

CEGSA NEWS



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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

PO Box 144, Rundle Mall, 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: Caving party in Punyelroo Cave.

Photo: Stuart Reedman.

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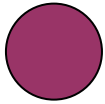
QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 for Volume 54 Number 3 (Issue 215) is Wednesday **12th AUGUST 2009**. 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. Do not embed photos in text; send as separate files with notes where to put photos. Photos are preferred to be in colour (jpg format). Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted.

The views expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc., its Committee or the Editor.



PRESIDENTS SPOT

Most long term members of CEGSA would be well aware that, while our membership numbers remain relatively static and many of us still go caving, the average age of our membership marches inexorably upwards. Whereas we once had a small but steady intake of enthusiasts from the ranks of the scouting movement or from universities, this source of new members has all but completely dried up in recent times. This is certainly not a phenomenon that affects CEGSA alone. Most Australian and even overseas clubs are similarly affected, some much worse than ourselves. I used to go caving with a British university club in the late 70s and early 80s. This club not only organised regular meets into many of the classic caves and potholes in the Yorkshire Dales, but ran annual expeditions to Northern Spain where many major cave systems were discovered, explored and surveyed. Among these was what was, at the time, the deepest cave ever explored by a British expedition. Now that club has folded. At least one well known Australian university caving group that I used to cave with in more recent times also no longer exists. I have been going on annual expeditions to the Gregory National Park for the past 11 years and have watched the average age of our expedition membership move above the mid fifties. Inevitable, we will all grow to an age where we either fall off our perches, or are no longer able to continue caving. Then, if there is no new generation of cavers to carry on, CEGSA and clubs like it will die out.

We continually debate why it is that younger people no longer seem to be interested in outdoor activities such as caving. There are many possible reasons, including the attractions of an electronic age, a more demanding tertiary education system and liability concerns. No doubt you will be able to think of other possibilities.

A few weeks ago, I went on a club trip to Punyelroo cave. Very few 'old hands' came along; perhaps they saw nothing in this trip for themselves. Among the 14 attendees, however, were my older son (Murray) and seven of his friends, mostly in their early twenties, from his church group. The only reason they were there was because Murray had mentioned to them that I was a caver and they had expressed an interest in trying caving some time. Several more from his group had also expressed an interest but were unable to attend on that particular day. I had anticipated spending no more than a couple of hours in the cave, but Murray and his friends (and a couple of our younger members) spent so long pushing every lead to its bitter end that we were in the cave more than twice that time. Most had a great time and several indicated that they would like to have another go.

It's possible, even likely, that none of these young lads will become long-term cavers. But as I was driving back home at the end of the day, I began to wonder how many other dozens, or even hundreds of similar groups of young people were there around Adelaide who would have enjoyed the experience just as much but know nothing of CEGSA (or vice versa!). Perhaps the cupboard is not as bare as we might have imagined. Maybe it's time to put more effort into making ourselves better known to such people, through our website and by presenting talks to groups outside of CEGSA. Perhaps we also need to put aside some of our own pet projects for a while, instead providing new people with caving opportunities that are just plain fun.

Mark Sefton.

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REMINDER

Members are reminded that CEGSA will reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by members in catering to the operation of the Group, execution of Office bearer activities; and running Group functions. If the expense will be beyond the pre-approved budget, then it's suggested that the member get prior approval from the Committee or a General Meeting before expending the money.

The Committee

TRIP REPORTS

A Very Social Nullarbor Trip — March / April 2005

Trip dates: 28 March – 23 April 2005

Party: Peter Ackroyd and Ray Gibbons.
Introduction

On our previous trip in October 2004, Ray Gibbons and I had learned from Ceduna resident, Murray Collins, of an unnamed track that penetrated an otherwise little explored part of the Nullarbor. It took us from Koonalda Station to the Western Australian/South Australian border. We named this track the MC Track (Ackroyd, 2009).

We used the MC Track to locate a karst feature described by Harry Wheeler (QW-294) when he did a trip in April 1973. We tagged it N-990. We also attempted to find a very early karst feature, N-28, numbered but poorly described in 1960.

For this (April 2005) trip, we did more homework and were better prepared. We intended tracking down a few more of Wheeler's features and would attempt to find both N-28 and N-29.

Research

Arriving in Adelaide a few days prior to the trip, I spent an afternoon going through the original CEGSA records, finding reasonable location descriptions for N-28 and N-29 dating back to the 1960s. I also checked Wheeler's notes for the features he found during his solo crossing of the Nullarbor from Warbla Cave (N-1) north to the "Trans" railway line in April 1973. His journey followed the line taken by Farie and Woolley during their ill-fated journey of late 1878, so Wheeler was possibly looking for relics or signs of their remains.

Armed with this fresh information, Ray and I headed west on 27 March 2005 towards Ceduna, where we stayed the night with Max and Hennie Meth.

The Trip

The next morning, Max, the then Nullarbor Records Keeper, and I had a lengthy discussion about the new Nullarbor Karst Index database, which I and my wife had rebuilt from scratch.

Ray and I then drove west to Koonalda Station, which we reached by mid-afternoon. We found several members of the Gurney family in residence to whom we chatted for a while. Christine (née Gurney) is the daughter of Cyril Gurney. She last lived at Koonalda in about 1975 and had many memories of it as a working sheep station and highway fuel stop.

In the late afternoon, Ray and I set off to locate N-29. Using the data from a 1960 report in the CEGSA records, we located it almost straight away, once we had worked out which of the paddocks was the "New Paddock". It was the South Western paddock in the original Koonalda Station and, while it may have been new in 1960, it was now quite derelict.

Once we'd found N-29, I decided to explore this rather tight blowhole, resulting in a lengthy struggle to extricate myself. So, its new name is "Man Trap Blowhole". I tracked down the person who originally recorded this feature in 1960, Adrian Hunt (now living in Tasmania), and found that he remembered the trip, but not the precise locations. They were out there as part of a support party for Alexander Gallus' archaeological dig in Koonalda Cave. He recalled that they'd found six or seven features in the vicinity of Koonalda Station and that he was lowered down one of the blowholes by means of a rope. He stood in a foot loop on the end of the rope and, as he was lowered, had to hold one arm up, one arm down in order to fit (pers. comm. Adrian Hunt, 28 January 2009).

The next morning we commenced by fitting the Nullarbor wheel set (battered rims and rough tyres that already had a few plugs in them) to Ray's Holden Rodeo utility and setting up the computer data

files ready for another of our nomadic Nullarbor trips. We then headed north from N-29, going via some known features that required better GPS coordinates, and started searching for N-28. We had already spent many hours looking for this feature during a past trip (Ackroyd, 2009) but had not yet given up. This time, armed with the additional location information from the CEGSA records, we searched a slightly different area. After a six hour search we had found and tagged some minor karst features, but, alas, no blowhole.

The following day was warm (35°C), and we spent five more hours searching on foot for N-28. We found more minor features but still no blowhole. As we were becoming somewhat dehydrated, we finally decided to continue west along the MC Track to tackle our next target, the second blowhole logged by Harry Wheeler on his April 1973 trip.

