

CEGSA NEWS

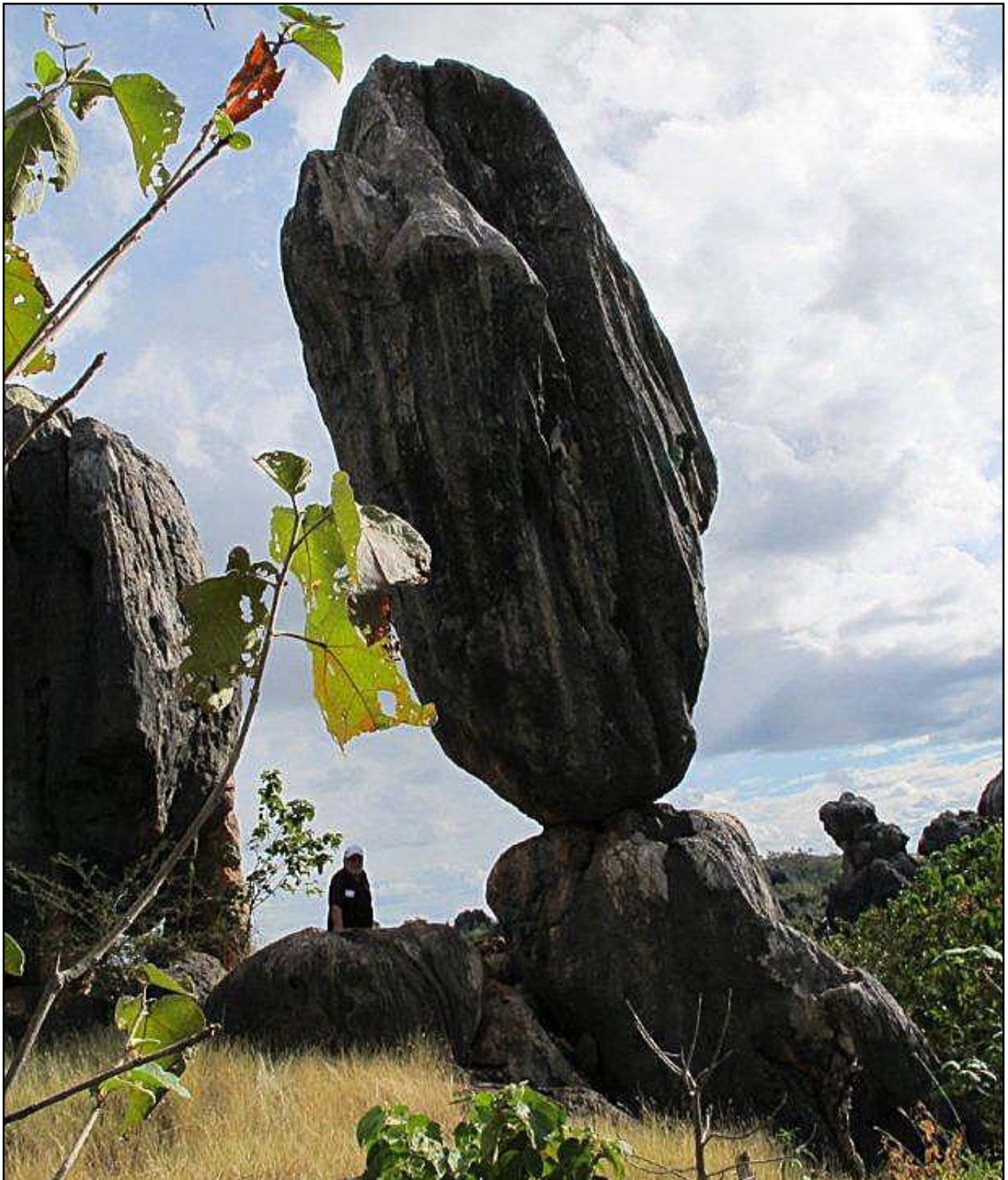


Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

Volume 56 Number 3

Issue 223

AUGUST 2011



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: George MacLucas contemplating Balancing Rock, Chillagoe, Queensland.

Photo: June MacLucas.

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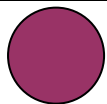
QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 56 Number 4 (Issue 224) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **9th NOVEMBER 2011**. 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 a memory stick or CD, in Word *.doc(x) or *.rtf files. Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted. Photographs are preferred to be in colour as separate files and note in the article where to be inserted. (*.jpg format under 500Kb unless for the cover).

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

Guest Editorial

Our esteemed Prez is gallivanting around the Northern territory, no doubt adding another 50kms to the Bullita Cave system, so I am your opinion provider for this issue.

Yes, I'm guilty. CEGSA was 50 years old five years ago and I offered to write a CEGSA History book for the celebratory year. Here it is, 5 years and a couple of general drafts later and I can hardly climb over the pile of reports, exploits, expeditions and personality profiles accumulated over half-a-century of speleology in South Australia! It is truly outstanding to see what CEGSA has achieved since its inception. I worked out that even if I limit the events, descriptions, stories, maps and member pen-portraits to only a double-page each, I could fill 160 pages and still have cartons of extra material left over. When it finally does get written, perhaps it should be called the CEGSApaedia!

Most revealing is the significant scientific and cultural contribution which CEGSA has made to the State of South Australia. It covers such a wide spectrum of a niche activity in the life and history of this State – the sciences : geology, karst science, hydrology, biology, botany, palaeontology, archaeology, anthropology – and the culture of exploration, discovery, pioneering, surveying, photography, art and the recording and handing down of unique knowledge. All this activity is based on all the friendships established over the generations, about which I have been particularly reminded in recent months with the passing of Life Member Fred Sanders. I've also been particularly glad to reconnect with many previous CEGSA members who have willingly provided their papers, pictures and memories to this ongoing history project. I've always felt very proud of being a member of CEGSA and accumulating and reviewing our history and achievements makes me all the more so. CEGSA's contribution to our State has been truly impressive.

Apart from all of our CEGSA activities over the years, CEGSA's life and achievements have received very significant input in quite different ways from other associated groups who have worked closely with us. I am thinking of Scientists, Cave Divers and Scouts. Scientists have educated and entertained us and broadened our understanding of this unique underworld. Cave divers have revealed important and inspiring subaquatic wonders beyond the sight of speleos. Scouts have formed a major recruiting ground for our membership right from the beginning in 1955. Everyone has all helped contribute to an organisation which has a special place in South Australia's history and achievements.

Ian Lewis.

TRIP REPORTS

CHILLAGOE TRIP 10TH APRIL TO 5TH MAY 2011.

Duration of trip: 26 days – 8,000 KM.

Trip Members: CEGSA Members George & June MacLucas.

All photographs by George or June MacLucas.

The reason for this trip was to attend the 28th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation. Also June and I had been approved by CEGSA Committee to be joint ASF Reps for the ASF Board Meetings April 2011.

As part of this journey we decided to check out some outback features and National Parks both in New South Wales and Queensland.

Caves visited at Chillagoe:

4 CH3	Royal Archway Cave
4 CH10	Markham Cave
4 CH14	Trezkinn Cave
4 CH25	Carpentaria Cave
4 CH107	Fern Cave

Caves visited at UNDARA Volcanic region:

4 U16	Stevens Cave
4 U22	Arch Cave
4 U28	Road Cave

We also walked around the rim of Kalkani Volcano Crater.

