

CEGSA NEWS

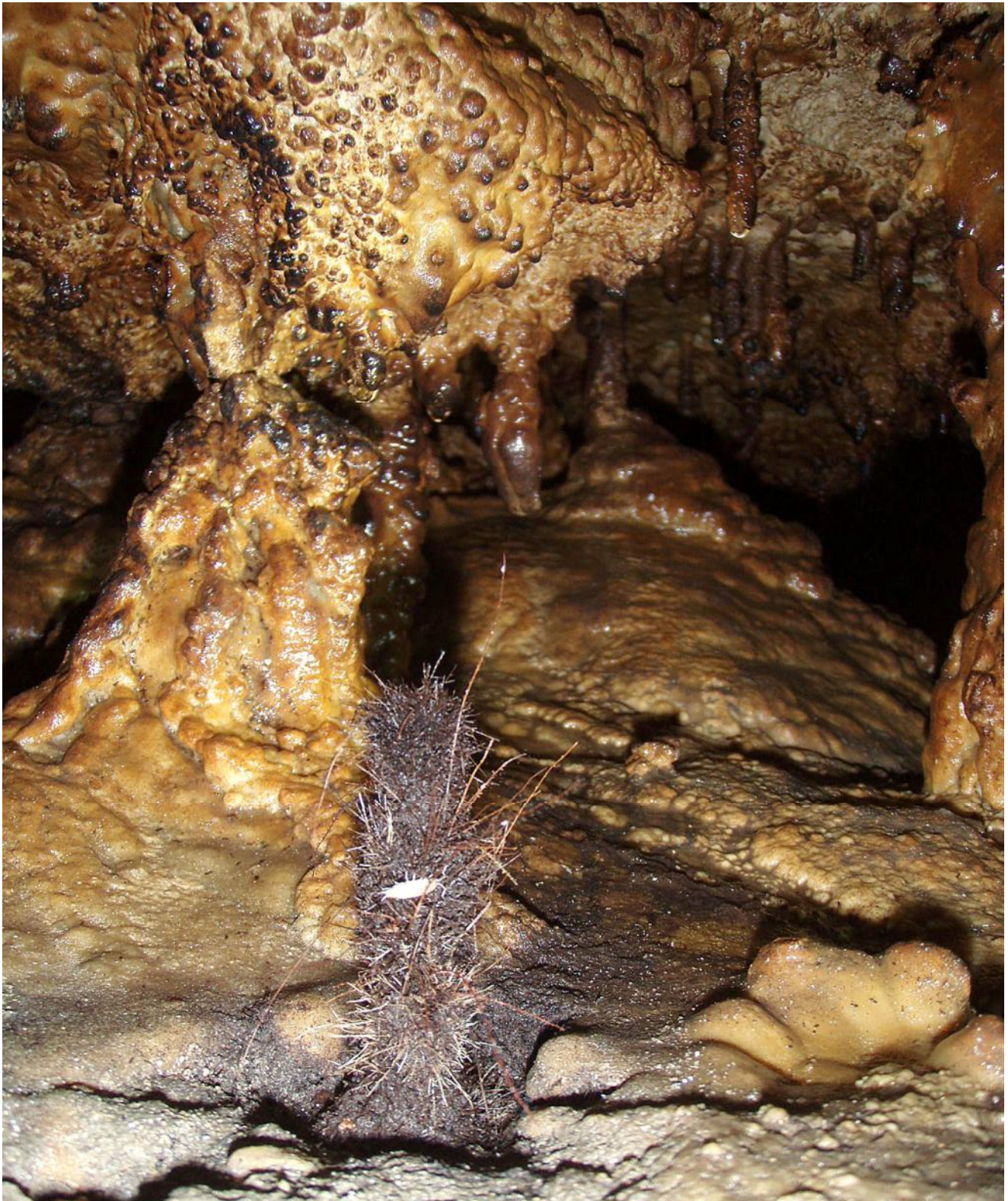


Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

Volume 52 Number 2

Issue 206

MAY 2007



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.

