CEGSA NEWS

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

Volume 51 Number 2 **Issue 202** **MAY 2006**

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

http://www.cegsa.org.au

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

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Cover Photograph: Ray Gibbons looking “Into the Lion’s den.” See article on page 31.
Photo by Roy Van Der Vegt, Messenger Newspapers.

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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 3 (Issue 203) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **9th AUG 2006**. 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. Photographs are preferred to be in colour (jpg format). 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

The collating together of packets of information to make a tapestry of colourful, significant and scholarly achievements of CEGSA's past 50 years will be worth the effort. It will continue to remind us of the contribution so many of our past and present members have contributed to the body of knowledge of Speleology in Australia.

Nothing is quite as thrilling as to see the 2D outline of a multi-dimensional cave come to life in a well constructed cave map by a growing number of CEGSA members who have the high level skills of cave surveying and mapping.

Continuing on the theme of moving upwards and onwards, I see CEGSA utilizing its resources and talents wisely. Projects that are starting include monitoring levels of carbon dioxide in a number of caves throughout the state, and monitoring water levels in some remote caves in the Flinders ranges. Systematic searches to relocate and tag infrequently visited cave entrances and follow up verbal and historic reports of caves will always remain an important part of what we do.

Another new project will be looking at ways of preserving the entrance to the slowly collapsing Town Well Cave at Curramulka. Plus, there is the huge task of organizing the program for the ASF conference to be held in Mt Gambier at the beginning of next year!

One of the ongoing and increasing stumbling blocks to caving is the logistical costs of getting people to caves. With fuel prices rocketing skywards and with the projection of fuel shortages in the future, the tyranny of distance will make it harder to regularly travel to some of our remote areas for caving and other forms of recreation. We may need to "think outside the square" to continue our exploration and data collection, looking for opportunities to maximize our activities. CEGSA will need to remain a progressive and innovative group.

In caves and often,

Stanley C Flavel

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Some Coming Trips

The following caving trips have been planned and will be run by the Committee or its delegates. These trips are intended to be family-friendly and also suitable for newcomers, but some participants will also be involved in the odd dig or survey. Where possible, BBQs, picnics or pub sessions will follow, depending on the weather and the Trip Coordinator. Those interested should contact the relevant trip coordinators (see Annual Report or CEGSA NEWS for contact details).

June 10th-12th; Avenue Range	trip coordinator - Marie Choi
June 10th - 12th; Flinders Ranges	trip coordinator - Stan Flavel
June 10th - 12th; Murraylands	trip coordinator - Lance Hoey
July 22nd or 23rd; Punyelroo Cave	trip coordinator - Lance Hoey
August 20th; Carrickalinga Cave	trip coordinator - Stan Flavel
September 9th/10th; Naracoorte	trip coordinator - Mark Sefton
October 3rd-10th ; Kangaroo Island	trip coordinator - Stan Flavel
November 11th/12th, Penola (Whiskas Woolshed?)	trip coordinator - Damian Grindley

The Committee.

TRIP REPORTS

Recent Nullarbor Excursion - October 2005

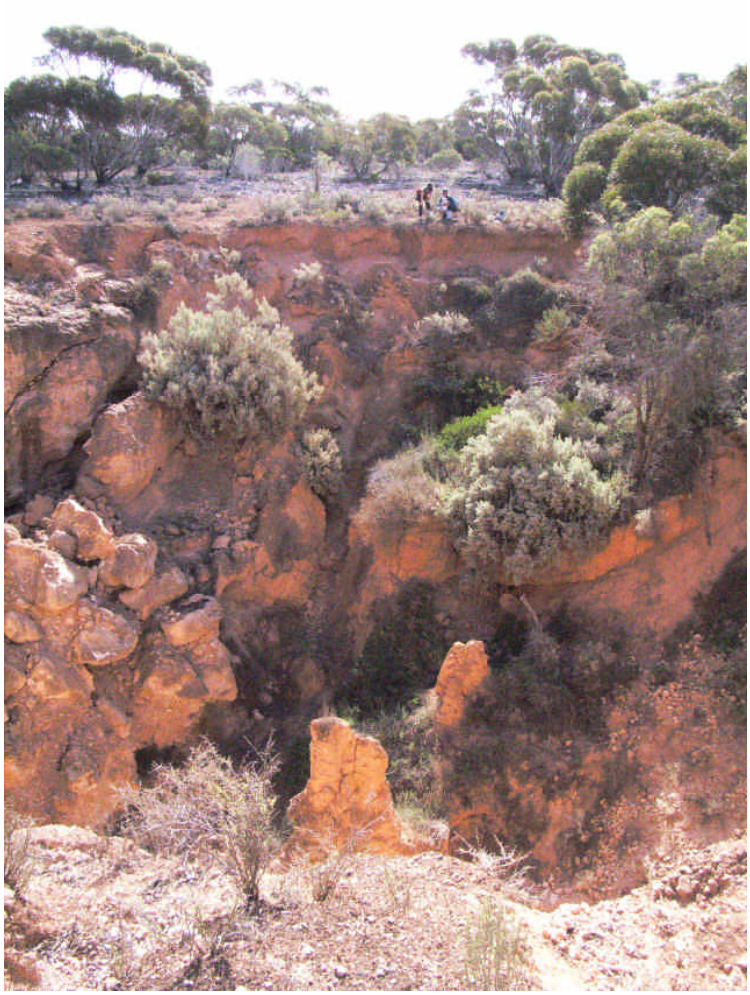
Note:- All photographs are by the author unless otherwise noted.