INFORMATION ON THESE CAVES:



Royal Archway Cave 4CH3

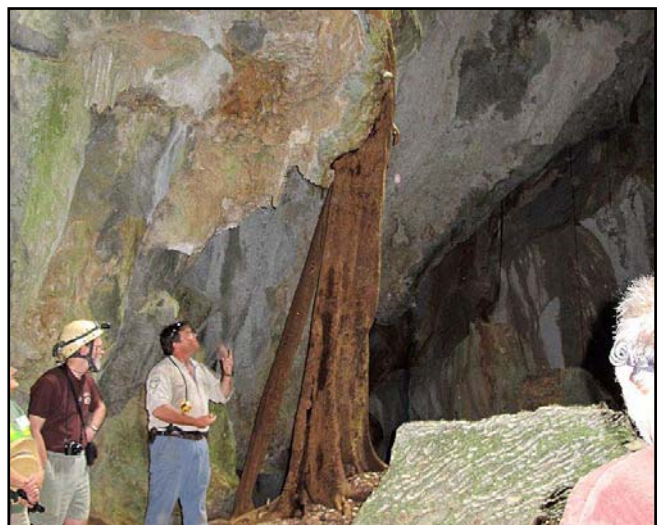


Fig Tree Roots in Royal Archway Cave 4CH3

Royal Archway Cave: This is a tourist cave with some wild sections. A walk in, giant grike (or a fissure separating blocks in a limestone pavement (system)). The main archway is 60 metres high with a daylight ceiling opening. Also on one side was a very large fig tree with roots reaching to the bottom of the floor. Parts of the root were covered with limestone coral.

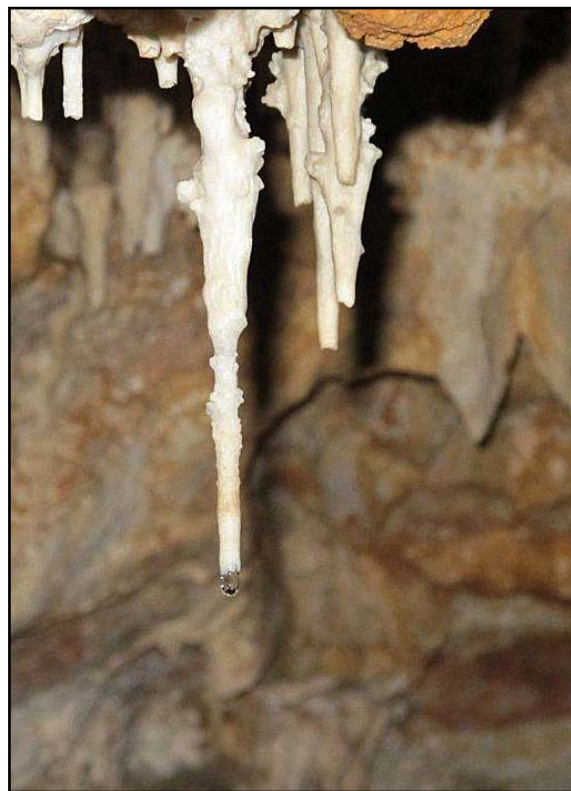
Markham Cave: Development is complex with many daylight chambers and low level Extensions. At our visitation there were pools of water in various locations. This cave used to have a restriction of entry because of a rock collapse at the entrance, but now it is ascertained as stable.

Carpentaria Cave: Development is rambling an extensive cave with daylight chambers with many spacious interconnected high level and low level passages. This is a mild adventurous cave. At the entrance of this cave there was a young "stinging tree" that on no account should be touched.



Trezkinn Cave 4CH14

Trezkinn Cave: This is a tourists cave, with some vertical steps. Excellent decorations with many looking like chandeliers hanging from the ceiling of the cave. Sited many Diadem Leaf-nosed Bats. From the entrance platform the view from the local karst is quite impressive.



Waterdrop on Straw in Trezkinn Cave



Entrance to Fern Cave 4CH107



Cane Toad in Fern Cave

Fern Cave: The entrance is a wide cavernous opening. The entrance has a variety of ferns and mosses. The cave has 40 metres of passage and 2 ceiling openings. Bruno David from the University of Queensland in Brisbane claims this cave has had occupation for at least 26,000 years. In our short visit, we sited 8 hand prints, plus one Cane toad.

Stevens Cave: Length 70 metres, chamber 9 metres wide, and 3 metres high. The collapsed area near the entrance has much tree growth with swamp hens rustling in the foliage.

Arch Cave: This entrance is cave type. The chamber is 100 metres long, 25 metres wide and 10 metres high. Usually this is a dry cave



George swimming in Arch Cave 4U22

but due to recent rains, the entrance railing was under water allowing tourists to go swimming in 3 metres depth of water.

Road Cave: The entrance is cave type with a through tunnel, length 220 metres, chamber 21 metres wide and 9 metres high. At our visitation there was water blocking the walkway at least half way in.

Kalkani Volcano Crater Rim Walk: Diameter 600 metres. Circuit walk 2.5 km. Last eruption around 20,000 years ago. Excellent view of the lava plains.

ABORIGINAL ART SITES VISITED ON JOURNEY:

Wullumbar Art Site, Chillagoe National Park, Qld. This rock overhang site is near the main tourists caves of Chillagoe. There are some incised markings (petroglyphs) as well as Aboriginal Art work.



Lava Tunnel, Road Cave 4U28

Fern Cave, Chillagoe National Park, Qld. (previously mentioned)

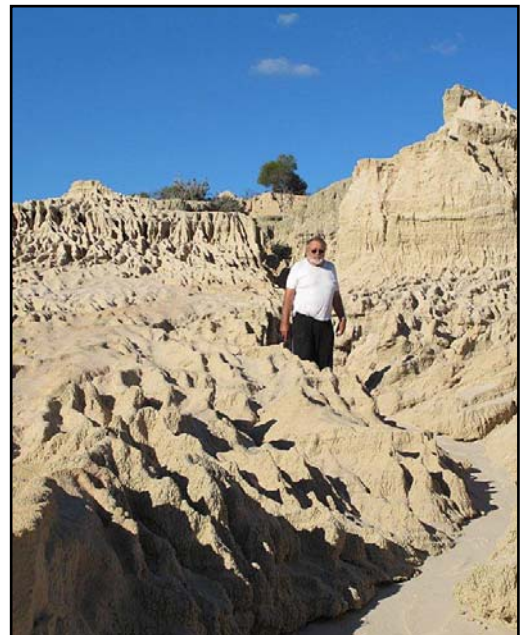


Handprints, Mt Grenfell Historical Site

Mount Grenfell Historical Site, NSW. The three main Aboriginal Art sites are within easy walking distance from the car park. These are hundreds of paintings in red, yellow and ochre colours. The rock overhang sites in 2004 were handed back to the Nigiyampaa people, who now lease it to the NSW government.

Gundabooka National Park, NSW. The rock art site here is reached by a scenic walk through boulders amongst the rust coloured cliffs, gorges and hills.

Mungo National Park, NSW. Main self drive tour was closed due to water over the road but access to the large sand and clay dunes (known as a Lunette) was still available. These



George on Mungo Lunette

sand hills or known as "The Walls of China" where there is long stretch of orange and white earth surrounded by sand dunes, where erosion has sculptured the sand and clay into fragile yet dramatic formations. There has been evidence of Aboriginal occupation dating back at least 60,000 years in the Willandra Lakes with significant examples within the Mungo Lunette.

OTHER FEATURES VISITED

Lake Quarry Conservation Park, Qld. Featuring 3,300 fossilised fragile Dinosaur tracks which inspired the stampede scene in Steven Spielberg's movie "Jurassic Park". The tracks are protected inside a solar powered building. The tracks were made in mud about 93 million years ago. This mud has now become shale and sand stone. The two main tracks are made by Omithopods who were plant eaters and around the size of an emu. The hunter chasing these small critters was a Cranosaur. This huge animal was an efficient hunter. The Cranosaurs zig zag approach cornered prey at the lakes edge until the large animal was bogged down and caught in the muddy shallows.

