CEGSA NEWS

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

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

http://www.cegsa.org.au

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

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Cover Photograph: Draperies in main streamway passage in Umbel Tuk cave system – Eastern Java, Indonesia (see article on P61).

Photo: Mark Sefton.

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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 53 Number 1 (Issue 209) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **13th FEBRUARY 2008**. 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.

TRIP REPORTS

The Umbel Tuk Cave System – Eastern Java, Indonesia

On the 27th of June 1994, seven of us gathered at the Flora Beach hotel in Denpassar on the island of Bali for the start of a four week caving expedition to eastern Java. Our destination was the small town of Blitar – best known as the final resting place of Sukarno, first President of Indonesia. Although the area around Pacitan, further to the west, had been well investigated and had yielded several significant cave systems, little was known of the karst closer to our destination. Our team was led by Ann-Marie Meredith who had conducted a reconnaissance trip to Blitar the previous year. The rest of our group comprised Lucinda Coates, Derek Hobbs, Brett and Jason Moule, Michael Playford and myself.

The following day, we took the bus from Denpassar, arriving mid evening at the ferry crossing point on the north-west tip of Bali. Up to five vehicular ferries were pulled up to the shore's edge at any one time, and there were dozens of trucks and buses everywhere, all waiting to cross the Bali Strait to Java. The whole area was very colourful with its myriad of stalls and, near the beach, a chess game, illuminated by a kerosene lamp and surrounded by a crowd of intrigued onlookers, was in progress. Finally, our bus finally reached the front of the queue and we crossed the Bali Strait sometime after midnight, reaching Blitar, 300 km to the west, a little after sunrise. There we were greeted by Dodik, a friend of Ann-Marie who she had met during the previous year's reconnaissance and who was to be our guide and chauffeur. We checked into our hotel, the Sri Rejeki, and spent the rest of the day shopping, banking and sorting gear. Then it was time for dinner at the nearby Chinese/Indonesian restaurant. The frog's legs in soy sauce and pigeon in butter sauce were delicious, and after a few beers, most of us were well and truly 'relaxed' and ready for a good night's sleep.

Alas, it was not to be – not for me anyway. There was a radio blaring away somewhere near our room, and my roommate (who shall remain nameless) snored like a wounded bull. I dragged my mozzie net and pillow out to a spare bed sitting in the corridor and wrapped a towel around my head to shut out the blazing light from overhead. Eventually, at around 2:00 am, I dropped off to sleep only to be woken at 3:00 by a broadcast of a World Cup soccer match on a TV somewhere, again at 4:15 am by what sounded like prayers from the local mosque being broadcast over the PA system, and finally at 5:30 by the hotel staff.

The next day, we were taken for a four hour drive out into the countryside where we took a circuitous route past a number of potentially interesting places that look good for caves. Unfortunately no-one could figure out where we were on the rudimentary map we had managed to obtain, and therefore there was no way of finding these places again. Eventually, we arrived at an entrance – the last feature on Dodik's list of places to visit that day. This was Gua Umbel Tuk and was apparently well known. A small stream emitted from a 5 m wide by 2 m high hole, and a quick look soon confirmed that this was well worth the journey.

Michael, Jason, Brett and I started surveying while the others explored our surroundings on the surface. The cave is a single streamway for the first kilometre, 10 – 15 m wide and 7 – 10 m high on average, and well decorated with massive flowstone and gours. The cave was teeming with life, including large bright orange cockroaches, bats, yabbies, large eels, little water bugs, spiders, frogs, pale shrimps with red eyes and crabs. Surveying was easy, and nearly every survey leg took the full length of the tape. There was a fair bit of wading, with plenty of underwater rocks to trip the unwary, but I managed to stay on my feet and avoid dunking the survey notes in the streamway. Jason was less fortunate and at one point stepped into a hidden plunge pool, disappearing from view. By this time, my body tiredness had evaporated with the excellence of the caving. My brain, however, was still suffering from lack of sleep so I swapped the note-taking and sketching role with Michael who, at one stage, fell flat on his face in the streamway but still somehow managed to keep the survey notes completely out of the water.

After two and a half hours, we had surveyed for a kilometre to a junction. The left-hand branch continued for 50 m to an apparent sump. Here, Brett negotiated a short duck with a few centimetres of airspace, followed by the rest of us. On the other side, a passage, similar in dimensions to the one we had been following, continued on. Then the streamway became extremely slow going. The mud just below the surface of the water was, quite literally, crutch deep! Eventually, after 400 m, the roof began to lower and the passage became extremely squalid, filled with coconuts, bits of bamboo, assorted items of footwear, and what looked suspiciously like toilet paper. Presumably, there was a village somewhere upstream. We decided to mark a point on the wall and surveyed back along the now-named 'Cholera Infestine' to the junction which was the end of our earlier survey. We were

finally out of the cave after a five and a half hour trip, just in time for an evening meal organised by the rest of our group at a little stall in a nearby village. Fried fish, was followed by something very much like a mild Thai curry, and deep fried tapioca (surprisingly tasty!) – an excellent end to an excellent day. The other party found what was thought might be a top entrance to Umbel Tuk – possibly the other end of the Cholera Infestine. They also found a small 100 m through-cave nearby.

The following day, Derek, Michael and Ann-Marie continued the exploration of Umbel Tuk while the rest of us took photos and some video footage there. Seeing the cave illuminated by Jason's 100 W video light gave a proper appreciation of just how splendid and massive the various draperies and gour dams really are.

Meanwhile, the three explorers continued surveying from just before the duck through to the Cholera Infestine, but this time heading up the right-hand branch. After 600 m of stream passage, they came to where the roof lowered abruptly to within 10 cm of the water. Michael floated through on his back, followed by the others. The airspace was 10 cm for the first 20 m, then a bit higher, then came a few more sections of 10 cm airspace with the rest 15-20 cm until, after 120 m, they came to a junction. Another 50 m of crawling with low airspace followed before they finally arrived at the end of the IRS (Infinite Roof Sniff), where they explored another 300 m of streamway and 100 m of fossil passage before turning back. The whole of this streamway (Gua Semurop) was surveyed the next day through to a top entrance.

It was now Sunday, July the 3rd. Before returning to the cave to continue exploration, however, we first had a public relations duty to perform. Dodik (a Javanese Christian) had persuaded Ann-Marie, not only to accompany him to his local church in the morning, but also to make a speech and sing a song! The rest of us (minus the expedition atheist) went along for moral (and in Lucinda's case - vocal) support. The service included heaps of singing, and a very vigorous sermon of which I understood exactly two words, 'Allah' (God) and 'Orang' (person). The words for the hymns (accompanied by guitar and drums) were displayed on an overhead projector, and the sermon was also illustrated with this aid. It was a bit like a Uni lecture, only with considerably more enthusiasm. Ann-Marie, accompanied by Lucinda went up to the front half way through, Ann-Marie read a little speech written by Dodik, and then she and Lucinda sang their song. I don't know how they managed it! I hid up the back with the rest of the group, trying to look inconspicuous.

Following the service, we returned to the cave and split into three groups. Ann-Marie and Derek went on a surface reconnaissance, while Michael, Jason and Lucinda entered Umbel Tuk to try and complete the survey of all of the passages beyond the IRS. Brett and I were dropped off at a third location – a local village with a cave entrance (Gua Rawa) nearby. This entrance was used as a washing area by the local villagers and was thought to connect to Umbel Tuk.