On the way we photographed the inscribed blanking plate on the 1 m high remnant casing of a 1961 bore on the northern edge of the track. This inscription, with initials and dates, bears mute testimony to the determination of the early settlers to find water, somewhere, anywhere (see photo).



Blanking plate on bore KN-1, bearing the inscription "Drilled by KG. KN-1. 2-3-61." Note the GPS on the right.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 30 March 2005.

Having found Wheeler's first feature during our trip of October 2004 (ibid.), we felt confident in locating his second (QW-295) located "9.6 miles north". In the event, we ended up finding more than we expected. When we reached the spot, we headed to a cluster of spindly trees, mentioned by Wheeler in his report, and camped the night. The following morning I stumbled on the remains of an early 1970s style battery-powered radio.

I can only presume that Wheeler, on his solo trip, used the radio as company. At night, the AM band is alive with radio stations in the most remote parts of Australia, as the radio waves bounce off the upper atmosphere. Wheeler must have been a bit annoyed at losing it.

We subsequently located QW-295, tagging it N-942. Ray also looked around and found some dolines with draughting holes and small rockholes, all of which we tagged.

From this point we continued driving west, heading for the Western Australian border and crossing it on 1 April. On the morning of 2 April, we had quite a bit of rain (about 8mm), which made driving impossible. So, we simply put up the tarp and read books and did computer work until 2 pm, by which time the sun and wind had done their work and we were on our way again. Later in the afternoon we hit a hidden rock and severely dented the rim of the left rear wheel. It took some ingenuity, and two jacks, to get the wheel off and replaced by one of our five spares.



In situ remains of a battery-powered radio and battery found near N-942 — presumed to be Harry Wheeler's (GPS on right).

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 1 April 2005.

We continued our westward journey, tagging features as we drove. Each morning was spent on computer and database work by me and a karst walk of 5 – 10 km by Ray. These walks usually turned up several new features which were the first to be tagged and documented when we set off

driving each morning. This part of the Nullarbor is almost completely flat with only low ridges and with bluebush and saltbush everywhere. There is very little in the way of grassy areas. Some of the bluebush is very large indeed and had to be carefully avoided if we were to minimise punctures.

We were now approaching the Eucla-Reid Road and were beginning to come across some temporary numbers allocated from the air by Ken Boland (NXK numbers). Our documentation tasks were further complicated once we reached the Eucla-Reid Road since Harry Wheeler had also been active with several QW features known, some of which had been doubled up by Ken's numbering from the air. We worked to sort these out, tagging and recording as we went.

At this point we'd been on the plain for almost two weeks, so, late on 7 April, we headed across to Old Homestead Cave hut. The next day was a rest day for us and we used it to clean ourselves up a bit, bake some bread and repair our mangled wheel rim. Just as we were performing a highly technical operation on our bent wheel, using a very large sledgehammer and some railway sleepers, Lynton Gurney, Christine's brother, who was working as a dog shooter and trapper for the Western Australian government, drove by and paused for a chat. He didn't bat an eyelid at our bush repairs — I'm sure he'd seen it all before.



Ray Gibbons alongside a large bluebush, *Maireana sedifolia*, near N-3187.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, April 2005.

Our social activities were not at an end however, as at 3:30 pm on the same day, a well-known yellow Toyota van approached and disgorged Graham Pilkington of CEGSA and Rob Davies and Martyn Farr from Swansea Caving Club in the UK. Martyn is a well-known cave diver and caving author, whilst Rob is a cave scientist who was giving Martyn a hand with his diving kit.



Ray Gibbons at N-395.. Note old cairn on right.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 9 April 2005

The three of them were returning to Adelaide via Old Homestead Cave after Graham had acted as guide for a diving trip to Mullamullang for Martyn and a tourist trip to Thampanna Cave for Rob, where he was able to measure some wind velocities.

Ray and I returned to our search area the next morning,

picking up where we had left off by continuing to locate NXK



Rob Davies (left) and Martyn Farr at Old Homestead Cave hut.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 9 April 2005

numbers, QW numbers, and to tag and record new features found whilst looking for these. One of them was Wheeler's QW-70, "Sheila's Blowhole" (N-395). This cave may have been named in honour of his wife. It still has its Wheeler-built cairn, located 3m north of the blowhole (see photo).



Ray Gibbons at N-3303, "Mini K".
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 14 April 2005

Not far to the north of Sheila's Blowhole was a cave we named "Mini K" (N-3303). It was a three chamber cave with a main entrance and a separate drop-in roof hole lurking under a ledge of caprock. We rescued several live lizards from this cave.

This particular area abounded in significant karst features and so, over several days, we worked away documenting as many as we could. On 18 April, Ray, during his karst walk, found a rather nice blowhole we named "Lakeside Blowhole." (N-3355). It had a dammed up passage at the bottom of the entrance shaft, which held about 200 L of water and also contained a liberal sprinkling of rabbit and kangaroo bones. On the surface, a moderately large claypan drains into this blowhole, no doubt providing the water we'd found trapped within it.



Western blowhole entrance of N-3372, partly formed in paleokarst (scale is 150 mm).

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 20 April 2005.

On 20 April, we drove a little further north up to the Eucla-Forrest Road in order to tag a twin blowhole feature I had first recorded on 10 May 2000, "Two Dogs Blowhole" (N-3372). This feature had originally come to my attention because, despite it being a little way off the road, I had seen two feral dogs hanging about. This twin blowhole is partly formed in paleokarst — the western blowhole entrance penetrates some ancient black calcite and one wall of the eastern entrance is formed in old, re-cemented cave fill (see photo).

This was our last night to camp out — we'd almost run out of beer. The next day (21 April), we commenced heading south; tagging a few more features as we went. Arriving in Eucla, just ahead of a rain shower, we luxuriated in a proper motel room and indulged ourselves with a restaurant meal.

In the morning, we looked at the original telegraph station town of Eucla, almost completely buried in sand, and examined the old Eucla jetty.



Ruins of telegraph superintendent's residence at the original Eucla town site.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 22 April 2005.



Ruins of jetty at the original Eucla town site.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 22 April 2005

We then turned our faces to the east and headed to Ceduna, and Max and Hennie Meth's hospitality. After a restful night, we drove towards Adelaide, stopping for a couple of educational hours at the excellent Arid Lands Botanic Gardens in Port Augusta — recommended viewing to anyone who is even vaguely interested in the plants of central Australia, before arriving home in Adelaide at 9 pm on 23 April.

Appendix: Listing of features examined and karst numbers allocated

New 'N' numbers allocated, tagged and documented:

5N-3101–3111, 6N-3112–3200, 6N-3301–3381 (Total = 181).

Existing 'N' numbers visited, data collected and feature tagged (when no tag found):

5N-27, 5N-29, 5N-942, 5N-990, 5N-3015, 5N-3016,
6N-394, 6N-395, 6N-396, 6N-947, 6N-955, 6N-1812 (Total = 12).