Cosmos centre for star gazing at Charleville Qld. This was the first time we had seen the rings of ice and rocks around the planet Saturn. Then also the combination of different coloured stars in different systems showing that these stars were of different temperatures.

Thermal Pool Moree, NSW. In the caravan park we both had a dip in the thermal pool at 39 degrees C. Also there was a 37 degree, 35 degree and a normal pool. This was the main reason tourists came to Moree.

THE ASF CONFERENCE PROGRAM.

Intermittent with lectures was visit to show caves Royal Arch and Trezkinn caves, also a trip to an old Chillagoe Smelter works.

The traditional sports had a different slant where teams of three had to be roped together with a metre slack between. In their mock cave survey they had to cross a road via the storm drain.

The lectures were given to attendees on a USB Stick. The lectures that stood out to me for my personal interest was:

“Humans and Karst”
 “Bats and Swiftlets in Chillagoe Caves”
 “Swiftlets surviving in the South Pacific”
 “Silverfish in Australian Caves”.

Following is the Conference proceedings that occurred.

Monday:	Opening speaker - Human and Karst Chillagoe Geological History & Karst Development Cave Survey Bats and Swiftlets in Chillagoe Caves Quest for Mole Creek Mater Cave	Emil Silverstru John Nethery Brad Erkhe Larna Little Nic Haygarth
Tuesday:	Cave Science Sri Lanka The Thin Edge of Utilitarianism Should ASF Hold an International Caving Conference. Swiftlets Survive and thrive in South Pacific Caves A History of caving in Chillagoe Lava Caves of Hawaii Paleokarst – An alternative view Karst in Mid-proterozoic dolomite, Pungalina Station, NT.	Penney Osbourne Nic Haygarth Jim Crockett Mike Tarburton Les Pearson Nicholas White Emil Silverstru Susan White
Wednesday:	Tham Din Phieng, Thailand: an unusual maze cave in sandstone. Laterite parakarst - Regional mapping - Optimal Karst Management. Caves and ruiniform features in sandstone of NT. A typology of sandstone caves in NSW	John Dunkley Ken Grimes Ken Grimes John Dunkley
Thursday:	Karst in Vancouver Island, BC Canada. Microkarren - Regolith mapping Fossils in the Chillagoe area. The terminology of karst, pseudokarst and Ruiniform Landscapes. Fossils from the Chillagoe Caves	Emil Silverstru Ken Grimes Gilbert Price Ken Grimes Jonathon Cramb
Friday:	Karst features and Remnant Dune Systems on the Nullarbor Plain. Silverfish in Australian Caves.	Shannon Burnett Graeme Smith

Damage observed from Queensland Floods:



Damaged Bridge at Augathella

There was an old badly damaged bridge at Augathella which has been replaced by a new one.

Many roads had water creek crossings, but no roads that we travelled on in Qld were closed. Water crossings were only on average 20 cm deep.

We sited a car that was partly under water. Somehow the driver had misjudged where the road was when it was flooded.



Flooded Car At the Development Road Einasleigh River Crossing

This occurred at the Development Road crossing of the Einasleigh River.

In NSW at Lake Mungo National Park the self drive tour was shortened because of flood damage.

Some outstanding birds, animals and flora that we sited on this journey.

Apostle Birds.

Of the assorted birds sited on trip, I must say, the Apostle birds are my favourite because of their sociability nature. A group consists mostly of an adult breeding pair and their progeny.



Apostle Birds at Lake Mungo, NSW

Early settlers thought they were always in groups of 12 (hence the name Apostles). I used to think it was because they were always preaching to us (*Give us some daily bread – turn on the tap to give us water*). I have seen groups of only two in Peterborough SA. In Broken Hill NSW at an Aboriginal site, around 50 birds were together, where here, in Lake Mungo in NSW, the group size was 10.

All members of a group share family shores, such as, building the nest. When eggs are laid they lay on successive days, and on rare occasions more than one female may also lay in one nest, resulting in as many as 8 eggs. They also share in the incubation of the eggs, the brooding

and feeding the nestlings and also clean the nests by removing the droppings.

In conflict they keep together, when drinking they all drink together, when preening they help each other as well as themselves.

Little Mastiff Bat. - *Mormopterus planiceps*

At Lake Mungo National Park a woodland area we had the wonderful experience of a close encounter with a Little Mastiff Bat. This is a species of bat that came into our tent via the small zip for putting our 12Volt fluoro lamp through. Its ultimate act which got my attention after hearing scratching in the dark was being piddled on my head from above.

At first sighting when I switched on a pencil light I thought it was a large moth flying anti clock wise in a flat level flight path. Then he went onto a vertical flight pattern. WOW!!

It was a bat. I woke up June. I wanted to put the bat out but it wanted to get into our bedding, I grabbed it and it gave me a 'love bite' (no skin broken). I then wrapped it in a handkerchief feeling his body vibration in my hand, passed it to June to let it go outside the tent.

These bats roost under loose bark and in tree hollows, dead trees and crevices. His main body was the size of a small mouse.

Resident mouse. While in Chillagoe we had a resident mouse in our car. His likes were apple, fruit cake, chocolate and custard. Also the shredding of toilet paper for a nest which we found after the trip under the back seat, which we had our portable refrigerator secured to. I tried two mouse traps as I thought I knew what he liked, but no success.

Success of his removal came by leaving the car door open at night where he vacated the car premises.

Spotted tree Monitor. This beautiful creature came close to us when we were at a rest stop at the town of Cornfield in Qld.

Sausage Tree – *Kigelia pinnate* Kingella Africana

At Greenvale Caravan Park Queensland, which is 230 km north of Chartres Towers on the dusty Gregory Development Road, we sited a rare Sausage Tree.

This is an unusual tree featuring long sausage shape fruit growing at the end of long stems. The fruit is not palatable for humans. The tree is originally from Africa where the fruit is popular with hippos, baboons and giraffes. In Queensland Australia, it is very popular with cockatoos.



Spotted Tree Monitor

Stinging Tree – or Stinging Bush: *Dendrocnide moroides*

Caves we visited in Chillagoe. Markam Cave had a warning about these plants in the Chillagoe Karst book. Carpentaria Cave had a young bush growing at the entrance.

The leaves and stems are covered in thick hairs that, if touched, inflict a painful sting. These hairs consist of mineral silica, the chief constituent of glass. If you brush against them, their tips penetrate the skin, break off, and release an irritant poison. The effect of this sting may last for months.

In conclusion

All in all a successful trip – 8,000 km- lots of dirt roads – our old 4WD performed well.

Chillagoe Caving Club home is a wonderful area. It is an old primary school the club purchased, with plenty of ground space for tenting.

George MacLucas.



Stinging Plants, Carpentaria Cave, 4CH25

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 29th May 2011

Graham Pilkington, Gary Woodcock, Mark Sefton, Sue McCormick, Steve Wasilewski, Alex Woodcock, and 3-month introductory members Carol Thomas + 28 others.

Another fun trip letting people know about caving. All the introductory members on the trip belonged to Mercedes College with Carol being a teacher.

We organized into two teams, one led by Gary, and one by me. Both visited the usual haunts of Grand Central, Bushwalkers and Crystal Maze areas but in a different sequence and by different routes. Apparently some enjoyed it so much that they actually requested to come along on another trip. I must remember to take a harder route next time.

Graham Pilkington

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Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 3rd-5th Jun 2011

Graham Pilkington, Paul Harper, Steve Bourne (instigator but visitor).