On a recent trip through southern WA which included the Nullarbor in October 2005. My partner Eve, father Ray, young Wesley and myself visited a number of karst features including two of Jennings dolines NX395*, NX391*.
Other features visited include N83, 84, 139, 149, 164, 193, 370, 483, 645, 732, 1081, 1087, 1337, 1374, 1411, 1663, 1728, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566. NXP300, NXP302, NXP1329*, NXP1328*, NXP1403, NXP1409*, NXP1410*, NXP1411*.
* Denotes allocated

NX-395 was located by Jennings and also circled by Lowry on Air Photos; although this is a feature Lowry lists as one he did not visit during his fieldwork in 1963 hence the NX Number. After viewing Lowry's Photos I calculated the location of the feature which sits in the NE Portion of a 300m diameter Saltbush / Bluebush flat 500m South of RH N1087 which intern lies 700m east of the eastern track running south of Caiguna toward the Baxter Cliffs.
On the 5th of October I relocated and logged NX-395 as N-2557. It comprises of a 17.5 x 13.5 x 7m deep collapse doline which is undercut up to 9m to form an overhang cave on the East and North sides. The collapse lies in approx. 3.3m of soil cover which has eroded to the dimensions of 37m x 34m x 3.3m. The base of the collapse slopes toward the SE Wall where it reaches a depth of approx. 9m from the lip of the collapse

N-2557 DolineCave@150deg

This feature has been confirmed since, through photos as the same feature as one which was visited by Plain Caving in 1992, under guidance from Caiguna Roadhouse staff.
From RH N1087 there is a vehicle track which runs south and then from an old 44 gallon drum a spur track runs SE straight to the N-2557 doline cave. Although the track is not well worn is indicates the feature is fairly well known.
While in the area I logged one of Lowry's BH's N-1081. This is a 1.4 x 1.0 x 1.7m deep BH in Pavement 8 x 7m. The BH has approx. 9m of low flattener Cave extending from the entrance to the NW & SW. I also logged a Lowry RH N-1087 and a new feature N-2558 which is 2 small BH's 5.7m apart. I also visited N-164 and N-1337 whilst trying to establish if N-602 was the same feature as NX-395 as it had the same coordinates as N164 in the DBase. N-602 was later confirmed as a different feature.
Further to the East on the 6th & 7th October we visited a number of features which I had located on the 1998 series air photos. They lie on VCL to south of the highway directly south of N-53, Moonera Tank Cave.
The deepest feature appears in the NE corner of a flat approx. 1.6km NNW of the edge of the scarp.
I had logged it as NXP-1329, and off air photos calculated a 25m Diameter collapse with a minimum of 7m depth.



N-2559 Collapse Doline@270deg

The feature, now N-2559 is a 26.5m x 26.5m x 10.5m deep fresh collapse. This doline appears to be a reactivated collapse which comprises of mostly soil and recemented rubble. There is only one small area approx. 4mx2m, of exposed limestone on the SW lip of the doline.

Again from later photo identification N-2559 appears to be the same as one located by members of Plain Caving on a trek they undertook south to the scarp while they were camped at Moonera Tank Cave in 1991.