The entrance was truly disgusting, with revolting slimy mud and mud banks everywhere. After 120 m or so, the stream poured through a small hole and down a cascade. Then followed approximately 250 m of 8-10 m wide streamway, with one metre deep mud just below the water in places, much thicker than in the Cholera Infestine, and difficult to extricate your legs from once you'd been standing in the one spot taking notes for a few minutes. Eventually we reach a particularly squalid section which looked very much like the Cholera Infestine. Three men from the village who had accompanied us on the way in, halted just before a spot where the airspace above the stream lowered almost to the water – apparently convinced that the cave ended here. Brett and I went ahead, and after two or three more survey legs, there was the final survey point we had marked on the wall of the Cholera Infestine on our first day in Umbel Tuk.

Trying to explain to our entourage what we intended to do next was not easy. At first we shook hands – they headed back the way we had come while we carried on ahead. Then after about 30 seconds, they changed their minds and followed after us. Once on the other side of the duck, I pointed downstream while repeating 'Umbel Tuk' and with a bit of miming managed to get across that we were going upstream for several hours. We shook hands again and this time parted for good, the local lads heading out to the Umbel Tuk entrance. I think this was the first time they had done the through trip – and they might well have been the first to do so.

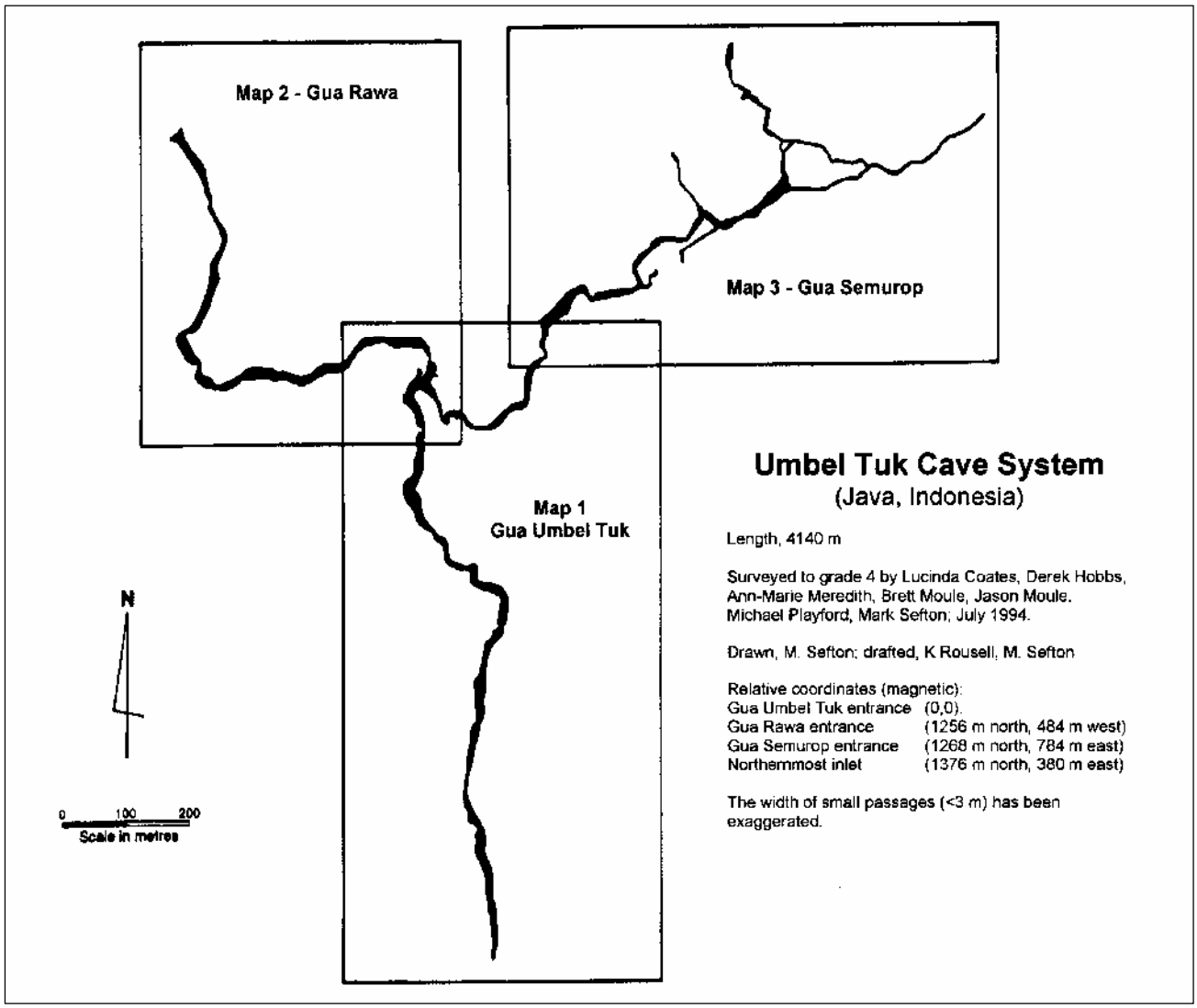
Brett and I soon reached the far end of the IRS, where we met the other group finishing their lunch, having surveyed all but one of the sections of fossil passage. After lunch they headed off to complete this survey, while Brett and returned to survey the side branch in the IRS. It was all low squalid crawling in muddy streamway, and difficult to keep the notebook dry. Halfway along, the others joined us, having quickly finished their final section. 120 m from the IRS, we reach The Orgy Room, a small chamber full of mud and water, barely high enough to sit up in. Jason pushed on through a tight continuation, but it was too tight for the rest of us. After an hour, he returned, having reached the bottom of a 5 m pitch seen from the fossil passage, something for one final trip.

So far, we had surveyed almost four kilometres of passage, with Jason's crawl/ walk from the Orgy Room to the 5 m pitch, and whatever lay beyond still to do. The traverses from the top entrances of Gua Semurop and Gua Rawa to the Umbel Tuk resurgence are approximately 2.5 km and 1.8 km respectively.

Two weeks later, on the final caving day of the expedition, Michael and Jason returned to Gua Semurop for a final survey – 100 m of passage heading upstream from the base of the 5 m pitch to a tiny inlet. The connection through to the Orgy Room proved too awkward to survey. In the intervening fortnight, we had investigated an area to the east at Pronojiwo (Gua Tetes) where there is a massive tufa deposit (but no major caves), and then spent a productive period investigating dozens of significant caves in a patch of limestone near Watulimo. But that's another story for another day.