The purpose of the trip was to help Steve evaluate Corra Lynn Cave as a site worthy of entering onto the State Heritage listing. As a preliminary, Steve conducted research into what is known about the cave, including a bibliography check and maps from CEGSA. From these he was able to establish that the major distinguishing feature is the unique and substantial fossil and bone deposits ranging in age from yesterday up to maybe 5 million years old. The older deposits are of an age that is generally missing from Australia's fossil record, hence the trip focussed on seeing the major fossil sites.

Friday started with a visit to the local quarry, 2km northeast and about 20m deep, to get an idea of the local geology. The quarry is in an older underlying strata than that of the cave but both are almost flat-lying Cambrian dolomitic limestones. The quarry manager was extremely friendly and helpful to visitors.

This was followed up by discussing with the land owner, Andrew Slater, the consequences of a State Heritage listing on his farm operations – there should be none because he has already fenced off the doline and surrounds for native vegetation, while the cave is isolated from the surface by a 6m thick layer of calcrete-rich rubble topped by a skimming of soil. He also emphasized that he wants to continue the arrangement that he has with CEGSA in dealing with cave access.

Then into the cave. A tour of the southwest was undertaken to complete the day. This enabled us to visit the fossil deposits of Skeleton Crevasse, Giants Staircase and Limestone Bridge areas. We also had a tour of Grand Central and delights such as the Drumstone.

All Saturday was set aside for a Dreamland visit, at least for Steve and Paul. I got stopped at the Portal, first by a ladder rung slipping on one side trapping my foot and straining my arm extracting it; followed by an assessment that I might be too big to get up there anyway. But I used to fit!? They visited the Graveyard, the Palorchestes Chamber (the Bench), the fossil site at the SW end of the Freeway, and miscellaneous other places. I spent the 6 hours or so cleaning up the Portal Dig site and equipment as well as removing the accumulated spoil in the western tunnel. West of the Portal can now accept another cubic metre of spoil, which is just as well because the Alberta access path is filling fast.

Sunday we toured the northeast passages such as Bushwalkers Run, Crystal Maze and Bushwalkers Chamber so that Steve would have an overview of most of the cave. During the trip, we examined the bone deposits along Bushwalkers as well as a possible owl roost deposit close to the entrance.

Steve expects to complete his report by the end of June.

Graham Pilkington

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 11th Jun 2011

Graham Pilkington, Damien Pilkington and sons Rory and Isiah, and 3-month introductory members Jake Lamey, Peter Ellery, Aggie Malkawska.

As usual, late cancellations made for a much better trip. Tours are faster and more friendly if the numbers are kept down to 8 or fewer because everyone can keep in touch. For the morning, we kept to the well-trodden areas of Grand Central and the Crystal Maze but I took them by a slightly roundabout route, including down the slot near the Rope Crevasse to connect with the Bushwalkers Run via the long low flattener.

After lunch, Jake went back home to attend to family affairs, while Peter & Aggie had had enough for their first dry caving experience.

Damien decided to spend the rest of the day chipping out the letterbox into Alberta so that he could participate in all the activities beyond there – to no avail! The other three of us explored areas off the Kitchen and Jawbone before visiting the Bushwalkers Chamber.

Graham Pilkington

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SOS Cave, 5U132, 24th June 2011

Graham Pilkington, Mark Sefton.

Mark and I took Friday off work to visit the Biggins property just south of Naracoorte so that we could discuss with the owners, on site, the options available to prevent the SOS Cave entrance from becoming blocked by sand. Several sand-slumps have occurred from outside the outside buried galvanized tank (in the eighties, Jim Biggins dropped in two circular ribbed galvanised steel tank walls, one inside the other of about 1.5m and 2.5m diameter). A fence that he has erected to protect his stock is collapsing into the slumped doline. The doline over the entrance tube is itself in the centre of a 12m diameter 1m plus deep sand depression.

Examination of the entrance established that the sand is 2.8m thick above the rock tube, and that the tube is 0.85m diameter 0.4m below the rock lip, excluding a 0.3m wide wall indent of 0.4m. The outer doline has become stabilized by a sparse covering of low vegetation and is unlikely to naturally infill much further over the next few decades provided that the tube does not swallow any more sand. This means that "ground level" will not rise by more than about 0.1m during the life of any remedial work.

Jim was keen to save the cave from burial but does have the option of covering the hole then backfilling. He suggested that we do not spend too much money on protective works because he intends to sell the property and the next owner might restrict access. Mark and I put forward that CEGSA will spend as much as is necessary to protect the cave from filling with sand even if we lose access.

After discussing various options, the best course of action was decided to be the placement of a vertical 900mm internal diameter 60mm thick concrete pipe over the tube by seating the end onto a 60mm wide ledge that we will cut into the rock followed by concreting around the outer side to create a seal against sand incursion. The total length of pipe needed is at least 3m but this could be made up of smaller lengths joined together. Concrete pipe costs about \$600 for a 2.4m standard length. The inner tank is to be left in place and buried when the pipe is buried. The outer tank and fencing can be removed. The top of the pipe will need some stock-proof cover and anchor points for ropes and ladders. Other points considered included how to lower the pipe into place and how to then suspend it vertically while completing the seating and concreting. For this, either a gantry over the hole or a crane or a 3m+ reach backhoe would be needed – with a collapsing hole, the front of any vehicle is highly likely to sink drastically unless extensive load distribution is in place. Just in case you aren't aware, a 2.4m long 900mm concrete pipe weighs about 1½ tonnes. Transporting pipe from Adelaide could be difficult and costly, besides, maybe some local second-hand pipe is available.

We don't need leak-proof undamaged pipe, just stuff good enough to do the job of holding the sand back. Help with machinery is also needed, hence we went off to the local Council to inquire about local availability of pipe and assistance.

At the Council Depot, we received a warm welcome and encouragement for the project. The Council had no 900mm concrete pipe on hand and do not hold any used stuff, however, the Works Manager presented us with the option of taking a 3m long 900mm diameter reinforced plastic pipe that would suit our needs even better! They kindly donated the pipe because it was due for disposal (one end is slightly damaged but of no consequence for our needs) and even organized to deliver it to the cave. This unexpected but delightful change to our proposed entrance stabilization plan reduces the need for very heavy machinery and almost eliminates the need to cut a rock shelf (plastic pipe is still heavy but can be handled by many willing hands; it also has reinforcing rings giving plenty of handholds lacking in the concrete version). Everything else remains the same.

After informing the Biggins of the latest events and informing them to expect delivery of the pipe, we relaxed and returned home. With Mark off to the Northern Territory for 3 weeks, the stabilization project will be on hold until his return. Meanwhile plans are still being made to gather equipment, people, and materials. To that end, the Biggins have donated rubble and sand (too much of this at the entrance is our collapse problem!) so that we only need to buy cement to make the concrete.

Graham Pilkington

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Conversion to the Portal Dig Sect

Corra-Lynn Cave. Sunday 26th June.

Participants Graham Pilkington, Neville Skinner and Author.

I have kept a respectable distance from the portal dig for some time (15149 km according to Google Earth) Imagining the possible endless crawl ways in the postulated basement below. Now I am a true convert to this very inspiring dig. I might add this is not my first dig by any means! This dig has a closer correlation to a number of European style digs and I would encourage all those Portal sceptics out there to throw in your trowels, so to speak.

Much work has been done at the dig to get it to its present state. We are looking at a steeply inclined shaft at the junction of two minor joints. The shaft is at the lowest known point in the cave and on the extremely rare occasions water flows in the cave it clearly ends up going down this route. The shaft is filled with well compacted fill but a narrowing of a joint at one side is open and tantalisingly seems to drop into a low crawl way below. Our three sect members dropped the dig a further 0.8m. The norm for a trip is between 0.4 and 0.6m. Leaving a mere 1.2m vertically (1.5m diagonally) to get to the obvious passage below. A small child could easily slide down into this void right now. So a couple more trips and...