Temporary numbers visited and 'N' numbers allocated (where applicable):

NXK-577, NXK-578, NXK-579, NXK-589, NXK-590, NXK-591, NXK-592, NXK-593, NXK-594, NXK-611, NXK-612, NXK-613 (=rabbit warren), NXK-614, NXK-615, NXK-630, NXK-631, NXK-632, NXK-659, NXK-660, NXK-661, NXK-662, NXK-663, NXK-664, NXK-686 (=pavement only), NXK-717, NXK-718, QW-67, QW-68, QW-69, QW-70, QW-71, QW-148, QW-295 (Total = 33).

All available cave information was entered into the CEGSA Nullarbor Karst Index (now KIDSA) in mid 2005 and so is accessible to all cavers.

Reference

Ackroyd, Peter, (2009) A Two State Nullarbor Trip — October 2004. CEGSA News 213 (Vol 54 No 1) pp. 4–8

Peter Ackroyd, 5 March 2009.

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Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 3rd Mar 2009

Party: Graham Pilkington (trip leader), Paul Harper, Ray Gibbons plus
3-month Associates: 18 students and 2 teachers from Blackfriars Priory School.

We met up with the school bus at Port Wakefield and guided them to the cave because the bus driver had never been there before. As usual we divided the members into two teams. I took a teacher and 7 students while everyone else went with Paul. The usual tours were made by both parties but this time we only met up right at the end climbing out of Ramshorns Crevasse.

Each year Blackfriars School conducts a week of outside-school activities focusing mainly on physical outdoor events such as climbing, kayaking, bike riding and caving but also includes go-carting and cooking. The eighty students are split into 4 groups hence 4 different activities are run per day. Usually there are 2 days set aside for caving but this year only one group took up the challenge of caving.

Graham Pilkington

Croesus Cave Trip Report

Trip: Croesus, Sat 14/3/2009

Cavers:

- ☐ Deb Hunter, Mole creek caving club
- ☐ Mick Lichon, Mole creek caving club
- ☐ Stuart Reedman, CEGSA (SA)

The not-so cunning plan

Stuart was over from Adelaide for a holiday in the ozi adventure capital so had contacted Deb to organise some caving around mole creek for a day. The plan was to have a bit of a wander around Lynds and Genghis so that I could experience the difference between wet / cold and dry / pretty caves, instead of the dry dusty stuff I was used to in SA.

On Saturday morning we all met at the Mole creek caravan park and proceeded to the Parks and Wildlife office to obtain the cave keys. At this point we decided to drop Lynds from the itinerary and replace it with Croesus due to a hydro release down the Mersey river that day, which would have made accessing Lynds rather more interesting than usual.

We headed off for our first cave of the day, Genghis, and geared up. Car keys suitably hidden we wandered off in the direction of the cave, commenting on the gloomy weather conditions that were gradually getting worse. Arriving at Genghis a short while later we proceeded to rig up a hand line before attempting to open the locked gate. It was at this point our plan for the day took a sharp 'U' turn – none of the keys fitted! After 10 minutes of numerous attempts we gave up, packed up and headed for the next cave.

The slightly more cunning plan

Arriving at the next place to park the cars, we began gearing up again, only to be blown over, struck by lightening, deafened by thunder and saturated to the bone by the now most definitely worse weather. Not being one to exaggerate, I am now sure that getting to and from Tassy caves is the wettest and muddiest part of a trip – even when tackling complete immersion river caves!

With 'plan A' being Genghis and Lynds, 'plan B' being Genghis and Croesus, we were now up to 'plan C' which was simply to spend more time in Croesus taking photographs. As such, we added cameras, flashes and high powered lights to our gear and headed in, this time through a successfully opened gate.

Coming from the driest state of the driest country in the world, Stuart recognised only one aspect of the entrance to the first cavern – the 0.6m high flattener. The unusual bit for me was that 0.3m of this section was filled with a gentle moving 9 deg C river, of course requiring a little hands and knees action accompanied by "ohhhh my goodness that's cold!" commentary. Upright again with a bit of a look around revealed approximately nine man-eating size spiders, and a few well preserved conulites.

Onwards through the 'wind tunnel' into the next section found us in a more impressive expanse with more extensive formation and two very interesting points worthy of mention: the flow stone floor and the pistolites (marble sized gravel like formations) covering many sections of the river bed. The cave continued in a similar fashion for the next hundred metres or so with caverns averaging something like 12m wide x 3m tall x 50m in length.

Time for some photos

Between the three of us we had three cameras, a flash, two tripods, two 50W dichroic lights and one 8W LED light, so we made good use of these setting up and taking numerous shots in



turn. Studying the cave showed that in many sections one central ridge or fault was present in the roof, sometime more, with curtains of formation forming below them ranging from straws, columns and shawls through to impressive arrays of cave coral and flow stone. The floor was generally free of formation I expect due to flood levels within the cave from time to time and constant low water flow, with high water marks being quite visible in many areas. Flash floods occur when extreme conditions invoke activation of old conduits. There was very little silt to be seen throughout the cave (except in the cavern pictured above), with either a near continuous flow stone floor, or numerous gently cascading rim pools forming the majority of the cave base.



After much time spent taking photos we all started to feel the cold so headed off further into the cave.

Going Deeper

The rim pools further into the cave were quite stunning. In some places however, they were waste deep so the water temperature prevented much time studying them, other than for a few photographs.

Unfortunately, as with all caves, there comes a point when you can go no further. In this instance we were certainly not stopped by squeezes, boulders or the end of the cave, but by the rather uninviting 6m swim that would have been required to proceed to the remaining 75% or so of the cave.



As such we stopped; I shivered a few more times, and then took a few more photos of the brilliant white wall section named 'Snowbank'. The blue tinge of the LED lights came into their own here in showing just how clean and white this formation is (after MCCC cleaned it some years back) – lets hope it stays that way by not having any more cavers needlessly climb over it.

Now at the end of our journey and with memory cards full of great photos, we all headed out, pleased with the day's caving.

The stark difference between most of South Australia's dry caves and the beautiful river caves of Tasmania has left me with one question – when can I next get time off work for another holiday down- under down-under!!



Stuart Reedman

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Corra Lynn Trip Report

Trip: Corra Lynn fun day and exploratory dig.

Date: 28/03/2009.

Cavers: Paul & Ben Harper, CEGSA.
Graham Pilkington, CEGSA.
Stuart Reedman, CEGSA.
Peter, Katrina, Eleanor and Alexander Ashenden, CEGSA.
Jules Gheude.



The Morning Run

We arrived at the cave around 9:30am, and geared up. We started the morning with no particular plan in mind, but decided to let Stuart practice his underground navigation by leading the team to the Northern Floor Hole while Graham headed in the opposite direction to do a bit of digging in the Portal.

We headed off around 10:00am via Ramshorns and Bush-walkers Run then headed up a level into Crystal Chamber, then Crystal Maze for a bit of a play in the

squeezier sections. This was a good chance for some of the less experienced members to practice

some easy climbing, to become more at ease straddling some of the crevasses around the Big Stalagmite, and to develop their techniques for the tighter zig-zag tunnels of the western passage through the mid layer of Crystal Maze.