Mark Sefton
August 2007

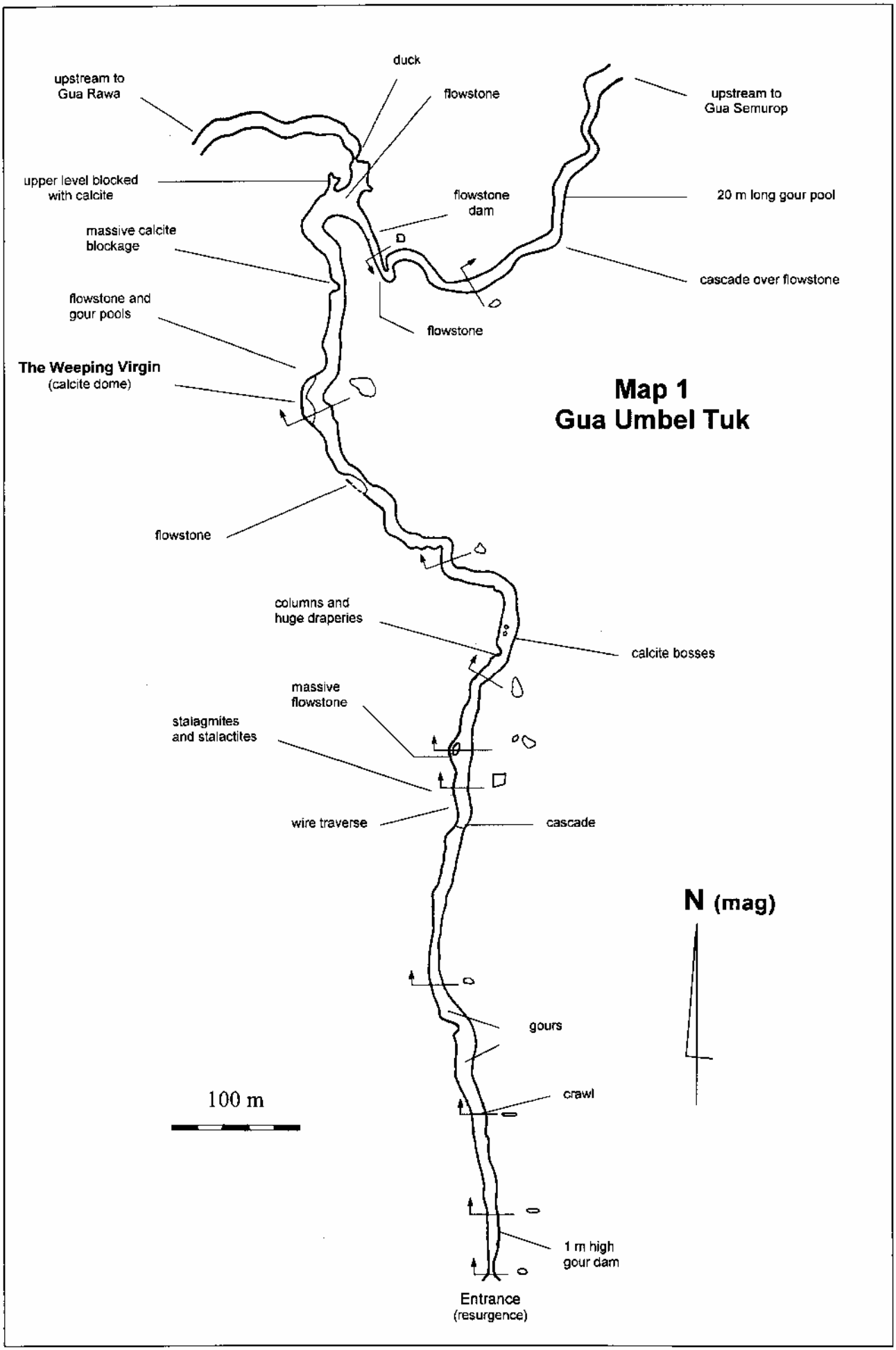
Reference.
Coates, L. and Playford, M. (1995) Expeditioning the tropics. *MUCG Raker* Nr 5, pp 33-43.



Cave Description: Umbel Tuk Cave System

Summary:
Three caves - Gua Semurop, Gua Rawa and Gua Umbel Tuk - are linked by low ducks (passable in the dry season) to form a 4.14 km system. The development is simple, with surface streams sinking at the Gua Rawa and Semurop entrances and resurging at Umbel Tuk. Fossil passages are limited, and confined to Gua Semurop.

Location:
The cave system is situated south of Blitar, Eastern Java, approximately 4-5 km south-east of the Trisula Monument and 2-3 km from the coast.


duck
upstream to Gua Rawa
flowstone
upstream to Gua Semurop
upper level blocked with calcite
flowstone dam
20 m long gour pool
massive calcite blockage
cascade over flowstone
flowstone and gour pools
flowstone
The Weeping Virgin (calcite dome)
Map 1
Gua Umbel Tuk
flowstone
columns and huge draperies
calcite bosses
massive flowstone
stalagmites and stalactites
wire traverse
cascade
N (mag)
gours
100 m
crawl
1 m high gour dam
Entrance (resurgence)

Gua Umbel Tuk (Map 1):

The first kilometre of this fine stream cave (sometimes spelt 'Umbul Tuk') is typically 10-15 m wide and 10 m high. When visited in 1994, there was a car park and a shelter at the entrance from which the stream resurges. At that time, adventure tours, were regularly conducted by local guides equipped with hurricane lamps. According to a recent tourism website (http://www.petra.ac.id/eastjava/cities/blitar/tourobj/tuk_cave.htm), it is now very popular in the school holiday season.

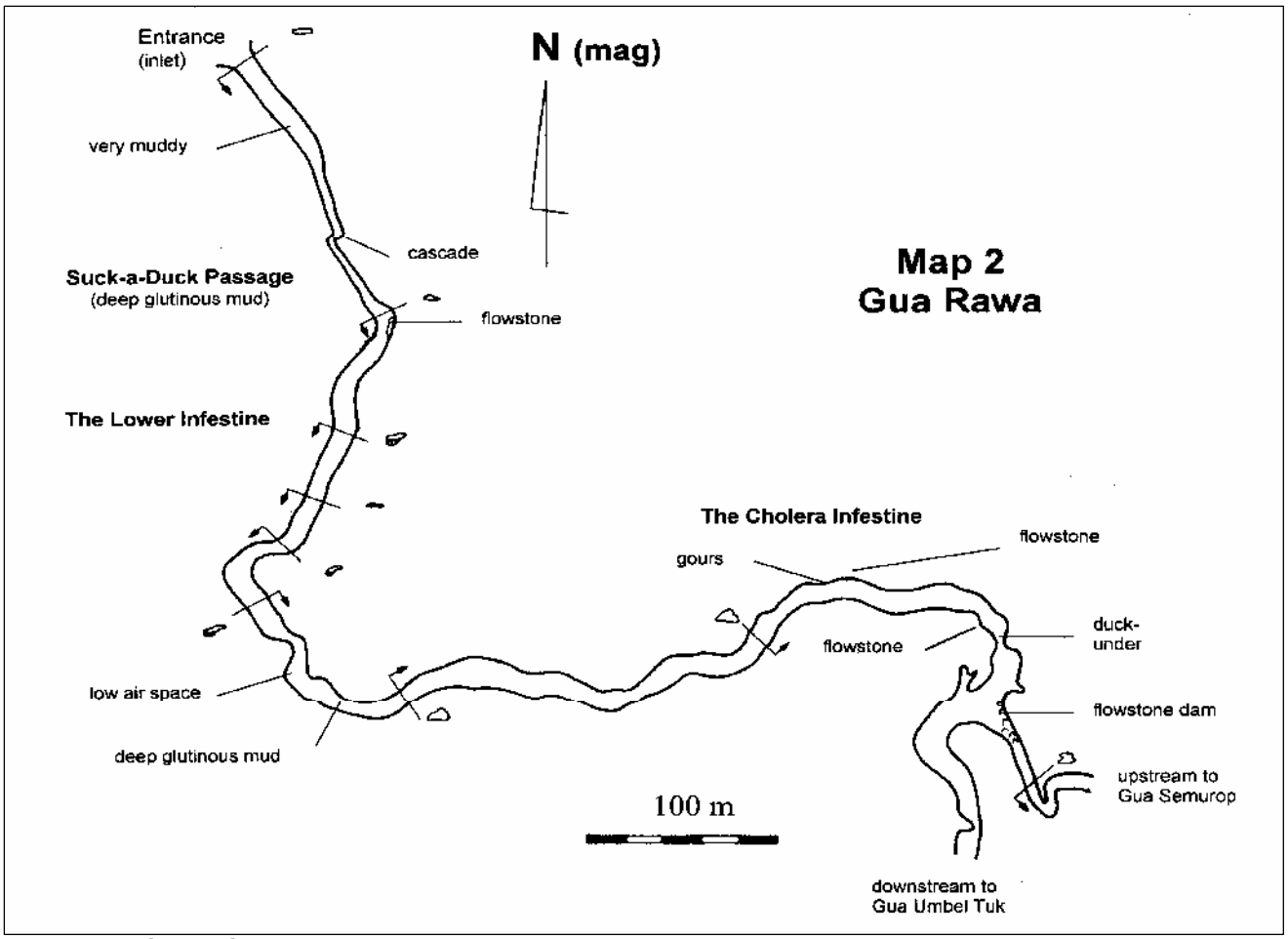
The first 150 m is low, with a 1 m high cascade over flowstone approximately 40 m from the entrance. The cave then opens up to easy walking past numerous gour pools on the passage floor. At 350 m from the entrance, a wire traverse (installed by the local community) on the left-hand wall assists around a swim.