Graham Pilkington and Damian Grindley at entrance to Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1.
Photo: Neville Skinner.

Digging involves combining the wet (Yes wet) goopy pottery type clay with the courser bits and sticking the resultant mud balls to the wall. Bucket descends, mud is peeled off into the bucket and is hauled away. All very efficient. The only down side was the lack of air movement. This was symptomatic of the whole cave on that particular day.

I was so enthused by the dig that I even managed to have a half decent conversation with our teenage son following the trip. It went something like this:-

"Hi pom, what you been doing?"

"Yeh, playing around in the Portal Mate"

"Oh aren't the graphics awesome, and the increased capacity for dimensional holes raise the level of challenge and coordination required" Bla Bla Bla for 10 Mins...

"What"?

Apparently Portal 1 & 2 are computer games that feature weird physics and an Aperture Science Handheld Portal Device, which can create portals connecting two rooms. *Portal* characters can use these portals to move unconventionally between rooms such that exit in one roof and fall out of the ceiling in another. This all seems rather apt for Corra-Lynn and the conclusion being Graham is a secret portal player. As yet a search of online gaming sites has failed to find a gamer named Pilko.

Damian Grindley.

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Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y1, 17th July 2011

Graham Pilkington, and from FUSSI: Clare Buswell and Thomas Varga.

After a promising start with 7 CEGSA members interested in attending the trip, it ended up with just me. I was about to cancel the trip when I got an email from Clare to say FUSSI would be coming. The Portal dig was on again.

On the way through, I stopped off at the Letter Box to widen it by a few centimetres having brought along chisel, club hammer and glasses. It only took half an hour to peel off a shelf slab 300mm long by 100mm deep by 60mm into the wall. Now there's no excuse for "larger" members not to help out.

Thomas got the job of lugging a wooden plank all the way out to the Portal so that a platform can be placed above the bottom dig. Someone on the platform will be able to do the initial bucket lift, freeing the digger from having to climb up the pitch each time. Climbing up is slow and tedious and is getting worse the deeper we dig. Once we reach the horizontal tunnel in another 1.5m depth's time, it will be very slow without the extra person. The need to climb is because the rift to the bottom of the ladder is too small for the bucket for the lower metre and too awkward (tight, steep, and slippery) for the bottom-of-ladder person to get above the dig each time.

We spent the day emptying out the Guardhouse that was filled by the trip on the 26th June. The debris was moved out along the Streamway, filling up along the eastern side. We need to complete the dig shortly because we are running out of easy dumping ground! Occasionally changing positions enabled everyone to exercise different muscles. Thomas had not been on digging trips before and got to appreciate all the effort that has gone into making cave excess possible. What really surprised him was the time it takes to do a dig such as the Portal - 0.1m per hour; and the dig has been in progress for 2½ years in descending the 10m to date.

During a rather late lunch break, Clare and Thomas descended the ladder to the dig to see what all the FUSS was about. Looking down the ladder it doesn't look much, but after sidestepping to the dig, they were very enthused. Clare, like Damian Grindley on a previous trip, noted that the dig was very "un-Corra Lynn'ish" and more like the wet muddy rifts of interstate and overseas caves.

Graham Pilkington

Ramblings from a new Member.

As an associate for around 12 months, I thought that perhaps I'd write an article for the newsletter and since I only have a few underground experiences to discuss; I thought padding out the article with a little about myself (might help Athol fill a page...).

As a kid/teenager I was lucky enough to visit a number of caves in the Southern Flinders and the South East as a member of a youth organisation, this was with the help of several CEGSA members past and present, including Eddie Rubesa and occurred over a number of years.

I don't recall who from CEGSA was assisting on my first caving experience. It was an abseil into Mares cave as a 10 or 11 year old; I recall shedding a tear as fear gripped me. We had done practice abseils but never into a cave and never with the rigging so low. The momentary sensation of lowering your weight until it settles in the harness overcame me with corresponding thoughts of impending death. I overcame the fear and never looked back.

My appetite for adventure had been awakened; I did always wonder about CEGSA but for many reasons never pursued membership. I did however become a very active rock climber, climbing most weekends in the Adelaide Hills with occasional visits to Mt Arapiles in Victoria.

I occasionally considered pursuing more caving but I had become very involved in the Country Fire Service, I blinked and 18 years have gone by; in the intervening time I had moved through the ranks within the CFS and specialised as an instructor in compartment fire behaviour and structural fire tactics. I also became a career aviation fire fighter. My role now as a Station Officer is mostly in incident management.

My time in CFS has been drawing to a close and for some strange reason I felt that the time had come to get back underground. So here I am as a new associate.

So far I have had a couple of visits to Corra Lynn. The first visit was with a College group, I was amused when the students assumed I was an experienced caver asking me for directions; I couldn't help with that but I did really enjoy helping some of them draw on their own strength and to overcome fear or perceived physical limitations. The second visit was to assist Graham and Gary with the portal dig. I need to get fitter hauling mud out of that fissure isn't for the faint hearted. I am looking forward to see how the dig unfolds. If it weren't for shift work getting in the way, I'd be back there digging away.

A recent work trip had me at Exmouth in WA, a bit of research on the net and I realised the area has some good features. Thanks to the help of CEGWA and also WASG I made contact with Exmouths resident cave expert Darren Brooks (also a career fire fighter). Scheduling was a problem which prevented much caving; I did however manage to tag along on a cave familiarisation that Darren was conducting for the local State Emergency Service Unit.

The cave visited is named the Three Amigos; named due to the skeletal remains of three long dead kangaroos found in the cave. Although the cave was relatively small the visit was a welcome change from work routine. Darren gave a few small talks to the SES group about cave formation and posed questions to get the group thinking about the difficulties of cave rescue. The cave has two main chambers with considerable collapse piles. (Apologies for my lack of skill in describing caves). It was a warm dry cave, with plenty of air moving most notably near the entrance. The limestone in parts appeared very broken and sharp. I was itching to explore further, but time did not allow and apparently progress beyond the two main chambers is painful and slow due to the sharp loose rock. I'm hoping that in the near future I can perhaps visit the South East and become more acquainted with more SA caves and the broader membership of CEGSA.

David Pollitt

Past Trips from General Meetings

May 2011

- 1 **Ian Lewis** helped Ruth Lawrence with her Latrobe Uni caving trip at Naracoorte. Students from Latrobe have been involved with karst research in the south east for 10 years. This year they produced a long section of Blanche Cave.
- 2 **George MacLucas** and June made the 8000km journey to Chillagoe for the ASF Conference. Some tracks were washed out. They also visited the usually dry Undara volcanic caves which had 3m of water in them.
- 3 **Eddie Rubessa** went to the Flinders Ranges over Easter. Many of the caves have had a lot of water flow into them but this has had no noticeable affect.

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June 2011

- 1 **Stan Flavel** went to the Flinders Ranges on the June long weekend. Cistern Cave was visited but found to be not the original cave given that name! Stan will peruse his notes from the trip he found the "first" one. The New Cistern Cave is a vertical hole blocked at depth that could be excavated. The Narrina area was also visited and has limestone with cave potential.
- 2 **Aggie Malkawska** reported on a Corra Lynn Cave trip of 11th June. The challenging nature and complexity of the cave were noted. Navigation was difficult for beginners with it being very easy to get lost. But it was fun, even with the bruises!
- 3 **Damian Grindley** gave us a quick run down of his worldwide tour by just mentioning countries that he had visited such as Sweden, Norway, and Italy. He went to Naracoorte on June long weekend to visit Victoria Fossil, Fox, and Wet Caves. The ranger-in-charge at Naracoorte Caves Reserve, Debbie, is interested in doing a cave cleanup of Sand Cave.