After an hour of nice easy going caving, we arrived at the floor hole and spent some time clambering down it for a look and exploring the four off shoots 3m below the main mid cave level. Climbing back up again to the main level, we headed off back towards the exit, but this time taking the larger, eastern route back to Crystal Chamber, then dropping into Bushwalkers Run. We exited the cave around 1:00pm and lunch followed shortly afterwards.

The Afternoon run

After some lunch and coffee, the normal after-food lethargic nature of everyone had to be overcome before heading back into the cave around 2:00pm. This time, a smaller party of the most enthusiastic members were present as we wished to reach Graham at the Portal to lend a hand. We headed off through the usual passages before dropping through the letter box into the "New Cave". It was here the squeezey zig-zag tunnels began as we wove our way through Alberta towards the Portal.

Just after the letter box there is some translucent formation on the ceiling and some on the floor. We noted some ceiling formation had clearly been knocked off by previous cavers with some obvious debris on the floor. We carefully negotiated around all formation without incident and continued along the main path spotting an unusual insect along the way, which we believe to be a variety of centipede due to a single leg stem per body section.



We reached Graham and could easily see the progress he had made in the bottom of the portal. Hoping to find a way into the Basement, it was discovered that the new loose earth fill is within an older compacted clay fill that surrounds it. The new fill most likely occurred when the 1944 storm surge undermined the Portal clay fill after pouring down the Wishing Well. With the rock wall of the Portal showing no sign of opening up after 1.5m, further straight-down digging is needed. The plan is to continue the exploratory dig down but in a north-westerly direction, under the existing rope line that goes up to Dreamland. With room to dump dirt pretty much exhausted within the Portal, a team of diggers will be required to dig, cart and dump dirt into another section of the cave. Replacement of the rope line was also discussed as after digging, it would be substantially short of the new 'ground' level. At this stage, there is still significant scope for reaching the basement from the Portal, so further trips will be beneficial.

After some admiring of Graham's work, and discussion of further exploration options, we all turned around and headed out, arriving back at the Entrance around 4:45pm.

Stuart Reedman.

Coonalpyn area, 22nd Mar 2009

Party: CEGSA : Graham Pilkington (L), Neville Skinner, Mark and Julien Divito plus owner Mark Richardson and son (Alex?)

GPS'ed and photographed 5U-244 to U-247 (2 were previously noted under UXK-16), and UXK-79.

An invitation from Mark Richardson to investigate 2 caves on his property "near Culburra" was eagerly taken up by myself because I was not aware of any caves in that area. However, on asking for attendees for the proposed trip to visit these caves, Kevin Mott supplied me with many possible features that he had registered just north of Culburra to the west of Coonalpyn. Some of these had CEGSA reports, including a report from 1993 on 2 caves on a property belonging to Mr Richardson that appeared to match the 2 of the current report! I also received a mud-map to get to the Richardson farm and this showed that the farm was SW of Coonalpyn and matched up with the location of UXK-16 supplied by Kevin. It's only been a 16-year delay in following up on these. I showed Mark Richardson the original cave report and he identified the data source as his brother.

The two CEGSA vehicles met up at Coonalpyn and went out to meet Mark and his son at their farmhouse. From there we were led through the property to the caves. These are at the position expected from Kevin's list. Two weeks previously, Mark and son had been down one cave but had not descended the second because of a resident brown snake.

The "safe" cave was examined first (U-245). This and U-247 were covered by old wheels to stop stock falling in. Mark put a fixed ladder down the 2.5m deep drop (it can be free-climbed) and all except owner Mark had a look through the cave. It's in dune limestone at a depth of about 5m with the typical vuggy phreatic nature of such caves. 2 rubble-blocked shafts attest to previous entrances. It's common practice to get rid of nuisance surface rocks by filling nuisance holes with them. Nearly all the paddocks have a large mound of collected surface stones excess to hole-filling, as shown in photo. The surface around the entrances still have lots of rocks available for hole disposal! This cave was the largest found in the immediate vicinity and surveying



U-245 entrance with stone heap on horizon and wheel cover adjacent.

Photo: G Pilkington.

was saved until the other holes had been investigated and documented. As usual we ran out of time hence the best cave will have to wait for another trip to survey it. Someone many years ago had been a keen explorer, pushing and digging out all the low tunnels. They even left manila cord along the main paths to find their way out again. We removed what was left of the decayed segments.



The holey hill. U-245, U-246 and U-247.

Photo: G. Pilkington

The second cave visited (U-246) was not one Mark had noted for us but was in an exposed limestone sheet 30m due west. The 0.45x0.25m entrance expands to 0.8m and drops 2.6m into a single soil-floored 1m high chamber of about 4x2.5m. Neville was the only one to enter this and drew a grade 2 map.



Graham exiting U-247.
Photo: Not stated.

The third cave (U-247, Mark's second cave) was 80m ESE of the first and consisted of a 3.5m deep shaft into a 4m long passage that also had 2 avens blocked at the top with rocks. The brown snake kept itself hidden out of the way while the cave was pushed out to the 4m finish but it decided to explore the bottom of the entrance tube after everyone had exited. A hand torch had been left in the cave at the dig at the far end for the next person, but luckily all the digging tools had been removed. Rather than disturb the snake further, I drew a grade 2 map without bothering to descend again. After being photographed, the snake was left in peace with its very own torch so that it could explore as far as it wanted too.

A fourth hole (U-244) was pointed out by Mark 25m NE of the third cave. This was a 0.25m diam, 2.7m deep vertical hole through limestone with the top 0.3m in soil. It would be typical of the many now-blocked shafts.



Looking down 0.25m entrance of U-244.
Photo: G. Pilkington.

None of the caves had distinguishable depressions around them. This means that any caves filled cannot be detected from topography as is usually the case in areas such as Naracoorte.

Mark and son are keen to check out other nearby caves and we left them with possible locations in the adjacent National Park.

On the way home we visited UXK-79, a bore that intersected a large cavity. A return trip is planned to the area to check out the other eighty-odd features listed by Kevin.

Graham Pilkington

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Punyelroo Cave and Gloop Cave – A Sunday at Swan Reach 19th April 2009

Party: Stuart Reedman, Lance Hoey, Barbara Wiesner, Mark and Karin Sefton, Tom Sefton (Mark's Dad from WA), Murray Sefton, Daniel Newton, Daniel McEwan, Tait Moore, Isaac King, James Van Loon, Peter Foreman, Alex Ashenden, Ellie Ashenden, Peter Ashenden, and Ian Lewis.

On a beautiful autumn morning, various vehicles left Adelaide and met up at the Swan Reach Ferry. We had decided to run a one-day trip for people interested in fun caving where they could explore places and find things of interest; the kind of trips CEGSA needs for encouraging newer members to enjoy caving and develop an interest. Nowadays so many people have so little time, so a day trip seemed ideal.

Mark's son Murray turned up with all his mates who proceeded to eat out the General Store of all their pies etc, Alex and Ellie came with Peter and Katrina, Stuart Reedman arrived with his beaut camera, Paul didn't make it and we missed his company, and finally two greybeards turned up to run the show (sort of) - Mark and Ian. Mark's wife Karin and his Dad Tom came along to sit in comfy deck

chairs all day on the cliff top to undertake serious research - monitoring the River while sampling cups of tea and cakes all day in the pleasant sunshine.