The passage continues for 600 m, past several splendid displays of massive flowstone and draperies. 'The Weeping Virgin' is a 12 m high half-dome of calcite with water flowing down in rhythmical pluses. It is followed by 80 m of continuous gour pools, ending at a massive flow of pure white calcite which almost blocks the passage.

Shortly after, the passage forks. This is the confluence of the Gua Rawa and Gua Semurop streamways. To the left, the passage appears to end at a sump pool, but a short duck with 10 cm of air space through a narrow connection allows access to the continuation beyond - the downstream end of Gua Rawa (see below).

From the confluence, the right-hand passage is gained by a swim to a flowstone dam. Easy walking passage continues for a further 600 m, past cascades, pools and gours. Then a short fossil passage, which ends at a calcite choke after 50 m, enters from the right. Fifty metres beyond the start of this fossil passage, the roof of the streamway lowers abruptly.

This is the downstream end of the 'Infinite Roof Sniff' (IRS) - a 170 m long duck which leads through to Gua Semurop. The airspace, for the first 20 m, is 10-15 cm high, opening up a little for the next 100 m. A low inlet passage (see below) enters on the left-hand (northern) side – two-thirds of the way along the IRS. Beyond this point, the IRS becomes more of a wet crawl than a duck.

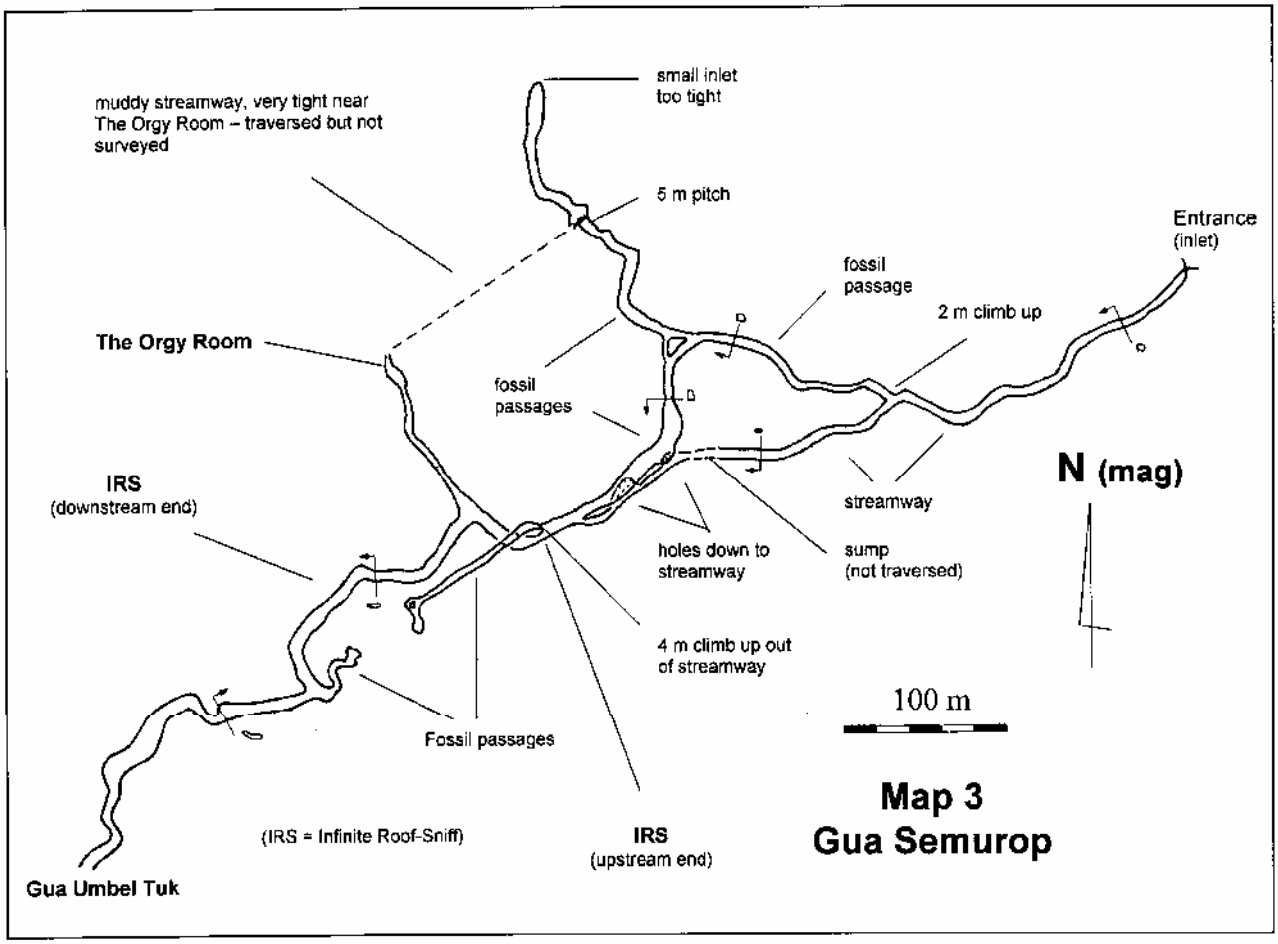


Gua Rawa (Map 2):

The inlet entrance takes an active stream, which was used for washing and cleaning by local villagers. The 100 m long entrance passage is large and covered with thick black mud and rotting vegetation.

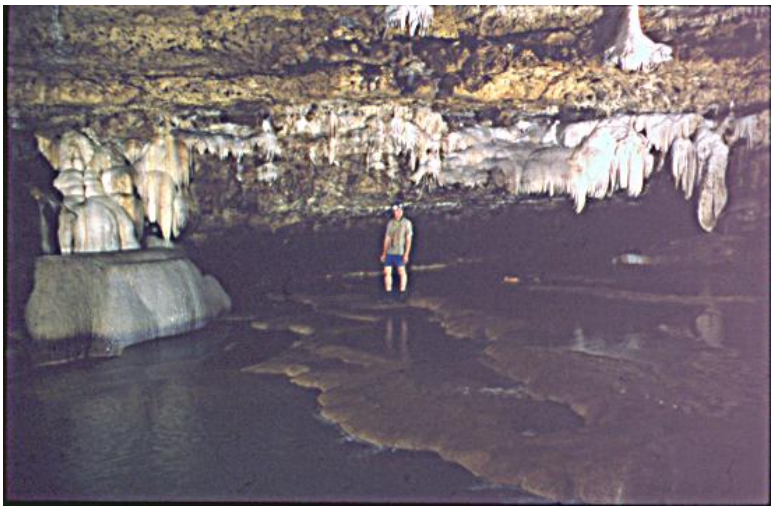
At the end of this entrance passage, the streamway pours through a 1 m wide hole and down a short cascade. This is the start of 'The Lower Infestine'. Traversing the first section ('Suck-a-Duck') entails wading in deep, glutinous mud covered by shallow water. Eventually the going becomes more pleasant - walking, wading and, occasionally, swimming along a 15 m wide, 8-10 high stream passage with some flowstone.