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July 2011

1. **Mark Sefton** went to Bullita and nearby caves with a party of 11 people, 2 from CEGSA. In sorting out map discrepancies and ?'s, they added 2½ km. The Spring Creek area had 5 people make over 1000 survey legs. A joint trip into other caves added over 2 km of passages including some large ones.
- 2 **Graham Pilkington** continued the Portal dig in Corra Lynn Cave with the help of 2 FUSSI members. All CEGSA members who had indicated that they were going had pulled out.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Member:-

Matt Smith A 1102 4 Joycelyn Avenue SURREY DOWNS SA 5126
(M) 0419-830-575 matt@speleorovers.org

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES became due on January 1st.

Joining fee applies after March 31st. If you prefer to direct debit your fees, the CEGSA Bank Account details are: **BSB 105-900, Account No 950661040**, reference with your name and CEGSA fees. Please email treasurer on your action. Renewal form is required for database information purposes.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2011 YEAR

Full Membership	\$ 53.00
Full Country Membership	47.00
Associate Membership	45.00
Long Term Associate	53.00
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 2011 YEAR

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

2011 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$53.00	\$ 68.00	\$121.00
Full Country Membership	47.00	68.00	115.00
Associate Membership	45.00	68.00	113.00
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	\$90.00	\$121.50	\$211.50
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$82.00	\$121.50	\$203.50
1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$74.00	\$121.50	\$195.50

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.

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

Name	Caving Leader level
Marie Choi	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Coordinator Only
Chris Gibbons	Coordinator Only
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
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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24 odd but true reminiscences from and about some of our early members and associates in C.E.G.S.A.

1/ As a boy, one held up and robbed the local railway station with his father's pistol (loaded).

2/ On a trip to the Eyrie cave, one broke the rear axle of his car in a creek bed, removed the axle, and took it back to Hawker. He borrowed the welder from the local garage to weld, then the forge to heat treat and temper. It still worked when the car was sold, three years later.

3/ N.S.W boy who, for a number of trips took only chocolate biscuits on cave trips; he then traded them for food.

4/ S.A lad who successfully did the same lightweight camping trick with a pound of coffee grounds, until we woke up!

5/ An S.A. member who couldn't get on with landladies ended up living in a mud hut- 120x96 inches in size- until he finished his course in Geology, and got his Doctorate!

6/ A man who, in his employment with the P.M.G. was responsible, during part of the war, for the Overland Telegraph, and sometimes, as a temporary measure, to keep the line working ,when storms damaged the line, or the local people had needed a broken glass insulator for woodcarving

purposes, and the voltage had to be raised from 50 volt D.C. to **OVER 100 VOLTS** to enable air transmission of the signal.

7/ A student teacher who did not listen to a young lady who gave him a recipe for preserving hot chilli. She told him to use only glass bowls, and wooden spoons. He used his hands, and literally burnt the skin off, needing medical help, and almost needing skin grafts.

8/ A N.S.W. caver who went to U.S.A. and designed Moonrover for N.A.S.A.

9/ A young fellow, who, in the course of his employment, at the Industrial School- a State Reformatory for boys- removed knuckle dusters, knives, and pistols from his charges.

10/ The original party to the Nullarbor had to be certified as healthy, particularly in regard to V.D. Before a permit was obtained to enter Yalata Mission land.

11/ The men were excluded from Mair's Cave, Buckalowie, while a female attempted the 8¼ squeeze in the raw because she couldn't get through in her bra. She still failed!

12/ A young member who went to Mildura, armed with a 303 to shoot ducks. He couldn't see any on the Victorian bank, but could see some near the N.S.W. bank. He went across and bagged a few. When returning, he was accosted by an officious local, who, saying that his name was Kelly, demanded to look in his boot. He was first denied access, and asked if his name was Ned Kelly. Unfortunately, he was the local ranger, and the charges included :

- 1/ Shooting ducks out of season (the N.S.W season was closed),
- 2/ Using an army calibre weapon in N.S.W. (illegal at that time),
- 3/ Using solid ammunition over water (instead of shot),
- 4/ Obstructing an officer of the law in the course of his duty,
- 5/ Shooting on a Sunday.

This villain later entered the Northern Territory Police, and rose to become a very senior Police Commissioner.

13/ A young fellow who hired a large amount of glassware from a local pub for his sister's 21st. Birthday. At the party, none was broken, but, as he was returning them the next day, he was run off the road, by a driver on his left, and broke the lot!

14/ A member got blind drunk at a party, and ran off the road near Anstey's Hill. His vehicle ended up with both left wheels on the road, and both right wheels in the air, perched on the right hand guard rail. He was soon approached by a young constable. He locked all the doors, and stayed inside, refusing to talk. The very young constable went to consult his sergeant, and, when he got back, the boy had fled, back to the party host, who hid him until the next day. He then approached the police, who had removed his vehicle. He was cold stone sober, and pleaded loss of memory. He got off very lightly

15/ The next one is of Roger. When a young tenderfoot Scout, on his first Scout camp ,on Torrens Island, which was used by the Army for manoeuvres during the war. He was left to attend the cooking fire when the troop went to play a wide game. As the bored child bent to lay another stick on the fire, a live cartridge, lost months before, reacted to the heat, and blew off his forefinger. Roger lived to get into more trouble, and had a party, before he turned 21, to celebrate his 100th. stitch!

16/ Some of our early members were students, and one group lived and partied at 202, a rented residence (house to you) When the lease expired, the landlord said that the rent must increase. The boys said " Like Hell!" It was pointed out to them that the lease (which most of them had never seen) required that the house interior must be repainted, at their expense, before they vacated it. After much heat and ire, a brilliant thought occurred to one lad, and, after due reference to law students at the Uni, it was duly, and legally, painted----- **black !**

17/ To name an old friend – Alan had a house at Tea Tree Gully. His wife invited a group of her teacher pals to a party, so Alan invited a few C.E.G.S.A. people. Alan hated schoolteacher, particularly males. During the show, which was mildly alcoholic, one of the young male teachers, who lusted unsuccessfully after a pretty young thing, approached Alan, and said that he had desires. As an experienced seducer, how would he approach the problem. Alan looked at the would be seducer, and said “Easy- I will show you.”

He approached the young lady, explained the situation, and invited her outside. After about 20mins, spent talking, and eating strawberries, in the dark, they both came back, adjusting their clothing, and Alan said to the lad “ That’s how you do it ! “ smiled, and moved away.

18/ At a C.E.G.S.A. dinner, an invited scientist became very much under the weather, and, at the close of the evening, was completely limp. Knowing the name of the street in Fullarton, where he boarded ,but not the number, a pair of the boys found his car keys, took him to his expensive Armstrong Sidley, and essayed to drive him home. He was no help, so they drove the length of the street, stopped about half way, and, bracing their burden between them, they approached a likely door, enquiring politely “ Does this belong to you ?” At their fourth try, they got it right --- at 2.00 a.m!

19/ A very senior member of the Museum staff left his workplace and, after setting the alarm, locked up and left, only to find that he had left his new bottle of whisky on the desk. Undeterred, he returned, unlocked, retrieved his elixir, and returned to the door. Whilst he was relocking it, a police car crossed the footpath, and stopped at the front of the steps. After a polite exchange, he was invited to Police Headquarters, at Victoria Square, until another staff member arrived to identify him.