The remainder of the features visited in this area consist of degraded soil dolines which now appear as gentle depressions. These show little signs of current subsurface drainage, the only exception was (NXP-1410) N-2563, a soil sided and based doline approx. 70m x 50m x 2m deep which has in the western end two fresh soil sinks, both approx. 1m diameter and 1m deep.

The other features consisted of N-2560 (NXP-1328), a 100x 50x 1.7m deep, a gentle sided soil doline. N-2565 (NXP-1409) is a degraded soil doline 100 x 50 x 1.5m. N-2566 (NXP-1411) is a degraded soil depression 70 x 50 x 1.2m.

On the 8th - 9th of October we visited a few features to the NW of Eucla.

The first is another Jennings Doline NX-391 which is now N-2560. It is a broad degraded roughly circular doline over 300m in diameter. The difference in elevation from the base to the surrounding surface varies from 3m in the east to 6m in the west. The floor of the doline is 70m diameter and consists of calcareous soil. The upper sides consist of scattered pavement which changes to calcrete rubble at the base of the slope. On the eastern slope is an exposure of pavement which shows parallel fractures and a slight lip. The circular nature and side slopes of this doline gives it a crater like appearance.

N-2561 Degraded Doline @180deg

The only distinguishing factor from the multitude of similar sized depressions (Dongas) in areas Nth of the Rail is that this doline is in the side of a hill in a similar setting as to the dolines N-1243, N-127, N-128 as opposed to where the “Dongas” tend to occur, which is in the base of depressed areas or on flats. This factor along with the jointed exposure and slight lip in the pavement on the southeast side suggest this doline to be of similar structure to N-2414. That is, it has formed by having gently

slumped on all sides except in the SE where it is more of the appearance of a collapse. Only in this case if any collapse exists it has been mostly refilled with sediments up to a level just below the upper lip of the collapse.

A similar style doline NXP-306 (80 x 50 x 2-3m depth) exists 3.7km NNE of N2560 in a SW facing slope of a rise. On this occasion we did not visit NXP-306.

To the east of N-2560 I searched for NXP-302 without luck it appears to be just a depressed area in the corner of a flat caused by erosion. On the flats a few hundred meters east is an erosion channel (P-E7/5216-66) which runs from west to east between two flats. It is over 100m long and up to 1m deep from the surrounding natural surface.

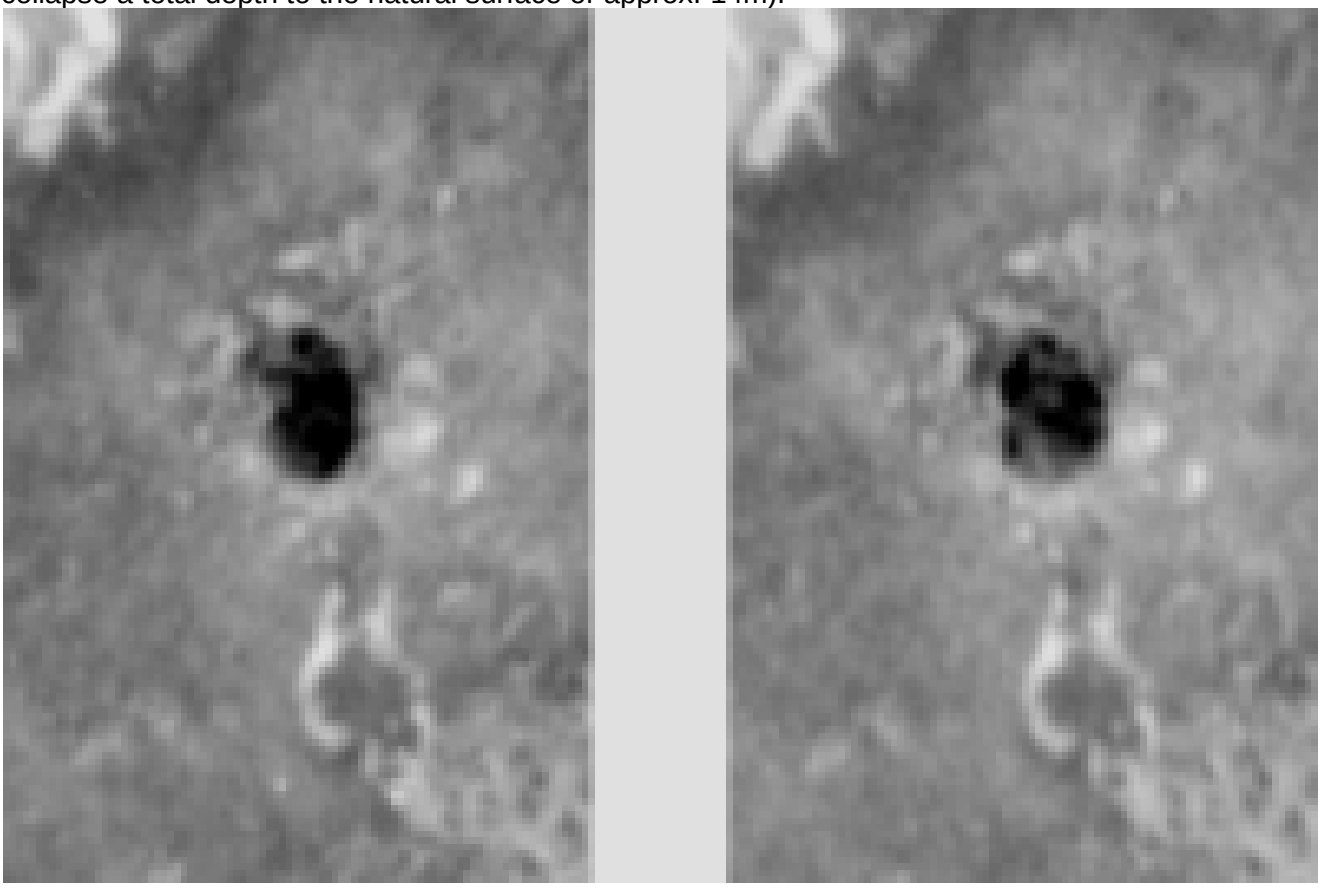
Also visited in the area was NXP-300, where a small RH on a 20m diameter Pavement was located.