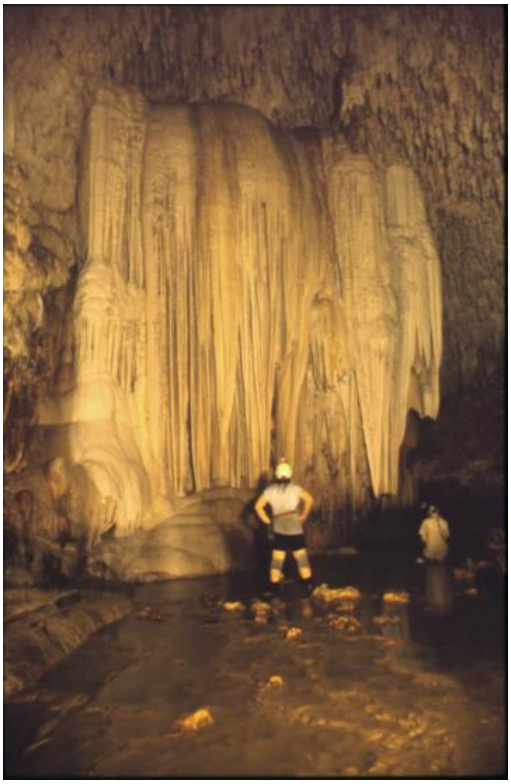
Five hundred metres from the entrance, the roof becomes lower. At this point, the water was full of rotting bamboo, assorted floating footwear and even bits of tissue paper. This is the start of 'The Cholera Infestine'. The mud below the surface of the water is hip deep, but fine enough to make progress possible, albeit painfully slow.
The next 400 m of passage is, again, typically 15-20 m wide and becomes easier going further downstream, where there are several large displays of flowstone. It ends at the duck through to Gua Umbel Tuk.



Gua Semurop (Map 3):
The upstream entrance is a small doline in a corner of a paddy field. A short down-climb leads to a boulder-strewn walking sized passage. After 250 m, a fossil passage enters from the right-hand (north-west) side. A hundred metres beyond this point, the streamway becomes low, terminating at a sump.
The way on is via the fossil passage, which is followed for 150 m to a junction. The left-hand branch leads past another passage on the right-hand side to a point where it widens to 15 m across. Two climbs down to the streamway are passed before the fossil passage finally rejoins the stream just before the upstream end of the IRS. At this point, a 4 m climb up on the right-hand side leads to 100 m of fossil passage, which terminates in a chamber.
The right-hand fossil passage, which enters the main fossil bypass 400 m from the Gua Semurop entrance, can be followed NNW for 100 m to a five metre pitch down to a small streamway. Upstream leads, after 100 m, to a calcite blockage. The water enters through a tiny inlet at floor level. Downstream from the base of the pitch, the stream passage is easy walking for 30 m, but then becomes a crawl which is awkward and constricted towards the end. The streamway enters a small, low, muddy chamber ('The Orgy Room') and continues as a low, muddy crawl, emerging approximately 120 m from the downstream end of the IRS.
The Gua Semurop streamway presumably once flowed via the fossil bypass and a fossil passage which can be entered on either side of the IRS but which has now become choked in the middle. The modern streamway has abandoned this route, instead flowing for much of the way via low, wet passages such as the IRS and the sump. A subsidiary streamway, which might once have been larger than the main streamway, presumably entered the latter at what is now a fossil passage junction, but has since been captured by the passage leading to and from The Orgy Room.

Ann-Marie Meredith, Lucinda Coates, Derek Hobbs, Brett Moule, Jason Moule, Michael Playford, Mark Sefton
(Description current at July 1994)





Scenes of Main Streamway in GUA UMBEL TUK Cave in Eastern Java, Indonesia. Photos by Mark Sefton

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Trip Reports From General Meetings

August

- Grant Gartrell reported that **Sellicks Hill Cave** was now three inches (75mm) deeper!...
- Ken Smith reported on a trip to **Florida** in May, when he attended the NSS-CDS workshop and along with other **Kija Blue** divers was awarded a heavy limestone "Exploration Award" plaque!

October

Chris Gibbons presented a verbal report on Ray Gibbons and Peter Ackroyd's Nullarbor exploits – a very gruelling but productive experience with lots of new caves being found etc. Chris has a detailed report which she will put into Records separately.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Members

A Greg Bulling 8706 8 Durbridge Court ST AGNES SA 5097
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A Stuart Reedman 0705 5/27 Broad Street MARDEN SA 5070
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MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES become due on January 1st AND ARE NOW PAYABLE. To ensure continuity of membership and privileges (particularly insurance) please pay before the due date.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2008 YEAR

Full Membership	$ 51.00
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 2008 YEAR

Single	$ 68.00
Family	121.50
3 Month Introductory	20.00
Student	61.00
Journal Subscription	25.00

2008 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	$51.00	$68.00	$119.00
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

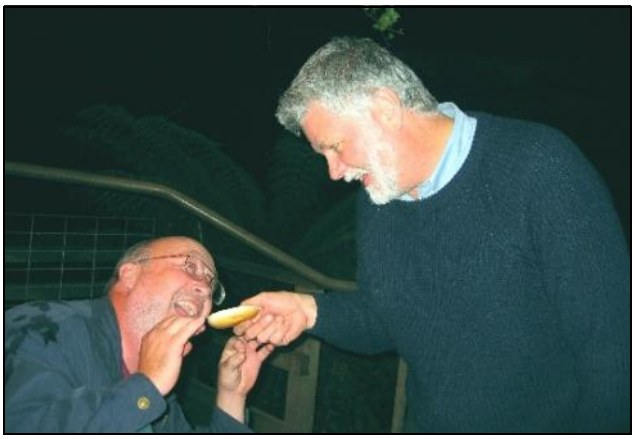
Please make sure your payment of fees includes CEGSA and ASF, if applicable.

Chris Gibbons
Treasurer/Membership Officer

CEGSA Fossils Recently Sighted in Mount Gambier!

by fossiliferous CEGSA member Peter Puddles Horne

With the sun finally shining between the wonderful rains after such a long drought, an amazing variety of native South Aussie critters have recently begun to come out of hibernation in the lower south east of South Australia. In some instances, many have not been seen together "in the wild" for a very long time. Warm sunshine and blue skies are also ideal conditions for *Homocavernous siltoutus* (a.k.a. The Cave Diver), because these are ideal conditions to be crawling into and out of wetsuits and "drysuits" (which are often really just glorified, expensive wetsuits anyway!).



Post-drought feeding of those disgusting nocturnal "puddles possums" at Umpherston's Cave!