20/ Did you know that Dr. Paul Hossfelt walked the entire length of Cave Range, from near the Murray to the Border, past Naracoorte in his search for caves, and other interesting things?

21/ Some of our members met their partners in a somewhat peculiar fashion:-

At a party (dry) , in Gilles St., at the rented home of a member, one of the boys retired in the mid afternoon for a nap on his host’s bed. A little later the host’s girlfriend came in from tennis, wearing a very brief tennis skirt, and a fairly low cut top. Seeing a body lying on the bed, she cast her racquet to the winds, and did a swallow dive over the foot of the bed, onto the recumbent.....Her old boyfriend never saw her again !

22/ Did you know that the A.B.C. Four Corners logo of 40 years was designed by a member. A graphic designer ?

23/ One leading member, long ago, was employed by a District organization near the foothills. He became a cadet Civil Engineer, work by day, and school by night. One Friday afternoon, after a wet week, he was sent ,by car, to do a survey of a gully near the foothills. He got bogged. After he had walked 3 miles back, the boss sent a truck out to pull out the car. It got bogged. They sent out a grader. It got bogged so.... they waited until the next week.

This member became an early Leather Medal recipient.

His employer had decided that they didn’t need an engineer, so, when the degree was obtained, he was fired.

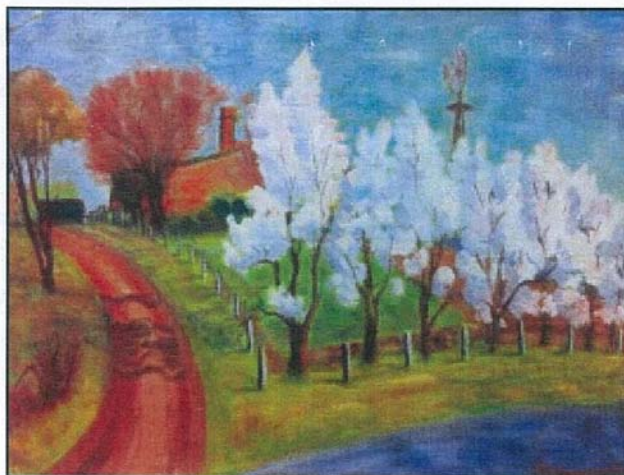
Thus the citation- “ For losing his job by degrees.”

24/ You may or may not have visited K11 cave, Kelly Hill.

It was noted on the Southern Boundary of the reserve, by the Govt. Surveyor, found on the Govt maps by Doug Seton. Alan Hill and Bob Sexton decided that we should see it. Using the Miner’s Dial, and a tape, wonderfully accurate calculation, and a cutting team to produce a line of sight greater than 30 odd metres, after 3 days of hard labour by 10 people, we arrived at the calculated location, and discovered two holes about ten metres apart. We were in a direct line between them.

Noel Mollet.

Fred Sanders 1916 - 2011



Vale Fred Sanders

Hi Ian,

Please find attached a copy of Fred's Eulogy. It is great that you are going to put some thing in your news letter, I am sure he would feel honoured.

He had many fond memories of his caving days and often would speak of them.
I have many child hood memories of my father taking my brother and I into caves.

He was someone that left his mark on many of us and will be long remembered.

Best regards
Richard Sanders

Fred Sanders Eulogy

10/3/2011

My father was born in 1916 in South Australia. He grew up on a farm in the Mallee, but soon had to leave as each harvest he suffered badly from hay fever, and was billeted to Adelaide. Back in those days Adelaide would have been just a small town and a community based around Agriculture.

I have often thought "What a very different world it must have been from today and how many changes he had seen in his life".

Growing up through the Great Depression must have been a large influence on him, as he never wasted any thing.

Father was recycling long before it was an in thing to do.

Every glass jar and tin can was segregated and placed in a bucket that would be taken to be recycled.

I can remember being quite surprised when I discovered very few people did this.

When I was a child father would always have a job for us to do, "pulling out nails from pieces of wood that were bound for the wood stove".

He would have us hammer the nails straight so they could be reused.

Years later I was to walk into a hardware store and be amazed that nails were available in their hundreds and really quite cheap.

Fred was a well educated man that had a cure for most ailments having studied chemistry and was always ready to offer help and advice. "Don't drink Coke and watch out for those preservatives."

He was a constant source of encouragement for us to study and expand our horizons and thought nothing of going without to put us all through College.

I can remember him when I was a child being quite a stern man that at times I was fearful of, but over the years he mellowed and became one of the best friends that one could have ever hoped for.

Father was one of the last great bush men, he was keen on caving and loved the out doors. He would pack up his Land Cruiser and off he would go with his friend Tom Burges and disappear for weeks on another one of his adventures. Age seemed to be no barrier.

I will never forget my mother receiving a letter from him. When she opened the envelope there was a note inside written on bush parchment (a very thin piece bark of a native tree reminiscent of Banjo Patterson). He wrote that he was somewhere up near where the Queensland border meets SA, all was well and he would be back in a week or so.

Whilst I am sure at times he could drive us all nuts with his insistent manner on how some thing should be done, the truth was he was probably right and if he wasn't, it was going to be done his way any way.

I can never remember him being young but some how he was never old.

He taught me many things, but most of all he taught me that life is a precious gift that should be lived to the maximum and not to waste a single day.

I am sure every one gathered here will have a story to tell about Father and the memories will bring a smile to all our faces for many years to come.

I have no doubt he will live on in our hearts and will never be forgotten.

My Father Fred.

By Richard Sanders.

%%%%%%%%%

OBITUARY FOR FREDERICK HAROLD SANDERS

**by MARY BOATMAN, (Elizabeth St, Mt Gambier)
nee Shepherdson, niece of Fred Sanders**

Frederick Harold Sanders, Fred, was born on January 11, 1916. He had a somewhat unique and enlightened childhood for his time. His thirst for knowledge was evident at a young age, with a particular interest in the sciences. He could often be found conducting experiments; trees were blown apart and on one occasion also a shed. Alcohol was distilled as well, but somehow Fred survived relatively unscathed!

Fred was educated at Scotch College in Adelaide and went on to join his father's business, Austral Elevator Co. in 1931, ill health forcing his retirement in 1981. The family business continues today as C & A (Chains & Accessories) Complete Drive Solutions.

He was passionate about the environment and strived hard in the successful revegetation of his land in the Mallee. Fred was a 'Greenie' long before it was fashionable, and was a campaigner for recycling, minimal chemical usage, and he lamented the introduction of the many additives and preservatives now found in our foods, in particular MSG. After years of campaigning, he was delighted when its use was banned.

He spoke several languages, including Japanese which he learnt in his 50's, after the business became distributors for the Tsubaki Chain Co. He travelled overseas on several occasions including Japan where he embraced the Asian culture. Fred also travelled extensively in Australia and took particular delight in visiting the outback and bush.

Classical music was also a love of Fred's, and he was also involved in public speaking groups. In more recent years he visited Nursing homes and institutions with his dog in tow, much to the delight of the residents.

He was an accomplished landscape artist and had studied under internationally renowned artist Jeffrey Smart.

Fred was a unique, some might say eccentric character, none-the-less he was a warm and generous man. A visit to Fred's home could see one leave with fresh produce from the garden, a bottle of 'plonk', gems, and always one of Fred's 'natural prescriptions' for whatever ailed you (needless to say, he had vast medical knowledge) and was a great believer in natural remedies complimenting traditional medicine.

Fred passed away on 7th March 2011 at Daw House Hospice aged 95yrs. His wife Margaret had died in 1997. He is survived by his children, Jay, Catherine, Rob and Richard and their families.