Next at N-1663 after a short survey I established the cave length at 19m. The cave consists of a main chamber 9m x 6m x 2m and 3 short side extensions. The lead I had noticed in 1999 pinched out to 0.2m diameter after crawling only 5m.

On the way north to Forrest a brief stop was made at N-139.

In 2003 Max Hall eluded to having previously, (in 2001) found a large collapse a little further to the east of N-139, He apparently located it whilst flying to look for features further east in SA.

During early 2004 while viewing Lowry's 1961 series air photos I spotted what appeared to be a slight 3D feature in the same area around 10km to the east of N-139. It appeared to be a collapse. The reason why this collapse was not seen by Lowry or Jennings was a combination of lack of visible shadow and photo location. The photos in this section of run were taken in the early afternoon meaning the sun was still nearly overhead with only one side of this collapse (the western) in slight shadow. Also the feature only appears on two 1961 series photos, 3/5313 and 3/5314. The photo 5313 gives a view from the west and 5314 gives a more overhead but only slightly from the east view. It missed out on the third eastern photo 5315 by only a small distance. Had it been on the overlap of this 3rd photo or photographed at an earlier or later stage of the day when shadows were longer, it would have been easily defined and recognised for what it is. Having since viewed the 1998 photos there is certainly no mistaking this feature as a large collapse. Off the modern Photos I calculated the dimensions of the collapse to be 32m x 18m x 12m deep +/-1m in depth, appearing in the centre, at the base of a partial pavement depression approx. 62 x 50x 2m+/-1m (giving the collapse a total depth to the natural surface of approx. 14m).



Doline NXH-39 Stereo pair off 1998 Aerial photography E5/5166, E5/5167 - Reproduced by permission of the Department of Land Information, Perth Western Australia, Copyright Licence 16/2006.

Suspected Troglodiplura lowryi spider in N-1728

Further correspondence and photos sent by Max Hall in late 2004 confirmed that this was indeed the same feature he had located from the air (BG105 Max Hall number, updated to the CEGSA DBase in 2005 as:- NXH-39). It is also the same feature Max Hall later visited on the ground and recorded the correct cords.

On this occasion with time constraints and also being within the same area Ken was planning to fly in early 2006 we continued Nth and left the NXH-39 collapse for others to log as an N Number on another day. (No doubt by the time this article reaches publication.)

From October 10th to 12th we visited N-84 for surveying and videoing along with the south cave of N-83 and also BHCave N-1728.