Recently, Richard "Hairy Harry" Harris reported that whilst decompressing with sixteen scuba cylinders of quadmix strapped around his neck some 20m down the shotline in Kilsbys Hole, he and his dive buddies were treated to the rare spectacle of two of CEGSA's (barely) "living fossils", namely ***Hornus maximus puddlesii*** and ***Ianus Lewydeflyi***, flittering here and there around the main entrance cavern, scurrying from wall to wall and apparently looking for a perch or trout and observing wall joints and geological thingys, as well as zipping about laying and winding-in lines and stuff like that … all very scientific (but with very little actually being achieved)!

Dr Hairy thinking "Did I REALLY put my TANK on UPSIDE-DOWN?? You're KIDDING, right?!"

Unfortunately for Dr Hairy, these two rascals moved too fast for him to be able to get any underwater photos, but he did manage to catch them later, in various unguarded moments as they frolicked in the sun and squalls and cow pats and mud (see accompanying photos)! This just goes to disprove those nasty, nasty rumours which have been circulating for some time that neither of these individuals is active in any sense these days; just because they were both using 1970s dive gear just goes to prove how reliable it all was back then!…

Grant “Piercin’ Scream” Pearce and Lewy enjoying the squalls between dives at Kilsbys

Grant really loves Mount Gambier weather!!

Trudging gear back after a survey dive.

Only Lewy could ask, “Rain? WHAT rain?”

Rare shot of bright sunshine at Kilsbys.

And, just as “oils ain’t oils”, there’s fossils and then there’s FOSSILS (the nick-name for Fossil Cave, 5L81 on the highway near Tantanoola Caves, between Millicent and Mount Gambier). This feature, known also by a plethora of other more mundane (even nonsensical) titles such as The Green Waterhole, Green Waterhole Cave and Greenwater Hole Cave *ad nauseum*, was **formerly** numbered “S-123” by CEGSA and was **formally** allocated the official name of “Fossil Cave” by the Geographical Names Board back on 4 May 1989 (South Australian Government Gazette, page 1215 – thanks for the info, Kev!) at my personal suggestion because of the thousands of cave divers who know the feature only by this (more appropriate) title, and because it had been long named thusly in various caving and diving papers and articles.

Having spent many dozens of hours head down and bum up digging through the metres-deep silt in Fossil Cave, I hold this unique little feature in special regard, and when Adelaide University’s fossil bird expert Trevor Worthy recently went through old fossil notes and asked me to undertake further explorations of a site in Fossil Cave near a tag which had been placed there some 30-odd years ago by F.W. Aslin *et al* during the earliest palaeo recovery projects at this site, I virtually leapt at the chance!

Some of the recent Fossil Cave Crew – myself, Neville Skinner, Ian Lewis and Mark Nielsen.

Discussing the complicated diving plans for the day with Supervisor Lewy *("Mfflmfflll, what would you like from the shop?" "AAAagmphlghgggmmmph, some soup bones or a Thylacine tibia would be noice!" "OOOOoo! I'd better fall in da WATER den!")*

Earlier work by cave divers Graham McKenzie and Brian Brawley in the mid-1960s was followed in the late 1970s by Dr Rod Wells (Flinders University) who ran a project at the site during which cave divers used sledge-hammers to knock large stardropper survey posts into various boulders and slopes in the cave so they could systematically survey the site and record bone material etc which they found in the various sectors.

Around 8 years later in 1986-'87, a group of colleagues and I established the South Australian Underwater Speleological Society Inc. to carry on this work with a new team of divers including another well-known CEGSA fossil, Terry ("Tear-arse/Batman") Reardon, and we utilized this same survey grid to both map the flooded cave and collect many thousands of additional important bones for Wellsy. So it was largely because of this background that I dusted off my moulding cave diving gear and borrowed a few nice creature-comforts such as scuba cylinders and backpacks and vests and drysuit etc so I could once again hop into Mount Gambier's inviting 14-degree water!

Dave Albone, er Abalone, er, Albano and Peter Puddles going bone hunting: Dave was co-owner of Adelaide Scuba dive shop at Hove, Adelaide, and very kindly provided a lot of gear to enable me to get wet again!!

Let me tell you, it is no easy feat clambering down the unstable and steep entrance whilst overheating in an oversized drysuit and while wearing twin scuba cylinders and having an aching old body etc etc! But once in the water it was like being at home – and fortunately there were other (newby) CEGSA cave divers there to help, too – Dave "Paddocks") Fielder, Andrea "Commissioner" Gordon ("*Gee, LOOK, there's BATMAN REARDON!!*"), Neville "Cheeky-chops" Skinner and Dave "Abalone" Albano, along with my old reliable dive buddy, Mark ("Markus Nielsenus") Nielsen. It was especially great to see so many CEGSA cavers actually visiting a REAL cave (ie the underwater

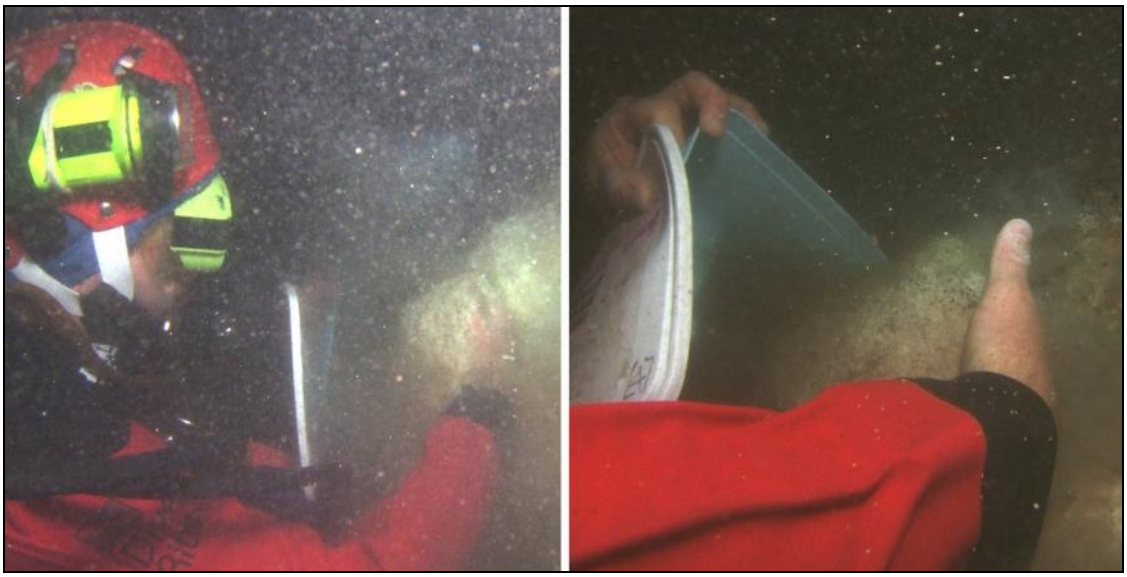
areas) for a change, and even long-time HCF (honourary CEGSA fossil) Lewy McEccles turned up to provide some welcome moral support and to supervise things as well as to let me borrow his yellow helmet-lights for the first dive.

Andrea looked so COOL in black rubber!!

Running in the main safety and surveying rope.

Tying off the main reference line while trying to avoid the silt – there was JUST enough rope on the spool!

Lewy “supervising” the dives (I swore I’d never publish this; I’m a dead man!…).



Some very scientific silt-collecting techniques were utilized.

Suspected Megafaunal KFC beak (bloody amateur cave-diving ‘palaeontologists’!…).

Possibly Chris Hales’s missing dentures, which he lost back in ’87??