The Riverbank

The rest of us all took off down the cliff path. I had worked out that I last visited the cave about 1969 so it was 40 years since I'd seen it! At that time the actual Swan Reach in front of the cave was a huge lagoon. Not any more – it's dry for nearly a kilometre wide, with vehicle tracks and pipes across it to the water's edge right to the River bank. When we got to the cave, I was in for another shock – willow trees have grown up in front of the entrance along the (dry) lagoon edge and blocked the beaut view from the entrance where you used to see across the flats to the River. Ah – you look away for 40 years and everything changes!

Punyelroo Cave

Off we went into the cave after a short intro about it to everyone and a look at some of the old names carved on some of the entrance rocks. I said to Alex and Ellie that they were the exact size for this cave – a lot of the lengthy passages are stooping height for adults, but walking height for them. They were quite pleased with this news! We hadn't gone far into the cave before people split off into different directions past the big logs on the cave floor. Alex, Ellie and Pete headed off to the right. Some went straight ahead and others went to the left. Mark sat on the log and acted as a sort of "beacon" or traffic director!

The Squeezy Squeeze

After some distant thumping and scrabbling noises to the right, Ian went in after the others and found that Alex had got through a Squeezy Squeeze, saw the tunnel still going on, and wriggled back through the Squeezy Squeeze to find out where to go next. Ian joined him after a very crowded crawl where Pete, Ellie and Ian all had to crawl around and over each other to get in the right order! Then Alex went back through the Squeezy Squeeze for a third time with Ian following.

It was at this point that the unthinkable happened – Ian who has been through a million squeezes over the last 40 years including the Squeezy Squeeze slowly found that he COULD NOT FIT! This was flabbergasting. Ian had fitted through fine in 1969, so what was the problem?? Clearly the cave had shrunk. Or perhaps Ian was wearing much thicker overalls? Or maybe 10cms of flowstone had grown there in 40 years making the Squeezy Squeeze smaller. Surely there could be no other possible explanation.

So he tried on his left side, then on his right side, then on the left side a different way, then on the right side a different way, then feet first on his back, then feet first on his front. It all failed, folks. Alex couldn't believe it. Would he have to come back through the Squeezy Squeeze AGAIN? For the FOURTH time? He was not impressed. But then Ian gave him some good news – the tunnel kept going and joined up with another one where some of the others were.

So Alex was off. Ian stayed at the Squeezy Squeeze in case Alex had to come back. Alex's scuffling noises got further away and then all was quiet. Very Quiet. Absolutely Quiet! It was as quiet as the Grave.... Ian lay there for a long time hearing nothing. Then there was a sort of high-pitched noise from a long way through the rock somewhere in the distance, followed by another low-pitched noise. Ian had no idea what it was. Was it a grumpy wombat woken up who wanted to get out through the Squeezy Squeeze and would have to tromp over Ian's head to get out? Or a rare carnivore wombat who would decide to eat his way through? Later Ian found out this was actually Alex and the others yelling that they had met up OK. A long time later Ian decided to wriggle out of the Squeezy Squeeze all the way back to the main passage but had to do it backwards! ERK. There they all were having a great time yakking and laughing, completely forgetting Ian. When Ian said "I'm here", someone said "Who cares?" and they kept on yakking. (It's so nice to be missed, Ian thought!).

The Mystery passage

Four of the others had disappeared down another side tunnel – Dan Newton, Tait, Peter Foreman and Murray. We hadn't really intended to go that way into the cave but they went anyway! They

disappeared into a tunnel that headed towards Waikerie (which all the locals tell us goes right through!) and Mark who was sitting on the log acting as traffic director didn't see them for 2 hours. When they got back to the junction and described where they had been, Dan and Peter were looking pretty grubby and had been working hard, because it was a low crawly tunnel for most of the way. After a talk with Mark and a description of what they had found, it would seem that they went into a passage which was off the map and into new unknown territory. When we looked at the whole map later, there is a lot of unknown space where they were headed, that might join back to the main cave past the end chamber, or might indeed head off straight past it to Waikerie (70 kilometres away!). So they appear to have made a significant find and worked hard to achieve it. But they were glad to get back to walking-size tunnels again and it was nice to stand up at last.

The Logs

While we were waiting for the Waikerie extension mob to reappear, those of us at the junction tried to work out why there were two very large logs well into the cave. When we looked at them closely, we saw that they had regular notches cut into them about ½ a meter apart along their length. Ian had been talking to an old resident of Swan Reach near the General Store earlier in the morning who talked about the many visits he and his mates made to the cave 60-70 years ago before World War II, when people would travel by boat down the Swan Reach to visit the cave from the water's edge. It would seem that these logs may have been hitching posts for boats to tie up against, and that they may have been set up vertically at the outer edge of the large cave entrance, or even just lying on the floor within the overhang. The huge floods of 1956 may have carried them into the cave, as they are at approximately the right height within the cave for those floods.

The Pipe

All the party slowly gathered together as the others returned from distant tunnels and we crouched and walked along the main passage for a long distance. This was where Alex and Ellie had a great time as they didn't keep banging their heads on the roof or getting a neck-ache like the rest of us did. Suddenly we came across a 20-centimetre pipe spearing down from the roof of the passage right into the floor, slap-bang in the middle of the passage! (see cover photo). This was from a bore put down on the eastern side of the road from Swan Reach to Bow Hill and was nearly 500 meters from the cave entrance. It is a water bore. Later we heard that the owner had no idea that the bore had gone straight through the cave. The fascinating thing is that the drilling spot was picked by a Water Diviner who said "Drill exactly here". What did his divining rod detect? Maybe we should get him to trace unknown caves all the way up along the Riverland!

Randall's Rock and the End Chamber

Every one was keen to see this boulder which is nearly at the end of the known cave. Captain Randall ran a number of boats and paddle steamers up and down the Murray as far as Echuca in New South Wales in the 1850's and had explored Punyelroo Cave on at least one of these trips, carving his name in the soft limestone boulder near the end. We got a group photo at this spot to celebrate Captain Randall and us getting there, before heading on to the large collapse chamber at the end of the cave. Murray and all his mates had already got there and hid in all the rock crevices so



we had no idea where they had gone, and sat around discussing this for about 15 minutes until we began to discover them! This end chamber is quite large and everyone agreed that it would be worth another visit to have a really thorough exploration of all the nooks and crannies. The Mystery tunnel previously mentioned seems to head roughly towards this chamber, so there may be quite a lot of undiscovered passageways in between them.

The Lake Tunnel

Off to the side on the way out there used to be a short tunnel that sloped downwards and led to a pool. Both Peter Horne and Ian have stuck their heads in it years ago on different occasions with a mask and snorkel but it didn't seem to go anywhere and was reasonably shallow. We talked about this tunnel as we all headed out from Randall's Rock and Stuart was keen to see it. Mark and Ian said why bother as it would be dry because the river is so low but Stuart is a dedicated caver and **had** to look anyway. To our amazement he found the pool still there!