During the visit to N-1728 two Tartarus sp. spiders were observed. (Peter Ackroyd had previously noted Tartarus spiders in this cave in 2001). Although on this occasion there were also 2 live suspected *Troglodiplura lowryi* spiders. The photo taken shows one of the spiders reacting to the warmth off a caving headlamp. Whilst they are blind and do not react to light they do appear fairly sensitive to heat and vibration. This sighting is to my knowledge the furthest north of any live *T. lowryi*. The only record further north is of husks of dead spiders that have been found in Old Homestead cave.

Calcite on surface 20km WSW of N-84

Wesley inspecting the toils of an enthusiastic cave digger at N-483.

It is interesting to note that dark calcite is not uncommon on the surface throughout the Nullarbor Plain but appears to be most common Nth of the Rail. Although this last observation may simply be due to the barer surface in this area making calcite easier to notice.

The remainder of the Nullarbor part of this excursion from 13th to the 17th was on Mundrabilla Station. We visited N-645, N-193, N-483, N-370, N-1411, for mostly videoing and sections of surveying. The only new feature located was N-2562 an impenetrable 0.3 x 0.17 x 2.5m deep BH in pavement a few hundred meters NE of N-732 on a Nth facing slope.

Paul Devine.

(Editors note:- all GPS readings quoted in this article have been removed to protect the locations. If more details are required by authorised researchers they may be obtained from the CEGSA records.)

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 3rd and 6th April 2006

Graham Pilkington (trip leader), Ray Gibbons, Paul Harper plus 3-month Associates as follows:

3rd 20 students and the school Principal from Blackfriars Priory School.
6th 21 students and 1 teacher from Blackfriars Priory School plus Sarah Lawrence.

On the third we all travelled up on the school bus. We did the usual tours of Grand Central and Crystal Maze with a few side excursions. I took the Principal and those students who needed extra help or were unwilling to tackle some of the climbs. The two teams crossed paths once and exchanged a student more appropriate to the other group.

On the sixth, Paul drove his own car, the rest took the bus. He's too long legged for the school bus seats! I had less difficulty this trip with reluctant participants but took them on harder climbs that required some back-tracking to collect those not managing the climb. I gather that two students of the other party exited the cave partway through the trip having had enough to satisfy their caving experience.

Sarah was there to assess the cave for potential inclusion on the National Heritage Register. Apparently someone or group has nominated it for inclusion, and it wasn't CEGSA.

Graham Pilkington

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Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 14th May 2006

Graham Pilkington (trip leader), Marie Choi, Amanda Grindley, Steve Wasilewski, Damon Grindley plus 10 students from Mercedes College as 3-month Associates. Damian Grindley attended as surface support.

I went with Amanda to Skeleton Crevasse and Limestone Bridge via the Wombat Runs to return via Bandicoot Bypass and Grand Central. Marie and Steve started in Grand Central then toured the Crystal Maze using the Rope Crevasse on route. Both teams encouraged the students to lead out for part of the trip – this is much more fun for the students than just following placidly behind an escort and also demonstrates the need to observe and not just traverse.

Graham Pilkington

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Past Trips (from February General Meeting)

- Stan Flavel: Flinders Ranges, 27th- 30th January. They spent a whole day walking around in 45 degree heat looking for entrances.
- Ian Lewis: visited Henschke's Quarry Cave and Princess Margaret Rose Cave recently.
- Damien Grindley: He, Grant plus a friend found two new caves at Naracoorte; Myth-Buster's Cave (5 m long!) and another short stream passage cave. Ian Lewis' theories on Naracoorte were declared 'safe for the time being'!

Past Trips (from April General Meeting)

- Eddie Rubessa. The Flinders Ranges trip to Warraweena over Easter was run by Eddie, not Stan as advertised.
- Mark Sefton. Mark, Gary Woodcock, and families, plus Damian Grindley and Damon Reece went to Naracoorte over the Anzac long weekend (Friday - Monday). They did Beekeepers, Cave Park Cave and then Gary and Mark went to S102.
- Marie Choi. Avenue Range at Easter. They did some surveying in a low flat cave where it is hard to tell where the walls are. It contains some nice decoration.
- Paul Harper. They spent a day digging in Corra Lynn Cave near Skeleton Crevasse.
- Lance Hoey. He and Barbara visited M34 and M35 over Easter.