2007 Committee

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Nullarbor Plain	Max Meth	(H) 8625 2700
Eyre Peninsula	Stan Flavel	As Above
Upper & Lower S E, Glenelg River	Kevin Mott	(H) 8723 1461 (W) 8735 1131 (E) mott.kevin@saugov.sa.gov.au
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Flinders	Eddie Rubessa	(H) 8336 4775

Representatives

ASF	Stan Flavel	As Above
SA Speleological Council	Stan Flavel	As Above
Leadership Standards - Working Group	Marie Choi	As Above
	Peter Kraehenbuehl	(H) 8278 4531 (E) krunchy@bigpond.com

Cover Photograph: Tree roots with insect in Trapdoor Cave, Avenue Range.

Photo: Marie Choi.

CONTENTS**Volume 52 Number 2****Issue 206****MAY 2007****CONTENTS**

	AUTHOR	PAGE
Committee and Office Bearers		19
Contents		20
Presidents Spot	Stan Flavel	21
Editorial	Athol Jackson	21

TRIP REPORTS

Corra Lynn, 5Y1, 2 nd April 2007	Graham Pilkington	22
Avenue Range, Easter 2007	Chris Fischer	22
Corra Lynn, 5Y1, 10 th April 2007	Graham Pilkington	24
Past Trips from General Meetings (Feb - Apr)		24

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

Membership	Chris Gibbons	25
Membership Fees	Chris Gibbons	25
The Other Side of Caving – Part the Three	Fred Aslin	26
Spelling	Neville Skinner	26
Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders	Committee	27
Calendar of Events	Committee	28

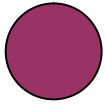
QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 52 Number 3 (Issue 207) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **8th AUGUST 2007**. 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, or on a CD, 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) and not embedded in the text.

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

Nil Report

Stanley C Flavel

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EDITORIAL

I am most disappointed and annoyed at the lack of interest shown in the newsletter. It appears that very few members consider the newsletter as being an important part of the groups function. The amount of material being presented for publication has been getting less and less with each issue over the last couple of years. Many times I have been promised reports etc. but they never eventuate, even with several reminders. This has meant that I have had to try to source material from external publications etc. with the problems of getting permission to reprint it. In a lot of cases this has not been forthcoming or is a long protracted process and is most frustrating.

I would much rather have local material that is relevant to the general membership. The newsletter is supposed to be a link with the members on what is happening in the group, particularly the country members who cannot attend the meetings. If members will not get off their proverbials and report what they have been doing then I cannot put it in the newsletter. Without the information the newsletter becomes redundant with the result that there are no written records of caving activities and cave visitation (there are never any written reports put into records). The communication channels with the membership disappear, so the membership drops off and the group eventually dies.

Perhaps we should make it mandatory that a trip coordinator submits a written report (even if preliminary to a detailed report) within three months of a trip occurring or lose the right to be a trip coordinator until it is submitted. It would not necessarily (but preferably) be for publication but to go into records so we at least have some record of what happened on the trip and to the cave.

Unless the situation improves in the near future I am just wasting my time trying to put together a newsletter and program with no information from either the membership or the committee. I am afraid I will have to relinquish my position and hope that someone else will be able to make it work, for the good of the group and the members.

Athol Jackson.

TRIP REPORTS

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 2nd April 2007

Party: Graham Pilkington (trip leader), Paul Harper, Damian Grindley plus 3-month Associates: 19 students from Blackfriars Priory School.

We met up with the school bus at Port Wakefield to guide them to the cave. With the unexpected dropout of the teacher from underground adventure, we had to run the group as one party. Although this was a daunting proposal, we managed quite well with the boys cooperating with instructions and passing on help in traversing obstacles. Damian, the floating central leader, had the hardest job, rushing forward as needed and drifting back as he helped the students up and down climbs.