This means that it is not linked to the river water level at all and is much higher than the River. This is very interesting and suggests a "perched" water table within the rock in that area. It is therefore quite likely that the nearby big water bore also taps into this water table, but still does not affect the level. There may be quite a good amount of water in lower levels underneath the cave floor. Signs along the Bow Hill Road several kilometres away put up by the Department of Agriculture talk about perched water tables under some of the local vineyard areas. An excellent discovery, Stuart, and a timely reminder to us with grey hair that we don't know everything, despite being around for 40 years, and that everything **must** be checked out!

Late in the afternoon, several hours later than we had all expected (because everyone had gone down so many side tunnels etc) we all got back to the Riverside entrance. Finally Murray and all his mates plus Peter and family had to head back to Adelaide. Thanks for coming, all of you, and we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. It was a great day's caving!

Gloop Cave

With still some daylight left, Stuart, Mark and Ian plus Lance and Barbara who had turned up in the afternoon all headed off up-river for a few kilometres to Gloop Cave. This is a horizontal passage system not far above the river level with a reputation for masses of gluey clayey mud that grabs you by the legs and makes progress very difficult.

The entrance is a wide flat ledge which was lit up very nicely in the late afternoon sunlight. Off we went into the cave after clambering down the cliff edge via a series of water pipes and a big gum tree that grows straight outwards from the cliff face! We discovered that the gloop content was far drier than in past trips. Right at the end of the cave after a 300-metre walk through some very interesting little rooms with beautifully-shaped rock blades caused by water dissolving the limestone, there are two gloop pools at the end. Some of us just **had** to tromp in the gloop, which was indeed extremely sticky and clogged up our legs to about shin depth, but this is a lot shallower than in the past, otherwise we would probably still be stuck there.

The river level outside the cave was a lot lower after a hot dry summer and we didn't have enough gloop on us to need to jump into the river to clean it all off. This is a really interesting cave and we talked about a return trip along the River to visit a number of smaller Murray River caves on a future day trip, and wouldn't it be nice to hire a houseboat to take a 2-week trip down the River spotting all the caves in the cliffs, GPS-ing them and exploring them all.

Back at the surface we went our different ways after offering our commiserations to Tom and Karin, who were worn out from relaxing in the deck chairs all day sipping tea. They had stuck at their self-appointed tasks heroically and put in maximum effort. Altogether it was a great day after all the hunching and mud-slopping, so we named it the **"Stoop and Gloop" trip** – excellent for a fun day of caving and great to see that everyone had enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to Stuart for taking the photos – it's always great to have a team record of a trip. We will definitely run some more of these trips!

Ian Lewis.

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 2nd May 2009

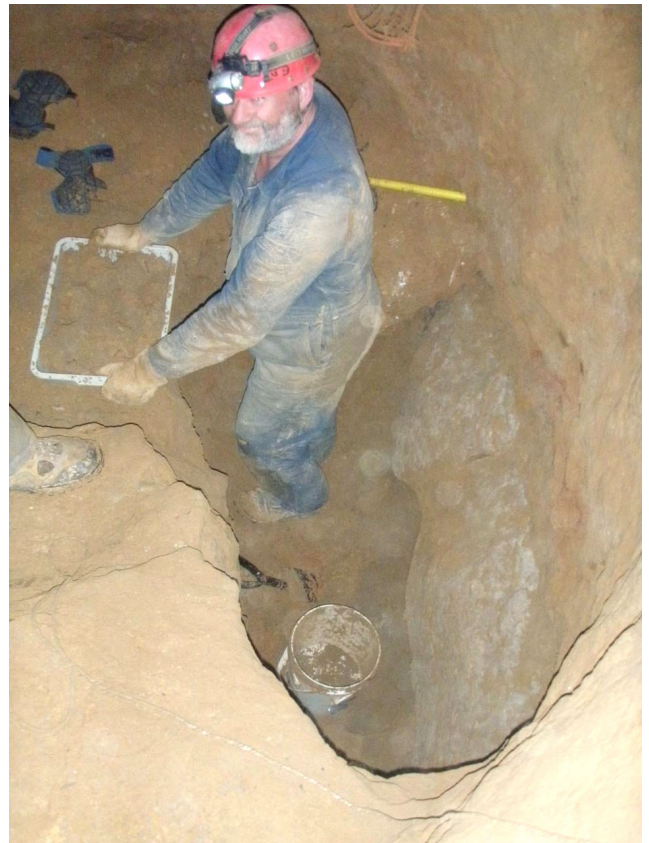
Party: Paul Harper (trip leader), Graham Pilkington, and Stuart Reedman

This was Paul's trip which I took advantage of by arranging with Stuart for him to help me on my Portal dig. Because Paul had not received any other requests to attend his trip, he decided to come along with me to the Portal and help carry my digging gear to there before leaving for his own dig site another hour into Dreamland. However, on reaching the Portal he felt too queasy to continue alone even after a short break. Maybe my digging gear load had been too heavy! Alberta can be difficult to traverse without encumbrances.

I brought along a trolley (type LW – 15cm high, and 46cm wide) which is ideal for stability when carting spoil but too wide to fit through the Alberta tunnels. So instead of being able to use the trolley along parts of Alberta for carting gear, it had to be dismantled and became another load to carry. Trolley type LN (15cm high and 27cm wide) is now under construction.



Trolley type LW.



Graham in Portal dig.



Stuart hauling double deck trolley.

It was very fortuitous for the Portal dig that Paul stayed to help. By the end of the 9 hour trip we could have used a team of 5. The difficulty is the usual one of dirt disposal. Alberta is mostly small – standing is a nearly forgotten skill by the time you get from one end to the other. Luckily for us, a small void ~~is~~ was available just past the Portal, a straight 8m trolley-tunnel away.

On my previous trip, 5 weeks previously, I had visited the site to establish the feasibility of excavation, digging a test pit over 1m deep. On this trip we had to remove the spoil from the previous pit after first clearing the trolley-tunnel to smooth it out and increase the size. The new excavation also had to wait until steps had been cut in the clay alongside the pit to enable easy

access up to the trolley tunnel which pops out 1m above the top step.

Once the preparations were completed, digging began. We kept up a steady stream of double-decker trolley-loads of about 20 litre each, for several hours before needing a break. Digging was just so easy in the loose sandy clay. Our main hold up was the difficulty in locating and carrying the trays of dirt to the disposal sites at the end of the trolley run.

Of course it couldn't last. After 1m depth the clay lost the sand content and also became soggy. By this time the pit was about 2m long, 0.7m wide and 1m deep (at the shallow end) running along the SE wall of the Portal. Soggy clay is very hard to excavate! At 1.4m depth the wall stepped in by 0.3m then drops vertically again. A good place to stop for the day because we will have to widen the pit by at least 0.2m to gain room for digging. Besides, all three of us were exhausted with barely enough in reserve to exit the cave. The hauling system, trays and bucket were left for the next trip.



Graham exiting Alberta.