Naracoorte, 22-24 April 2006

Kids: Damon Reece, Russell and Alex Woodcock, Alistair and Murray Sefton, Daniel Riddell.
Parents: Jeanette Chapman, Gary Woodcock, Karin and Mark Sefton.

Having failed to get ourselves organised in time to drag our families out of the house over the Easter period, we decided to take the opportunity afforded by Anzac day to make the following weekend a long weekend and revisit some family-friendly holes around Naracoorte. Beekeepers Cave was our first destination. A good outward breeze at the entrance kicked up a lot of dust during the short ladder descent. We went first to the chamber reached via the low crawl to the right out of the first main passage (opposite the other crawl which constitutes the main way on) for Gary and me to check out the potential there while the boys poked around in every available nook and cranny. There was a weak breeze in the corner reached by turning left out of the crawl and following the left hand wall, but this is not really the easiest of digging sites and could only be reached by one person at a time. We next went through the crawl linking the two parallel main passages, turned right, and at the cross junction turned right again (ie. heading to a point close to the first 'dig' we had looked at). We spent a good half hour or more pushing every nook and cranny in this area, including one that only Damon could get through. There was no obvious lead here, although the breeze in the cave had died at this stage. This point in the cave is heading towards where a pine forest had once stood on the surface. The mature trees have now been logged, and replaced by seedlings. Although I had remembered fine tree roots clogging up this area, there were none to speak of now. The boys led the way out, not surprisingly missed the start of the low crawl, and so got to explore an extra bit of passage for their troubles.

The next day, we headed to Cave Park, and after chatting to the land owner descended the cave there. We rigged the entrance doline with a ladder, but as we weren't sure of the difficulty of the climb for the boys, sent them in with Jeanette and Karin through the rather squeezy alternative entrance crawl. Gary and I descended the short ladder climb which turned out to be easier than it looked from the top, and got to the bottom just in time to meet the others. We first all went into the shorter of the two sections of the cave leading off from the entrance doline, and afterwards in the opposite direction which is a more pleasant and interesting part of the cave. It's mostly crawly, but with flat floors is easy going and has a bit of decoration at the far end. Everyone went out via the ladder climb which they handled easily. It's a fun trip, and good for beginners. We spent three hours in the cave all together. This cave is now out of bounds to cavers from May to August (bat breeding/nursing season).

On the final day, Gary and I went to S102 cave, and also looked at the entrance to SOS. The farmer has further secured the entrance to the latter, following the recent loss of a calf down the entrance pipe, and as it is pretty tight in the lower half, it is possible that the next person down is going to have to fight their way past a few bones jammed in the pipe to get to the bottom! We first took GPS readings at the edge of the entrances to both caves from positions which corresponded roughly with the bottom of the entrance pipes in each case. From the SOS entrance to the S102 entrance is 110 m at 139º, not the 80 m I had estimated from pacing when I first produced the SOS map. This means that the positions of the S102 entrance and the end of the northernmost passage of S102 are not where shown on the SOS map (published in the CEGSA newsletter in 1998, Volume 43 Nr 2), but are a further 30 m south east. We then spent a couple of hours looking in S102, noting several good prospects for 'next time'. A connection from S102 to SOS still remains a real possibility in the future, and as the farmer is not keen on the SOS entrance being used because of the loose sand at the top, such a connection could open up an alternative route to this cave in future.

Mark Sefton.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Associate Member:-

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(H) 8296 4142 (W) 8301 3356 (M) 0421 295 766
(E) nevilles@micronet.net.au

Change to Members Mailing List:-

F June MacLucas 9209 New E-Mail address junemacl@adam.com.au

F Mark Sefton 8709 New E-mail address seftons@adam.com.au

F Damien Grindley 9610 Change Home Phone No - 08-8321-9325
Change address to - 17 Miller Drive HAPPY VALLEY SA 5159

F Amanda Grindley 9714 Change Home Phone No - 08-8321-9325
Change address to - 17 Miller Drive HAPPY VALLEY SA 5159

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

1st Full Member + 2nd Full Member			
Less $16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	$81.00	$121.50	$202.50
1st Full Member + 2nd Associate Member			
Less $16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	$72.50	$121.50	$193.50
1st Associate Member + 2nd 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