Graham Pilkington

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Avenue Range, Easter 2007

Participants: Fred Aslin, Kevin Mott, Marie Choi, Adam Branford, Ian Farhall, Chris Fisher, Danielle and Christy Thomas.

Photographs: Marie Choi.

Easter saw us heading to Avenue Range to continue work on the caves on what is known as the Gratzs property. Thankfully we seemed to beat most of the Easter traffic, so the trip down from Adelaide wasn't too bad (even with Christy in the car who is currently studying for a diploma of Geoscience at O'Halloran Hill TAFE). Luckily too, we were going to be able to stay in the Thomas's woolshed as the crutching had been delayed, and it's much more comfortable than staying in tents. You don't notice the smell after an hour either! After catching up with the rest of the Thomas clan Marie and I settled in and played rummiking into the early hours. Next morning was a sleep in as we were both quite tired. After a leisurely start to the morning we headed for the caves where we met up with Kevin and Fred who were having lunch on the side of the road. We geared up and headed for the caves but not before Marie had her 10 minute obligatory stuff around trying to figure out how to work out her GPS (heres a hint Marie, try reading the instructions).



Bones from January trip in Trapdoor Cave

On a post conference trip to the caves in January, Marie believed she found some coral encrusted bones in the back of trapdoor cave. So we decided to spend an hour or two in the cave trying to relocate and photograph them. We couldn't find those bones but we found a few other specimens that looked bone like. After taping them off and a bit more photography we decided to head out, but not before Marie took some great shots of an unusual tree root spike protruding through the cave floor. Attached to it was a small white slater like bug (see front cover photograph). With still a bit of daylight left we decided to make a start on one of our new digs G.R.10.

This was one of the many features we had found whilst walking through the bush. It started out as a small depression with a bit of limestone poking out, and looked worthy of a bit of digging. After pulling out several large rocks and chopping a very large tree root we dug out about 20 bucket fulls and called it a day. Meanwhile Fred and Kevin were busy surveying on the surface to tie in all the cave entrances, and how they related to the landscape and water levels. We left our gear at the dig and headed to the woolshed for a feed and a well deserved beer. Marie and I waited up until 1am for Ian to arrive from Ballarat, and then we hit the hay.

The next day we heard that Damian wasn't going to make it so we decided to postpone our continuing survey work in Trapdoor cave. On the last trip in 2006 Damian and Kevin managed to add on another 100 metres of cave. Fortunately for them the cave was beginning to open up into walking height passages and was heading in the direction of other known caves on the property, with no end in sight. For those not aware, Trapdoor Cave is very much like Monbulla Cave. It has a slightly lower roof, with fewer obvious walls supporting the extensive flat ceiling, and it is more heavily decorated. The main area of trapdoors entrance has large areas of floor covered in cave coral, along with numerous rim pools, stalagmites and volcano like formations, with not many walls to be seen anywhere. Another unique feature is the large tree roots that sprawl along the calcite floors with no obvious entry points. After several survey trips a connection was made with the GR9 entrance, where Kevin had spent most of their time surveying (Kevin doesn't quite fit into Trapdoors entrance).



The Author in Trapdoor Cave

Ian, Marie and I headed out to continue our dig at GR10 with some help from the Thomas girls, whose other halves were busy carving spears, climbing trees and running around the bush. Ian, the great digger that he is, seemed quite keen and hooked in. By the end of the day our small depression had turned into a solution tube at least 1½ metres in diameter and at least 1½ deep. Kevin and Fred continued their surface work and found another feature that Fred says might be worth having a dig at. This was added to our list of other digs going on around the property, one being a small entrance which has a cave of about 6 metres in length with a screaming breeze coming out of it.