But why dig at the bottom of the Portal instead of just climbing up into Dreamland? This stems from my interpretation of Corra Lynn Cave's history over the last 70 years, which is as follows:

A few years prior to 1944, one of the land owner's sons (H Corral) together with a friend, explored a tunnel that went from the Cauldron to the Drumstone crevasse then took a left turn down a tunnel that went under the Beard Squeeze crevasse and on into the Alberta. They managed to get about 50m down this tunnel before the soil almost pinched off to the roof where they marked their initials on the wall.

In 1944 about 170 mm of rain fell over the cave in an hour. This flooded into the normally dry cave and the water surged down the afore mentioned tunnel. This is the path that the water trickle currently takes on the rare occasion enough rainfall happens. In 1944 enough water was present to do the following

- wash out the Alberta tunnels leading to the Wishing Well making it possible for cavers to traverse most of the path and easily excavate the few soil-filled low spots;
- collapse the rockpile at the start of the Alberta thereby sealing off the Alberta completely with later soil being impounded against the rockpile burying the existence of Alberta;
- water flowing down the Well undermined the sealed, clay-filled Portal causing it to slump by several metres. This opened up the climb into Dreamland once the connecting completely clay-filled tunnels had been excavated.

In 1979 after a 3 year effort, Max Meth and Graham Pilkington managed to break through the mystical line that no passage crossed, on any of the 4 known levels, along the south east boundary of Corra Lynn Cave. To do this necessitated smashing out a 1m long slot through a solid limestone block. This created a bypass around the unknown rockpile blockage along a parallel tunnel. The blocking rockpile was discovered after linking into the washed-out pathway (beyond the rockpile) that had been cleaned out in 1944.

On finally getting past various blockages and constrictions along Alberta, we found the Wishing Well and a strong breeze was using it. Looking down the 0.1m diameter hole you can see that it opens out, but because the pipe is at least 0.5m deep, you cannot see what's there. I must lower a camera and take photos! It was obvious that the Wishing Well had absorbed ALL the dirt from the wash out along Alberta yet it was still open enough for air to draught. This could mean that open tunnels still exist down there. However, the Alberta is on the lowest known level of the 4-level cave. The next level down is the wished for Basement level, hints of which can be seen in the Bushwalkers area pits.

So how do we get down the Wishing Well? Blasting is one alternative but I've taken the option of assuming that the slumped Portal fill is a viable alternative route. The open space that can be seen down the Wishing Well is no more than 3m below the level of the trolley tunnel. The Portal dig is now down 2.5m. In the next metre we should be down to the same level. I just hope that the dig locates a tunnel to breach the 2m gap from there to the Wishing Well void. If not, then the pit will have to be deepened and extended along the wall until it does.

I'll accept any and all help to finish this dig into the next major addition to South Australia's longest cave.

Photos by Paul Harper and Stuart Reedman.

Graham Pilkington

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Past Trips From General Meetings

PAST TRIPS FROM FEBRUARY GM.

- 1 Peter Horne, last December, went to Narrina Lake Cave in the Flinders to survey, explore, and look after an underwater bio-trap. The water is 18m deep but has dropped over the years.
- 2 Peter Horne, last week, visited Hunters Cave in the LSE. No water is left in the cave; this has exposed many more tunnels that would be impassable with diving gear.
- 3 Ian Lewis visited Henschkes Quarry at the end of December. Examples of caves with no entrances and some with filled tubes have been unearthed over the years. These have appeared along a trendline. The latest one has a 10m diameter chamber.
- 4 Tim Payne last November-December went to Laverton in WA. This has a limestone ridge with a minor cave containing bats.

PAST TRIPS FROM MARCH GM

- 1 **Stuart Reedman** went on a Mole Creek Caving Club led trip earlier this month. They visited Exit Cave and recovered the location of many survey stations from previous trips that will be used in assembling and completing an updated survey of the cave. He also visited another nearby cave -Croesus Cave.
- 2 **Lance Hoey** went to Crystal Cave in WA, a Tourist cave. It's drying out, probably due to the planting of pine trees. The managers have tried pumping water into the cave but this has not been successful in re-hydrating the system.
- 3 **Stan Flavel** went to Turkey last month in their winter. He noted a web report stating that 40,000 caves have been found in Turkey and that it has limestone 2 km thick. Stan will be returning to cave there. There are 8 major caving clubs.
- 4 **Graham Pilkington** took a trip to the Coonalpyn area on 22nd March and documented 4 caves. Two of these had been noted in CEGSA Records in 1993 but never visited. 2 of the caves were mapped but the longest one of about 30m was not mapped. More un-visited features exit in this area.
- 5 **Graham Pilkington** visited Corra Lynn Cave with Blackfriars school on 3rd March with 18 students and 2 teachers. Paul Harper and Ray Gibbons helped out with trip leading.

PAST TRIPS FROM APRIL GM

- 1 **Marie Choi**. Avenue Range trip over Easter, including Trapdoor Cave.
- 2 **Ian Lewis**. The Alexandra Cave Opening Anniversary. A period dress-up event opened by the Minister for the Environment and organized by the Friends of the Naracoorte Caves. Ian gave a summary of the cave's discovery.

- 3 **Ken Smith.** Went on a Nullarbor trip with 13 other people, mainly to Cocklebidy Cave. 20 hour trips to the end and back can be made using scooters. 6 divers went past Toad Hall. Rick Stanton from England pushed the end for a couple more metres. Ken displayed his pinger and explained its' use. He's constructing upgraded shorter ones to replace those lost in last years' fire.
- 4 **Grant Gartrell.** Visited the gate of A25 which had rusted shut.
- 5 **Grant Gartrell.** Re-visited A25 and re-opened it using an oxy-acetylene torch.
- 6 **Grant Gartrell.** Went to Delamere sinkhole. More rock removal required. He gave a brief talk on past events including a report of large volumes of water flowing into an open hole.
- 7 **Marie Choi.** Visited Rapid Bay Cave – the usual unpleasant smell was absent.
- 8 **Paul Harper.** Took a party of 9 people to Corra Lynn on 28th March.
- 9 **Ian Lewis.** After a 40 year absence, he revisited Punyelroo Cave on 19th April as one of a group of CEGSA members. A private group of teenagers was in the cave at the same time. Lots of exploration and loads of fun. Gloop cave was also visited.
- 10 **Lance Hoey.** Went to M4 and M5.
- 11 **Neville Skinner.** Expanded on the Coonalpyn trip of 22 March when 4 caves were visited. U247 was left occupied by both a brown snake and a torch.

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A selection of photos from the AGM.