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

Name	Caving Leader level
Marie Choi	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Paul Deer	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Chris Gibbons	Nil
Damian Grindley	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Paul Harper	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Lance Hoey	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
George MacLucas	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
June MacLucas	Horizontal
Tim Payne	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Graham Pilkington	Horizontal and Laddering
Eddie Rubessa	Horizontal and Laddering
Mark Sefton	Horizontal and Laddering
Tom Szabo	Horizontal
Gary Woodcock	Horizontal and Laddering

All the above named are also CEGSA Trip Coordinators

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INTO THE LION'S DEN

'We … looked down and there's these bones lying on the ground'

Ray Gibbons (see front cover photo) and fellow cave surveyors thought they had found some dingo bones in a cave beneath the Nullarbor Plain in 2002. But it turned out to be the find of their lives.

By Petra Starke.

Deep underground in one of the many caves of the Nullarbor Plain, Ray Gibbon's headlamp slices through the inky darkness. Suddenly, the light catches something that would turn out to be one of the most exciting archaeological (palaeontological? ed) finds in Australian history.

It was May, 2002, and Ray, along with wife Chris, cave partner Pete Ackroyd, and pilot Ken Boland, was on a routine surveying mission in the West Australian side of the Nullarbor, investigating an unusual piece of terrain Ken had spotted from the air.

"The description he put on it was 'Bit of exposed rock, not worth worrying about'," Ray says. "I said 'We'd better check it out'."

Ray's instincts were right. After pulling the rock aside he discovered a blowhole, leading to an enormous cave. He and Ken put on their harnesses and lowered themselves into the abyss – most likely the first humans to enter. Already excited at the prospect of discovering a new cave, Ray and Ken could never have guessed what they were to unearth.

Ray's wife Chris recalls the moment from her spot on the surface. "The sun was starting to set and we're going 'Something's not quite right, they seem to be a long, long time'," she says.

"Next thing we hear is Ken yelling out 'We need a camera, I need to get my camera!' So up he comes and gets his camera and goes down again. And then they came up and told us what they found."

Ray and Ken had found a complete and intact skeleton of a thylacoleo carnifex, an extinct lion-like animal once native to Australia, somewhere between 15000 and 1.5 million years old.

Although thylacoleo skulls and feet had been uncovered before in other caves, this was the first complete skeleton ever found – a huge discovery for the scientific world.

"We sort of came up over this rock and looked down and there's these bones lying on the ground, and my initial reaction was 'Oh, a dingo'." Ray says. "But with a closer look at it I immediately dismissed that because the size of the skull was too big for the size of the bones." A self-described 'amateur palaeontologist', Ray recognized the oversized skull and 'large premolar tooth' of the thylacoleo, and knew he had something special.

The cavers headed back to Adelaide to report the find to the SA Museum, who emailed their photos to Dr John Long at the West Australian Museum. The museum responded immediately.

"(Dr Long) got the email and he immediately printed them out, walked upstairs to the head curator of the museum, put them down on the table and said 'What do you think of this?'" Ray says. The head curator just turned around and said 'We've got to get it. Where is it and what's it going to cost us?'"

In July 2002, Ray and a 'recovery group' made up of students from Flinders University, cavers and palaeontologists from around the country was sent out to the cave, the location of which is still secret. Other megafauna bones were unearthed, including a new species of giant kangaroo and the bones of eight other thylacoleos (later increasing to 14), though none were complete skeletons.

The find was a huge boon for the WA Museum, and made the front page news in the state for a week. Even the Bangkok Post featured the story.

But Ray and his friends received scant acknowledgement for their part in the discovery, particularly in South Australia where the find was all but ignored. "We're always referred to as 'a group of cavers', never by name" he says. "Bangkok even had much bigger coverage than here in Adelaide."

Thanks to these cavers science knows a great deal more about the history of Australian native fauna. But sadly, Ray says many of our greatest hidden treasures may never be found. "If you go over to Europe or America it's all government funded and privately funded through organizations. In Australia there's nothing," he says.

"There's just no money in it, so no one takes an interest in it. All they're interested in is mining them away or blowing them up."

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The CEGSA Badge Design

Subjects for historical research sometimes simply fall across your path.

During research for the history of the Spirit of Caving award (Ackroyd, 2001), CEGSA Life Member, Noel Mollett, mentioned in passing that the credit for the design of CEGSA badge is commonly attributed to the late Alan Hill.