On Sunday Christy showed us her wonderful driving skills by managing to bog her car up to the axles on the soft verge, but with a bit of bush mechanics Ian managed to get her out using our digging bucket rope. We continued digging GR10 in the hope we might find some cave by the end of the day. Ian worked like a bulldozer and we almost had to fight him off to get a bit of digging done. We were down to about 3-3½ metres and found the lip of the tube. Adam arrived at just the right time in the



Adam digging in GR10 (U239)

afternoon to help out with fresh hands and give us a break, unfortunately, Ian had to leave just as Adam was starting to break through into some cave. Ian was in two minds whether to stay for the breakthrough and face the wrath of his wife or to leave. In the end, about 20 minutes after Ian left Adam dug out enough to fit about a body length into the cave and take some pictures. Marie and I were both too tired to climb down the hole again after 3 days of digging, so we wait in anticipation of our next trip so we can both see how much cave we have down there. A little more digging is required, but the floor of the cave is soft and silty which will make a nice change from the shredding coral of Trapdoor. There also appears to be several areas of bone deposits.

During our walks to the caves through the bush both Ian and I had found dear antlers, so now I am trying to figure out a way to mount them on my helmet for the next trip. We are looking forward to returning to Avenue on the June long weekend, for more exploration and digging. Anyone interested in exploring and surveying virgin cave or digging out new ones, along with a relaxed social getaway should contact Marie or Kevin about joining us on our June trip.

Chris Fischer.

Footnote: GR10 is now U239

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 10th April 2007

Party: Graham Pilkington (trip leader), Paul Harper, Gary Woodcock, Jeanette Chapman and sons Russell and Alexander, Julius Gheude plus 3-month Associates: 20 students from Blackfriars Priory School.

Again we met up with the school bus at Port Wakefield to guide them to the cave. With more leaders, we could run two underground parties, but again the teacher declined to participate. Knowing the intended route that Paul was to take, I led my party on the same route but in a different order and switch points and even in reverse for some sections. By doing this, the only time that we encountered each other was when Paul saw the last one of my party entering Dicks Extension from the bottom of Ramshorns Crevasse.

As on the 2nd we all had a good time with the students gradually changing from timid individuals to confident (although tired!) team mates.

Graham Pilkington

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Past Trips from General Meetings

No Information provided.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Nil Report

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES became due on January 1st AND ARE NOW OVERDUE. Re-application for membership and the Joining Fee will now be imposed in addition to the current fees.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2007 YEAR

Full Membership	\$ 51.00
Full Country Membership	45.00
Associate Membership	42.00
Long Term Associate	51.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00
Joining Fee	12.00
Discount for e-mail CEGSA News	15.00
Discount for Country Membership	6.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR 2007 YEAR

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

2007 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$51.00	\$68.00	\$119.00
Full Country Membership	45.00	68.00	113.00
Associate Membership	42.00	68.00	110.00
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 \$86.00 \$121.50 \$207.50

1st Full Member + 2nd Associate Member
 Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News \$77.00 \$121.50 \$198.50

1st Associate Member + 2nd Assoc Member
 Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News \$68.00 \$121.50 \$189.50

Discount for Country Membership applies for Family Memberships

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

Chris Gibbons

Treasurer/Membership Officer

THE OTHER SIDE OF CAVING – Part the Three

Lest it be assumed that I am biased towards the South East of South Australia – which of course I am, I offer an interstate item.