Photos by Peter "Puddles" Horne.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Transfer to Full Membership:-

F Peter Ashenden 0801

Welcome to New Members:-

A George Yarra 0903 (M) 0418-847-889
10 Blinkbrae Avenue HAPPY VALLEY SA 5159
(E) gyarra@adam.com.au

A Dean Johnson 0902 (M) 0419-808-163
4 McClure Avenue REYNELLA SA 5161
(E) deanjohnson@email.com

A Chris Brown 0901 (M) 0437-770-327 (H) 8269-5793
33 Newbon Street NAILSWORTH SA 5083
(E) cmb@adam.com.au

Welcome Back to Former Member:-

A Paul Arbon 0016 (M) 0438-438-178 (H) 8258-0236
29 Kara Crescent GULFVIEW HEIGHTS SA 5096
(E) prarbon@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2009 YEAR

Full Membership	52.00
Full Country Membership	46.00
Associate Membership	44.00
Long Term Associate	52.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00
Joining Fee (N/A to 3mth Intro)	12.00
Discount for e-mail CEGSA News	15.00
Discount for Country Membership	6.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR 2009 YEAR

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

2009 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	52.00	68.00	120.00
Full Country Membership	46.00	68.00	114.00
Associate Membership	44.00	68.00	112.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00

Variation for Family Membership

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS	\$88.00	\$121.50	\$209.50
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS	\$80.00	\$121.50	\$201.50
1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA NEWS	\$72.00	\$121.50	\$193.50

Discount for Country Membership and e-mail CEGSA NEWS applies for 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
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
Paul Hosie	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Peter Kraehenbuehl	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Ian Lewis	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
Phil Prust	Horizontal and Laddering
Eddie Rubessa	Horizontal and Laddering
Mark Sefton	Horizontal and Laddering
Gary Woodcock	Horizontal and Laddering
Michael Woodward	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical

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.

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WEBSITE REQUEST

I intend to do some updating to the website during this year so I am appealing to members to let me know if they have any suggestions they would like to make about the website.

I would also like to update the gallery of photos so am appealing to members for photos they would like to see on the website. Dig out those wonderful photos you have taken and let the rest of the world see them on our website.

Athol Jackson.

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100 Years of Alexandra Cave: The Centenary Celebration - Naracoorte , April 5th, 2009.

100 years ago, William Reddan, the renowned manager of the Naracoorte Tourist Caves, was walking across the Naracoorte Caves Reserve when he noticed a small depression in the ground halfway down the slope between Bat Cave and Wet Cave. He would have already noticed that these two caves plus Blanche Cave over the hilltop all run in the same direction (approximately North-northwest to South-southeast) as he was a keen observer of the local landscape and had previously discovered Victoria Cave about 10 years before, 2 kilometres to the south along the same line.

With some of his workmen they began digging away the sandy red soil. This led to an opening above a long low flat chamber with a red soil floor. There would have barely been room to stand a kerosene lantern upright as the soil nearly filled the room to the roof. After crawling along this flat space, they discovered that the floor dropped down about 5 metres over a steep sandy slope and curved under a low ledge. It is likely that more digging and scrabbling was necessary and that a breeze was moving through here, as after a short wriggle of about 4-5 metres along a lower flat sandy tunnel, the cave suddenly opened out into a series of lengthy rooms, each bigger than the last and running deeper underground.

And what excellent chambers each had a striking set of decoration and attractive features, which over time became known as The Butcher's Shop, The Mirror Pool, The Seven Dwarves and The Wedding Cake etc. William Reddan named it the Alexandra Cave and had discovered a cave which contrasted strongly with the caves which surrounded it – no daylight entrance, no columns and other formation modified by algae in a daylight zone, no bat colonies or guano piles, no graffiti from other previous visitors etc.

It was decided to open this beautiful cave to the public. We now know that as part of this process, William Reddan cemented two pools in place to get the reflection effect of stalactite and straw clusters from beneath, which gave striking shimmering images. He also put in place a number of poles and chicken wire to protect the Wedding Cake columns and flowstone in the bottom chamber. An artificial entrance with steps was cut down into the second chamber to make access easier for the ladies in their finery of the day.

Once all these modifications were made, Naracoorte invited the State Governor, Sir Day Hort Bosanquet, to officially open the new cave at a special ceremony. It was a huge social event for the local community. There are many photos taken in 1909 of the crowds of approximately 2000 people meeting the Governor at the Railway Station, at events across the town and at the Alexandra Cave opening. Such numbers of people were amazing, considering that Naracoorte was very small and people came from surrounding farms and stations by horse and buggy. Motor vehicles were not common at that time and didn't appear until after World War I, which at the time of the Alexandra opening was still five years and half a world away, and times were still optimistic and forward-looking. The new cave was a significant step in Naracoorte's reputation and advancement.

100 years after the event, a re-enactment was made on April 5th this year. The local school children dressed up in the style of 100 years before, using photos of the time as a guide. The Friends of the Naracoorte Caves particularly put in a magnificent effort with this preparation, and also managed to locate William Reddan himself (now about 170 years old but looking in great shape!) and his niece Agnes who turned up in full period dress, along with some of their friends who all proceeded to show us with pride through their Alexandra Cave. The SA Minister for Environment, Jay Wetherill, opened the proceedings and was shown around the caves by the official party which included such speleoluminaries as Professor Elery Hamilton-Smith, Dr Grant Gartrell (our own modern-day discoverer), Dr Liz Reed, Andy Spate and Steve Bourne among other eminent local representatives. Some of the rest of us managed to grab some lamingtons and discussed matters of speleo-importance on the second tour – Kevin Mott from Mt Gambier, Ken and Janine Grimes from Hamilton and myself all represented your blue-collar working cavers. It was a great day and the efforts of the re-enactment were greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

We know about the flat tunnel which William Reddan discovered as it was re-discovered by CEGSA in the late 1970's from down near the Butcher's Shop and the old original entrance unearthed from beneath. It had been filled in after the cut stair entrance had been made. The first chamber under the original entrance was then excavated to a depth of about 5 metres by a Greening Australia Project in the 1980's so that entry to the cave is larger and easier, and the digging exposed much decoration that had been naturally buried by soil for perhaps many thousands of years. You can stand in this chamber and see where William Reddan and the other discoverers crawled along the roofline and down the steep slope to discover the beauty of Alexandra Cave 100 years ago.

Ian Lewis.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
27/05/09	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Underwater Caves and Fossils	Diver and Buddy.
30/05/09	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
30/05/09	Fun Caving	Corra Lynn Cave Fun Day	Paul Harper
06-08/ 06/09	Queens B/Day W/E	South East based at Naracoorte	Graham Pilkington
06-08/ 06/09	Queens B/Day W/E	South East Bat counting. Free accommodation at Wirreanda.	Marie Choi
10/06/09	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
20/06/09	Caving	Corra Lynn Portal dig	Graham Pilkington
24/06/09	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Kanawinka Geopark - Limestone	Ian Lewis
27/06/09	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
27/06/09	Fun Caving	Corra Lynn Cave Fun Day	Paul Harper
08/07/09	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
18/07/09	Fun Caving	Corra Lynn Fun Day	Paul Harper
22/07/09	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. DVD on Caves and Caving	Graham pilkington
25/07/09	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
01/08/09	Fun Caving	Corra Lynn Cave	Paul Harper
08-09/ 08/09	Fun Caving	South East based at Naracoorte	Mark Sefton
12/08/09	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
12/08/09	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
26/08/09	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Identifying fossils and cave fossil sites.	Mark Sefton
29/08/09	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
26/09- 18/10/09	Caving	Nullarbor, including Old Homestead Cave.	Graham Pilkington
???????	Caving	Kangaroo Island sometime this year	Grant Gartrell
	Training	Ad Hoc training	Tim Payne
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil survey	Gary Woodcock
	Caving	Continuing Fleurieu Peninsula Exploration	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.

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