A bone basket which was used to carry everything – note the $3 el-cheapo torch attached to the lid to help us find the cage when it slid down the rocks, out of view in zero-vis (a frequent occurrence)!

Triumphant return of the Cybermen (“God, not MORE damned tourists!! Oh wait, they’re scientists – so that’s alright then!…”)

Andrea and Dave – no bones about it!!!

The “normal” people in the doline, sorting our catch.

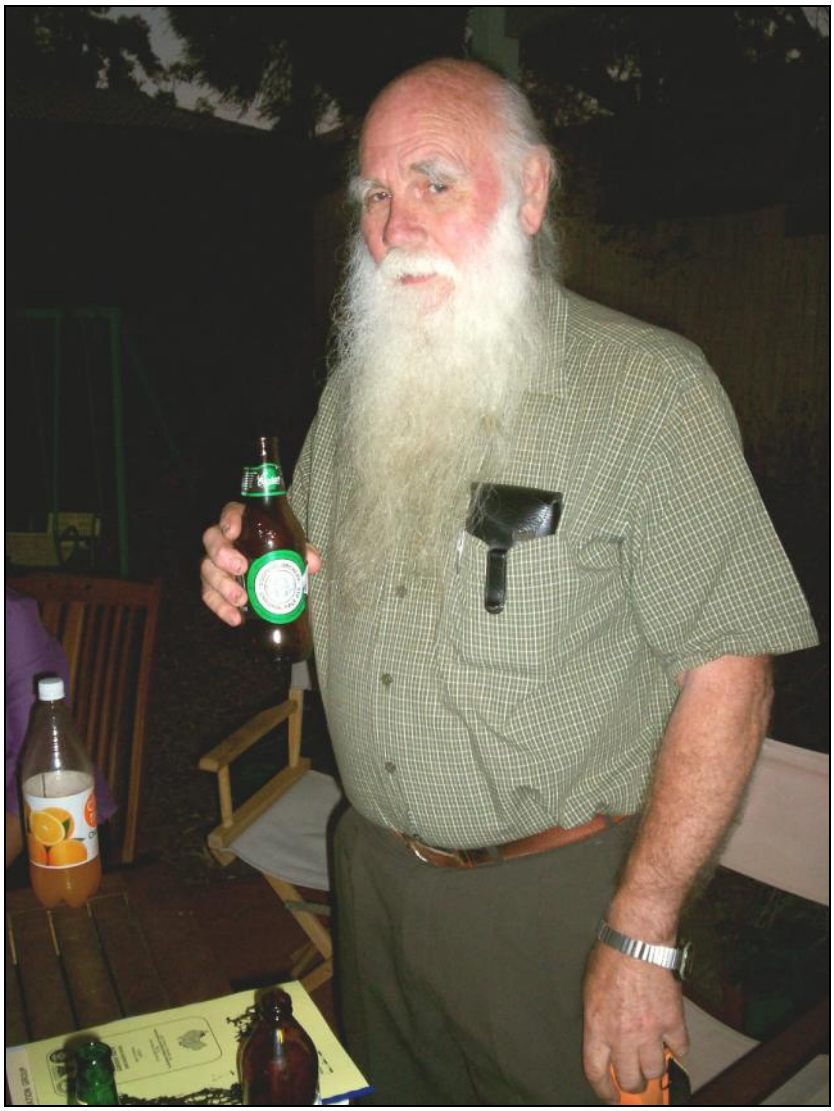
Ho hum, looks so bone-numbingly boring!…

The REAL story behind the nickname “Peter Puddles”?? Damned leaky drysuits! (Truly!) But I don’t know why the undergarment shed so much GREEN dye or why my dive buddies all ran away while I was changing!…

My more recent exploits in Kilsbys as mentioned above involved paddling around the deeper areas of the cavern, running out tapes and retrieving old lines while Lewy assisted by singing and talking to himself so loudly underwater that I could hear him from 10 metres away – not a nice experience at that depth! But Ian and I really did have a beaut time together in Kilsbys!

So there you have it, a synopsis of the recent goings-on of some of CEGSA's current cave diving members – and I haven't even begun to write about what others like Terry Reardon, Chris Hales and Tim Payne etc have done in the past as well. It's nice to be useful, even as a fossil!

(Many thanks to the various photographers whose efforts appear in this little article-thingy, too, especially Harry Harris, Neville Skinner, Athol Jackson, Mark Nielsen and Dave Fielder … and of course, ME, since I took a lot of them too!!….)



"Hmmm, I think it's all very silly, actually!" (our beloved Newsletter Editor, Athol, contemplating whether or not to publish this article.)

Some other recent CEGSA fossil-ings….

Nev Skinner and myself trying out the new “3D dive goggles” provided to everyone at the 2007 ASF Conference in Mount Gambier; I was just about to demonstrate to Nev how to stop them from fogging up!

Three very rare CEGSA fossils together at Naracoorte – meself, Kevin (“Sphagnum Moss”) Mott, and Lewy deFly (Mottly’s name tag says “Ttom Nivek” because that way he can remember how to say and spell his name – he only needs to look down)!

CEGSA Policy on Karst Data Supply 10th Aug 2007

Requests for data

Unless a request specifies what is wanted in writing and is signed and delivered to the CEGSA Committee, the Group has no obligation to respond to a request. However, the Group should make an effort to respond to all requests, including where necessary, help in defining the request.

Obligation to supply data

CEGSA is not required to supply data unless directed to do so by law. The Constitution states that CEGSA is to foster speleology and cooperate with others in doing this. The implication is that there is an obligation to supply data if it does not conflict with other Constitutional requirements such as preserving caves.

Responsibility for response to requests

The CEGSA Committee has delegated the responsibility to respond to all requests for data to the Records Officer. The Records Officer is, however, under no obligation to use this delegation and can refer any request back to the Committee and must do so when the request has wider implications.

Confidentiality

Access to all data is limited unless it is already in the public domain. On submission of data to Records, a person can specify the minimum level of confidentiality. The Records Officer can on their own discretion increase the level of confidentiality requested but cannot lower it without approval of the person submitting the data. The Committee can allow distribution (in response to a specific request) or change the category of any data (except for Confidential class when it needs approval from the person who submitted the data). Data can be classed as:

Public: available to anyone

CEGSA: available to CEGSA members on the understanding that it is not distributed outside of the Group.

Restricted: available only on approval of Committee. The Committee has delegated the power of approval to Records Officers to be used at their discretion. Most data falls into this class.

Confidential: available only on approval of the person who submitted the data. Data at this level automatically drops to Restricted level on the death or disappearance of the submitter. If requested, the data can be held in a sealed package to be viewed only on the death of the submitter, otherwise the Records Officer is allowed to view the data but must never disclose the contents.

Landowner: available to land owners and managers for karst features on the land that they manage. It is up to the landowner to decide whether or not and how to distribute the data (without breaching copyright). This level of confidentiality is additional to all others and can be selectively applied.

Sometimes a set of data can be selectively classed. For instance, a cave map may be released with selected internal features removed.

Distribution of data

The Records Officer is responsible for the distribution of data. Only copies should be sent, and if data are Restricted or Confidential it should be sent in such a manner that only the intended recipient is likely to obtain access to it.

Security of data

Original data can only be supplied when it is absolutely necessary to do so – such as for making copies for Records – and never for casual use, even if it is the only copy available. Original material should never be sent by mail unless a copy is made first.