CAVE IN THE BROKEN HILL PROPRIETRY MINE

A curious cave has been discovered in the Broken-Hill Propriety's Company's mine, in the South drive at the 316ft level in M'Culloch's shaft. It was broken into when extending the South drive. As it has only just been discovered, nothing much is known about it, but it appears to be 40ft. long, 25ft. high and 20ft. wide, and there is a good deal of carbonate of lead crystals on the side and walls. There appears to be a considerable quantity of water at the south, towards which direction the cave slopes. It also makes over the back of the drive a little way. Some foul air is still existing in the cave. The latest particulars of the cave to hand are given as follows by the correspondent of the *Advertiser* :- "I visited the great cave broken into in driving at the 316feet level in MacCulloch's shaft. The foul air had been cleared away and we were enabled to make a complete investigation. The cave strikes downward, and there is an immense quantity of water in it up to a few feet below the 316 feet level, so that the extend of the chamber is not known. The depth of water at the extreme end of the cave is not tested being some what difficult to get at. There are beautiful crystals of lead studding the roof and sides. At the time of our visit there were men at work opening out, and the cave is now quite easy of access. The discovery has aroused much interest here, as the 316 feet level at the Propriety mine is the lowest yet reached, and there has been a good deal of speculation as to the nature of the country at that depth"

Border Watch – 27 October 1888

F Aslin
March 2007

NOTE: younger readers are referred to CEGSA N/L 43:2 May 1998 for the start of this series. The spreadsheet contained 1861 entries back then, but today has 5340 Newspaper and 450 Magazine entries. 'Part the two', CEGSA N/L 43:4 has a typo. Please note the Border Watch citation should be 30 December 1926 NOT 1930 as printed.

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An Owed to the Spelling Checker

Author: Jerry Zar, Dean of the Graduate School of Northwestern Illinois University.

I have a spelling checker
It came with my PC
It plane lee marks four my revue
Miss steaks eye can knot sea.

Eye ran this poem threw it,
Your sure reel glad two no.
Its very polished in it's weigh
My checker tolled me sew.

A checker is a bless sing,
It freeze yew lodes of thyme.
It helps me right awl styles two reed,
And aides me when aye rime.

Each frays come posed up on my screen
Eye trussed to bee a joule
The checker poured o'er every word
To cheque sum spelling rule.

Be fore a veiling checker
Hour spelling mite decline,
And if were lacks or have a laps,
We would be maid to wine.

Butt now bee cause my spelling
Is checked with such grate flare,
Their are know faults with in my cite,
of nun eye am a wear.

From: Neville Skinner

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
Grant Gartrell	Nil
Chris Gibbons	Nil
Amanda Grindley	Horizontal
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
Steve Milner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
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.

Members may query the classification of any Trip Leader at any time with the committee.

It is a requirement that each trip be organised by an approved Trip Coordinator to be classed as an official CEGSA trip.

It is also a requirement that dependent party trips be led by an approved Trip Leader at the appropriate skill level for the cave being entered.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
23/05/07	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Dedication of Ediacaran Golden Spike Video	Athol Jackson
26/05/07	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
9-11/ 06/07	Caving	Avenue Range	Marie Choi
13/06/07	Committee Meeting	TBA	Stan Flavel
27/06/07	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
30/03/07	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
11/07/07	Committee Meeting	TBA	Stan Flavel
25/07/07	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
28/07/07	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
05/08/07	Caving	Corra-Lynn Beginners Trip	Graham Pilkington
08/08/07	Committee Meeting	TBA	Stan Flavel
08/08/07	CEGSA NEWS	Articles for Newsletter due PLEASE	Athol Jackson
22/08/07	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	Stan Flavel
25/05/07	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/12/07	Caving	Tasmania	Marie Choi
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil Survey contact	Garry Woodcock
	Caving	Sellicks Hill contact	Grant Gartrell

It is desirable that caving trips involving club members should, where possible, be registered as CEGSA Trips. To do this, the nature and timing of the trip must be nominated to the Trip Liaison Officer and/or minuted at a General Meeting of Members. The member registering such a trip must be an accredited CEGSA Trip Coordinator and must agree to act in this capacity for the trip. There must also be an accredited trip leader with the appropriate skill endorsement to take a dependent party caving.

* Please note that trips not arranged by an accredited Trip Coordinator and marked with a # may not be classed as an official CEGSA trip and may not be covered by any CEGSA membership benefits. *

Also, please ensure that a report (preferably written) of the trip is submitted in a timely manner.