mount Gambier Mott Party, Ian Lewis (with the name tag “A. Nonymous” since that’s what he said he’d like to be!), slept with the mozzies in the tray of his ute, and it was not a pretty sight to see such cavers first thing the next morning!

At around 10.30am everyone met at Vic-Fossil’s entrance where a very attractive and nicely-worded plaque in honour of former CEGSA president/member/worker and all-round Mr nice guy Ed Bailey was officially unveiled. It was a very good dedication and the kind words of appreciation along with stories of Ed’s selfless efforts over the decades touched the hearts of everyone who knew Ed. Grant even added a few comments and stories as well, and he surprised everyone by managing to get that finished in less than 20 minutes! Due reference was also given to another plaque commemorating Ern Maddock, which



Sylvia Bailey unveiling the plaque.
Photo: Athol Jackson



Noel Mollett cutting the Birthday Cake.
Photo: Athol Jackson

used to be inside the cave but had been brought out recently by National Parks to be repaired and to stand proudly beside Ed's plaque. Two truly-earned tributes and integral parts of Victoria-Fossil Cave, in my opinion as well.

The rest of Sunday was a time of more caving by some but mainly goodbyes for the others, and everyone left feeling that the entire event had been fantastic and a fitting way to celebrate the occasion.

Oh yes, I nearly forgot to mention; Marie had a special cake made up for the group which was mostly devoured on the Saturday night - very yummy and with a fabulous full-colour cavey picture and CEGSA logo on top, a really great work of art! Naturally, it WAS a MUD cake!....

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5U230 Trip Report, 5-7 November 2005

5-7 Nov : Grant Gartrell, Ray Gibbons

5-6 Nov : Graham Pilkington

6-7 Nov : Catherine Cellars (Naracoorte Caves Guide)

6 Nov : Steve Milner

Grant and Ray had started examining U230 several months ago when the paddock was nearly bare and depressions obvious. Prior to this Kevin Mott had obtained a location map of the area showing where depressions were in a proposed area for vine cultivation. About 1 year ago, near the centre of one of these depressions, a hole appeared in the clay that breathed and the owner had passed on the information and was willing for the hole to be dug into. The weekend of CEGSA's 50th Dinner was an opportunity to continue excavating the hole to see what was down there. We found the hole after wandering around in the general vicinity for a while. By now, the paddock had a mixture of vegetation that had reached 1.5m high in places but had low patches of less than 0.3m. Since the soil depressions were typically in the order of 0.5m, the vegetation "depressions" predominated! For ease of finding the hole again and to alert the farmer to the hazard, we erected a 3m high tube next to the hole. The tube had been placed there before when the ground was barren, but stuck down the hole it had not been high enough for the bonanza growth.

Over the 3 days, the hole progressed from 3m deep and enough room for one person to be down below filling buckets to 6m deep with evidence that the top of a rockpile had been reached and enough room for three people to work in comfort. No doubt next year we will have another cave to survey. Keep in touch with Grant if you are interested in helping. He is planning more trips starting early next year.

Graham Pilkington

Corra Lynn Trip Report, 12 Nov 2005

Party: Graham Pilkington, Paul Harper.

We thought that it was about time to seriously expand Corra Lynn Cave before an upstart took its place as the longest cave in SA (at 14.0km). This was the first in a series of evaluation trips to assess the most promising target areas. Paul has been probing at the cave (mostly in Dreamland) for years but only a hundred metres or so has been found. We decided to start this new phase by the traditional method of “following breezes”.

Sounds easy, but Corra Lynn rarely has any air movement detectable even though the air remains fresh except for “dead-end” tunnels that are occupied for an hour or so. The cave has four main horizontal levels occasionally connected by fissures and occupies a volume of 450x250x40m deep with the entrance located almost in the exact centre of the system. This means that cave passage is never more than 250m from the entrance and there are many alternate paths for air to flow. The air can and does flow along mm high bedding plane gaps and mm wide fissures running up from the roof of most passages. All these factors means that chasing the weak breezes often leads to a crack that is impossible to negotiate. On the rare occasion when we have observed a breeze we have often been committed to another activity such as leading a group of students on an educational tour.

To find more passage in Corra Lynn Cave by following the air, we will need to spend many trips measuring air movement. We already knew that there is air flow in the north and east of the Crystal Maze so for this trip we went straight there and then followed the passages that appeared to have the “fresh air”. Evaluation digs at several extremities of the cave showed that without a good idea of where the air flow is, it is going to be luck and experience that gets us into more cave. I should also point out that most of the best breakthroughs were at places that had no initial air movement – the air flowed only after the seal had been broken.



5Y2 Entrance, August 2000. Photo: G. Pilkington.



5Y2 Entrance, November 2005. Photo: G. Pilkington

While in the area, we had a look at the collapsing entrance of Town Well Cave, 5Y2. Some of the concrete has now broken off and much more rubble fill has dropped away leaving the natural shaft wide open. With a good light and suicidal tendencies, you could probably see down the 35m to the water. The wooden casing that was around the top of the shaft is rotting and some of the lower sections have disappeared. I wonder what the Minlaton Council plan to do. It looks like they are just letting nature take its course. If so, then considering the apparent size of the filled doline and the probable collapse of the southern portion of the stone tank, the cave will be blocked.