Original data are to be housed as far as possible out of environmental harm (moisture, heat, cold, drafts, etc). Copies are to be made of all valuable data and housed at a separate location to the originals. The second location must not be used for suppling data unless approved by the Records Officer or Committee. Normally, Confidential data will not be copied.

Acknowledgement and the use of data in publications

CEGSA gives permission for data supplied by the Group to be used in publications. When a publication uses data supplied by CEGSA, an acknowledgement must be made to CEGSA as the source, and to the author of the item (writer, photographer, surveyor, artist, etc). Data passed on to others must include this proviso.

When publishing data, careful consideration must be given to the possible impact of the publication on cave and karst features. Locational information should be removed or degraded unless necessary for scientific reference; this includes descriptive locations and references to nearby localities. A remote location may be kept accurate, but attractive features (native artefacts, fossils, speleothems, etc) should not be referenced.

Graham Pilkington

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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.

CEGSA's Karst Numbering Scheme

CEGSA mostly follows the Australian Speleological Federation's KID karst numbering scheme (first invented and used by Alan Hill of CEGSA) but has adapted it to suit our style of cave and the way we currently do things in CEGSA. For the ASF KID details and aspects not covered in this article, look up the ASF website.

I'll cover the essentials here but not all the possibilities. Karst numbering is based on the concept that each entrance (or cave/karst surface feature) has a unique code. For CEGSA, a feature does not have to be the entrance to a cave, or if an entrance, then enterable. To make it easier to prevent the code being duplicated, or at least reduce duplication to an extremely unlikely event, the code is made up of 5 parts:

First comes the **Country** code (AU for Australia – this is absent in the ASF KID, but we record data from overseas countries.

Second is the **State** code (5 for South Australia – the same as our postcode).

Third is the **Area** code (such as "A" for the Adelaide area)

Fourth is the identifying **Number** within that area and usually allocated in sequential chronological order from 1. It is separated from the **Area** code by a hyphen in the ASF standard because the ASF allows numerical characters within the **Area** section. Because CEGSA **Area** codes never contain numbers, we can unambiguously drop the hyphen but usually put one in for publication to match the Australian standard.

And last is the numerical **Feature** identifier (FID) for the above, separated from the **Number** by a dot. In usage, FID=1 for the main feature or entrance. After that, any ID not already used can be allocated. FID is not used in the ASF KID. If no FID is noted, then FID=1 is implied.

For example, the largest entrance to Blackberry Cave at the Naracoorte Caves Reserve has the code

Country	**State**	**Area**	**Number**	**Feature**
AU	5	U	8	1

written as AU5U-8.1 in casual usage we abbreviate Blackberry Cave to "U8". Blackberry Cave actually has 3 entrances. Feature U8.2 is the pipe entrance about 100m east of U8.1, also known as U9. U8.3 is the small roofhole on the north-west corner of entrance U8.1 [see photo U-8.3 @030 from 2m].

U-8.3 @030 from 2m

Within the CEGSA KID (KIDSA), a management concept called a "Region" is employed to cluster together one or more Country-State-Areas for ease of operation of CEGSA Records. For instance, Region "3" is used for all **Area** codes within Victoria. Within South Australia, the KIDSA Regions correspond to the CEGSA Regions which are the **Area** codes for the ASF.

A major difference in usage of **Area** codes between ASF and CEGSA is that we add an "X" to the **Area** code for temporary codes. That is, for features that we do not have enough information on to allocate a code to. For instance, the feature might already be known and coded. The ASF add the "X" to the identifying **Number**. The Region concept gathers all the "X" (and other codes) together. For instance, **Area**=N for the Nullarbor, **Area**=NX for Nullarbor temporary numbers, and **Area**=NXK for "points of interest" seen by Ken Boland during his airborne cave searches of the Nullarbor. All of these are in Region "N". Note that a single Nullarbor code is used for both sides of the border hence the **State** code is not consistent for **Area** "N". Because of this, within KIDSA, the **State** code is stored against each **Number**.

Another use of the Region concept is to gather all **Area** codes together that are managed by one organization or by one person. Because the KIDSA Region is not part of the unique identifier, it can be altered dynamically without affecting the published codes.

On handing data over to the ASF and others, we strip off the **Country** (not stored by the ASF KID but implied by the ASF's use of the **State** code); do not send any temporary codes (to eliminate the discrepancy in the way temporary codes are handled, and anyway, the ASF KID should only have confirmed features); and only supply information on **Feature**=1 (the main feature, which also describes any cave attached to that **Number**). There are a few instances of independent caves having the same **Number** but different **Feature** IDs. Unfortunately, the ASF does not get those.

The reason that we use the **Feature** concept is that it enables us to completely describe a cluster of close features without having to give each one a **Number**. For example, Nullarbor blowholes often come in clusters separated by a few metres but all within the same defined doline that itself is surrounded by a shallow soil-erosion depression. CEGSA gives the whole feature the same State-Area-Number and then each blowhole gets a **Feature** number as does the doline and the depression. Eg, the largest blowhole might be FID=1, the second blowhole FID=2, the third blowhole FID=3, and the doline FID=4. Each feature can then be described independently using the same database entry form and the data stored in the same relational tables. [see photo N-2900 @245 from 7m].

N-2900 @245 from 7m

Another example of clustering features into one **Number** is Monbulla Cave, L-5, in the Lower South East. We have 38 features (mostly entrances) noted for this cave ranging from about 9x4m down to fist-sized. One of these entrances, L-5.37 is also numbered L-21 which was not originally known to be part of L-5 (when no FID is given, then FID=1 is implied if using L-21 as an entrance code). Features are allocated to the same Area-Number when they are entrances into the same cave; exist within the same surface feature (such as caves off a doline); or are trivial but close to the numbered feature (such as a small shallow doline a few metres away, or a rockhole in the limestone pavement surrounding a blowhole).

Note that the cave code has no FID because features are surface/entrance identifiers. All cave passage associated with all the features of the **Number** are treated as one cave. If significant but unconnected cave passage exists from separate features, then each would be given a **Number**. The lowest **Number** allocated for all entrances into a cave, is the code used for the cave, even if that entrance cannot be used to gain access. If an entrance is mistakenly given a second **Number**, then the numerically lower **Number** is used and the other **Number** never reused. Any request within KIDSA for information on the higher **Number** will automatically be redirected to the "correct" **Number**, treating the second code as an alternative code to the same feature just as we do in absorbing none-ASF codes (such as the Nullarbor "QW" codes of Quartermaine-Wheeler).

Graham Pilkington

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Cave Exploration Group (S.A.) Inc. will be held at Graham Pilkington's residence at 41 Lindsay Avenue, Valley View on Saturday 9th February 2008 at 7.00pm. This will follow a BYO barbecue and social afternoon from 3.00pm. All committee positions will become vacant so now is your chance to become involved in the operation of the group or have your say in who looks after your interests. Come along and have a good time with your fellow cavers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
28/11/07	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
01/12/07	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
12/12/07	Committee Meeting	TBA	
		No General Meeting in December.	
		WHERE	
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		XMAS-	
		NEW	
		YEAR	
		TRIPS	
09/01/08	Committee Meeting	TBA	
23/01/08	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Caving Video	
23/01/08	**Annual Report**	Reports due for the Annual Report	Athol Jackson
26/01/08	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
09/02/08	**AGM**	41 Lindsay Ave Valley View	Graham Pilkington
13/02/08	Committee Meeting	TBA	
13/02/08	**CEGSA NEWS**	Articles for Newsletter due **PLEASE**	Athol Jackson
27/02/08	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
01/03/08	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/04/08	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 an * 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.