Noel indicated the person who actually did the design was another caver, who worked for the Australian Broadcasting Commission (now 'Corporation') in Adelaide. Noel thought the design was drawn up sometime just after the beginnings of CEGSA. I made a brief note and promptly forgot about it.

Four years later, during a visit by Elery Hamilton-Smith, my note appeared randomly amongst the paperwork and caught Elery's eye. Elery recalled the designer's name - Ian Dunlop. He was a journalist with the ABC who, once television arrived in Australia in 1956, changed careers to become an ABC TV cameraman. Elery's recollection was that the design came into being in CEGSA's first year of 1955/56.

The problem was that Ian's design, while having the basic shape and design we all know so

well, incorporated ornately curved and twisted stalactites, which the engineering mind of Alan Hill quickly recognised would present problems for the die maker when it came time to manufacture the badge.

CEGSA's Lapel Badge, manufactured in three colours: white (background), black (text and background image) and gold, (border, ladder and edging on the stalactites). Photographed by Peter Ackroyd, badge supplied by Elery Hamilton-Smith.

So, Alan took Ian Dunlop's design and modified it slightly, "straightening" the stalactites to allow for easier (and less expensive) manufacture. Both Noel and Elery recalled remarkably similar stories when the original design was first shown to people. Noel remembered club stalwart, the late Dr Paul Hossfeld, did not much like the design because he thought it too closely resembled a certain part of human female anatomy. Elery recalled the then head of the South Australian Museum, Herbert M Hale, who, on the contrary, quite liked the design, for precisely the same reason.

Enamelled metal badges, more properly called lapel badges, were extraordinarily popular for most of the 20th century, interest in them waning only after about 1975. People collected them avidly and displayed their club badges, and those they had swapped with similar clubs. Lapel badges were relatively small, typically an inch (25mm) across. CEGSA's inverted triangular badge is 24mm across its top edge and 22mm along each of its sides.

I spent a warm day in October 2005, deep within the CEGSA records system finding that Ian Dunlop's original hand-drawn sketch is probably lost. However, a search of the club's minutes and agendas files revealed that on 24 April 1956 "the badge design [was] adopted and letterheads and postcards [will be] produced for meetings and stationery." This is the first mention of the design. A preliminary quote for metal lapel badges was received three days later and discussed at the General Meeting of 23 May 1956, "Badges metal - quote expected, 50 badges, under 4/- [four shillings each]". Cloth patches were made available to full members in 1957 and, after some apparent delays, "the long awaited metal lapel badge [was] expected in the first quarter [of 1958]".

The annual report for 1958/59 indicates metal badges were for sale and the financial report shows an expense item of £18-6-2 (18 pounds, 6 shillings and tuppence) for "badge die and badges, etc." This was quite a large sum of money in 1958 and indicates how seriously clubs regarded badges in those days.

Reference

Ackroyd, Peter (2001), A Search for the Story Behind the Fish - CEGSA's Spirit of Caving Award, *CEGSA News* **184** (Vol 46, No 4): 87-89.

Peter Ackroyd, 24 March 2006

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Congratulations

Congratulations to Steve Bourne (Manager, Naracoorte Caves National Park) for being selected as the 2006 recipient of the Glen Osmond Rotary Club **"Ranger of the Year"** award. Steve was presented his award at a dinner for the occasion at the Belair Country Club in Belair National Park on Monday 8th May. I wonder where he is going to display the big heavy plaque.

Athol Jackson.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
24/05/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
27/05/06	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
10-12 /06/06	June long weekend Caving	Avenue Range	Marie Choi
10-12 /06/06	June long weekend Caving	Flinders Ranges	Stan Flavel
10-12 /06/06	June long weekend Caving	Murraylands	Lance Hoey
14/06/06	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Stan Flavel
28/06/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
01/07/06	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
12/07/06	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Stan Flavel
22 or 23 /07/06	Caving	Punyelroo	Lance Hoey
26/07/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
29/07/06	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
09/08/06	Committee Meeting	Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Rd Hackney, SA	Stan Flavel
09/08/06	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
20/08/06	Caving	Carrickalinga	Stan Flavel
23/08/06	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
26/08/06	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
09-10 /09/06	Caving	Naracoorte	Mark Sefton
03-10 /10/06	Caving	Kangaroo Island	Stan Flavel
11-12 11/06	Caving	Penola Area (Whiskas Woolshed)	Damian Grindley
	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.