Graham Pilkington

TRIP REPORTS FROM GENERAL MEETINGS

August Meeting

- Tom Szabo went to Corra Lynn for a familiarisation trip on 6th Aug. Removed soil from the bottom of the doline.
- Wolfgang described trips to Chain-of-Ponds and Mystery Creek in Tasmania.

September Meeting

- Eddie Rubessa. Flinders Ranges, two weeks previously. Walked over new territory but found no new caves.
- Ray Gibbons/Tom Szabo. 71 students and 4 teachers went to Corra Lynn cave over a 4 day period. There were around 18 students on each day. They all enjoyed the experience, and we could see more of these sorts of trips in future. Many students did the morning trip on an empty stomach.
- Marie Choi took a group from Mission Australia into caves on the Naracoorte Reserve.

October meeting

- Grant Gartrell reported on a trip of several days to Kelly Hill at Kangaroo Island around the October long weekend.
- Ray Gibbons, Nullarbor trip. Drove around 500 km off road, had numerous punctures etc, and investigated 77 features of which 71 were new and 35 were real cave. They spent some time with a group from Swansea who were using gravimetric detection to look for underground voids. Their data suggests that the Abrakurrie main passage is much deeper than it appears, but is mostly filled with sediment. The gravimetric technique does not easily distinguish between massive voids and areas of low density such as spongework or soil-filled cavities. Based on the draft at the Thampanna entrance, they estimate that the potential volume of this system as two million cubic metres, but much of this could be spongework.
- Marie Choi. Avenue Range. a number of features were investigated.

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THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR YOUR TRIP REPORT.

PLEASE ENTER IT YOURSELF AT YOUR LEISURE.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Changes to Membership details:-

8106 Michael Woodward New E-mail address woodward27@adam.com.au

8611 Simon Kendrick 1283 Glen Huon Rd. JUDBURY Tas. 7180
(H) 03 6266 0016

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR YEAR 2006

Full Membership	\$ 48.50
Associate Membership	40.00
Long Term Associate	48.50
3 Month Introductory	5.00
Joining Fee	12.00 (not applicable to 3 month intro)
Discount for email CEGSA NEWS	15.00
Discount for Country Membership	6.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR YEAR 2006

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

YEAR 2006 FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$ 48.50	\$ 68.00	\$116.50
Associate Membership	40.00	68.00	108.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00

Variation for Family Membership

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$81.00	\$121.50	\$202.50

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$72.50	\$121.50	\$193.50

1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$64.00	\$121.50	\$185.50

Discount for Country Membership applies to Family Memberships.

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

Chris Gibbons

Treasurer/Membership Officer

Records and Library

We have been privileged with the gift from Susan White, VSA, of a copy of her doctoral thesis "Karst and Landscape Evolution in parts of the Gambier Karst Province, Southeast South Australia and Western Victoria". Also presented at CEGSA's 50th dinner weekend at Naracoorte was a copy by Ken Grimes of his "Field Guidebook to Karst and Volcanic Pseudokarst Features of the Limestone Coast of Southeast South Australia and Western Victoria".

An ex-member from the early 70's, Viv Muller, has donated all her CEGSA NEWS and copies of "Australian Speleology 1971" and a copy of CEGSA Occasional Paper #3.

Graham Pilkington

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Approved Trip Leaders

Following is a list of Trip Leaders and classifications that have been approved by the committee. This is a peer review system. If any member wishes to object to this determination, please state your objections and reasons in writing to the committee asap.

From August 2005 – includes Trip Coordinator

Graham Pilkington	Horizontal and Laddering
Mark Sefton	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
Marie Choi	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Tim Payne	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
George MacLucas	Horizontal and Laddering
June MacLucas	Horizontal
Tom Szabo	Horizontal

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We can talk at last.

Peter Robinson of VSA has donated to CEGSA a radio communications set that we can use for both surveying (in its RDF mode) and as a radio-telephone. It will be invaluable in any rescue event and will enable us to extend our RDF surveying control to more caves. The survey control is vital for accurate maps of our more extensive caves.

Graham Pilkington

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and BBQ

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 11th February at 8.PM at the home of Graham Pilkington at 41 Lindsay Avenue Valley View SA for the presentation of the 2005 Annual Report and the election of officers and committee for 2006.

The meeting will be preceded by a BYO everything BBQ commencing at 6.30 PM. There is a swimming pool available for those that want to have a swim before the barbie.

To stand for election or to vote members must be financial for 2006.

Please give due consideration to helping run the group or who you would like to be on the committee for 2006.

Would all office bearers please have their reports for the Annual Report to the editor by 28th January so that it can be published in time for the meeting?

Committee

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
23/11/05	General Meeting	Report on CEGSA's 50 th Dinner W/E and "CEGSA History" Workshop and BBQ	Marie Choi Ian Lewis
26/11/05	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
14/12/05	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
25/01/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Vic Fossil Survey Update	Garry Woodcock
26-29/ 01/06	Caving	South East	Marie Choi.
28/01/06	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
28/01/06	ANNUAL REPORT	Annual Report items from office bearers due	Athol Jackson
8/02/06	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
08/02/06	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
11/02/06	A G M and BBQ	41 Lindsay Avenue, Valley View, SA	Graham Pilkington
22/02/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Recent Cave Diving Activities	Peter Horne
25/02/06	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
08/03/06	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Graham Pilkington
22/03/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Recent Bat Research	Stan Flavel
25/03/06	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
	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 dependent party underground.

Also, please ensure that a report of the trip is submitted.