A service of Thanksgiving was held at St Michael's Church, Mitcham, followed by a wake at Fred's home where his many friends took the opportunity to pay tribute to an amazing man, Fred Sanders.

Additional comment by Fred Aslin -

Having asked Mary to help write a tribute to Fred, I was delighted to say she has provided the gist of all the attributes that I would have mentioned, plus the family content as well!

My earliest correspondence with Fred is dated late 1967, but I feel sure we were in dialogue a number of years prior to that – maybe in the early 60's, when we in Mt Gambier, were constructing our own cable ladders locally. He was generous not only with his time and his pen, but also with mechanical bits and pieces he thought we might 'use one day'.

Whilst I never went into a cave with him, I will forever call him one of my caving mates and miss our times together.

Additional comment by Kevin Mott -

My first contact with Fred Sanders was during the mid 1970's when CEGSA decided to make a new batch of ladders. He offered his facilities at Austral Elevators to use as a base for fabricating the components for the ladders. His caving experience and engineering knowledge helped us to modify tools and materials to make the ladders. Ladders traditionally had 12 inch rung spacing and I think Fred was bemused by the discussions around whether to have 12 inch or 10inch spacings. Those with shorter legs won the day and hence the demise of a pseudo measuring tape.

Fred's advice was to prepare all the components in the workshop then the ladders could be assembled later as time permitted. I suspect Fred was also amused at our method of testing the ladders. Gordon Ninnes (Nimble) was used as a crash test dummy in a drop test as he was the heaviest person on site. The ladders passed and Nimble survived.

In later years Fred Aslin and I were able to catch up with Fred S, when he visited relatives in Mount Gambier. He was always keen to catch up on the latest news and discuss environmental issues of the region.

Although not a scientist Fred was one of those rare individuals with a thirst for knowledge, a practical understanding of the environment and a willingness to share it with others. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.

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Additional comment by Ian Lewis -

Fred was one of our earliest CEGSA Life members and had a helmet that looked as if it had been Norbert Casteret's! CEGSA now has his trusty rusty old Carbide Lamp in our equipment archives, thanks to his family who have been generous and pleased for CEGSA to take good care of his various caving books and documents which they have been slowly uncovering.

Many of us did not know that Fred was also a talented artist. The watercolour on this page was painted by him and was one of a number of beautiful and detailed painted scenes on display at his funeral service. He lived a very full and interesting life to the age of 95 and the photo shows him as a little kid in the farm in the Mallee. By the time Fred was a teenager, between the wars, caving was just beginning to develop as a sport in Europe and Fred collected a series of caving books over the following decades. The famous French speleologist Norbert Casteret's books are among them and no doubt had the same inspirational affect on Fred as they had on many others in those formative years of world caving.

Grant Gartrell recalls that although Fred was one of the early people to promote healthy food eating, he was able on every occasion during the 1966 Mullamullang Cave Expedition to reduce everything that he cooked – mains, soups, stews, leftovers, desserts etc etc – to the same-looking mush, regardless of whatever it had started out as!

On one caving trip, a buxom female caver only had a single light source. Fred pulled out a box of matches and a couple of candles from his spares kit. He then opened both her breast pockets on her overalls and put the matches and candles in. Quite innocently he then patted her on both chest pockets with both of his hands and said "Now you'll never worry again". Quite to the contrary, she became VERY worried and the story goes that she never went caving again if Fred was in the party!

Fred's workshop was the location for the manufacturing of all CEGSA's ladders in the first few decades. It was a great meeting place and a most significant contribution to us all. He was a big personality and although it is sad to farewell a Life Member, Fred put everything into his near-century of life. Good on you, Fred; it was great to know you!

Vale Denis Burke

It is with sadness that we record the recent passing of Denis Burke. Denis was one of CEGSA's more colourful characters and most energetic cavers particularly in the 1970's.

A medico by profession, Denis was somehow able to develop some intriguing lateral thought processes and to find amazing amounts of time for their implementation. In his hey-day it was not uncommon for him to make the journey from Adelaide to Naracoorte weekly and beaver away assiduously with whoever he could rope in to assist him. It was never a dull moment with Denis, and his enthusiasm was hard to ignore. He was certainly one of those people treading the fine line that separates being considered crazy by some of your peers and a genius by others. I liked him a lot. I know that he was certainly smart enough to know himself that he wobbled back and forth across that line from time to time. He gave us cause to think and to consider the world to be a richer place for his presence. Some times he was pretty hard to keep up with, but there was a quieter, more introspective side to him as well, that wasn't always as well hidden as he perhaps intended.

It might not sound all that plausible to anyone with an engineering background, but Denis spent a fair bit of time at one stage trying to perfect his design of a crowbar that would work around corners, inspired by some of the nastiest and least promising tight little cave digs ever to be pursued in South Australia during a golden era of multiple major discoveries. I don't believe that he ever completely got the bugs out of the ninety-degree crowbar nor ever actually unearthed any new cave extensions with it, but he sure tried.

A little after that period, in one section of the newly discovered extensions of the Victoria-Fossil Cave, CEGSA embarked on a project to excavate a short tunnel to bypass a long crawlway. The crawlway, like many passages in that area of the cave, was tight and low, with large expanses of beautifully flat flowstone floor that looked a bit like an ice-skating rink. Early attempts to protect the floor involved rolling out long sheets of plastic for crawling over, but after a detailed survey, the option of enlarging a small fissure into a more easily negotiated by-pass tunnel seemed a much better proposition for protecting this part of the cave, especially when it was clearly to be the main route to major sections of the cave. Denis gave to this project his usual 110% commitment, regularly hiring an electric jackhammer and a very long length of cable to speed up the process. He quickly wore the rest of us into the ground, and at the same time generated a huge heap of rock which was fast becoming a problem, but not a problem for Denis. Back to the surgery and out with the printing press. Off to the packaging supplies company and back yet again to Naracoorte. Somewhere around the place I still have one of his pamphlets explaining to members of tourist parties visiting the caves why they should carry out of the cave and take home with them a plastic bag containing their very own piece of cave rock. This scheme worked a great deal better than the right angle crowbar, and shifted many tonnes of rock, but was discontinued when too many plastic bags started blowing around the countryside near the cave entrance.

To me what epitomised Denis's flair perhaps more than anything else was the celebration of the completion of the tunnel digging exercise. Denis produced a bunch of invitations beautifully printed on deckled-edge card that would not have looked out of place if issued by Buckingham Palace. These went to all and sundry, but not all the guests were a wake-up to Denis. The then Mayor of Naracoorte, Mr Bill Hoole, graciously accepted Denis's kind invitation to a ceremony celebrating the opening of the tunnel at which cups of tea and rock cakes were to be served in the Great Hall beyond the tunnel, only to find himself in his best suit in the official party crawling along the tunnel on hands and knees, trying desperately and valiantly to avoid at the very least getting muddy knees, or at worst, shredding his suit. Bill did rise to the occasion very well, and the ceremony was a great success, but he certainly dressed more casually for his future interactions with CEGSA.

Denis was caving in New South Wales well before he came to South Australia. I have been told by one of his daughters, Alex, that he was one of the first people in Australia to attempt cave diving at Jenolan, accompanied by Ben Nurse. As the story was told to me, he wore a canvas suit and a bell helmet and breathed through a garden hose rigged up to an air delivery system. He very nearly became the first cave diver to die, when his breathing system failed and he luckily came up in an air pocket. But he was in good hands, surrounded by other medical students.

Denis, who moved back to New South Wales some years ago, was pre-deceased by his former wife Mary, who we all thought would live forever, and is survived by (now adult) Jon, Tim, Cate and Alex, all of whom participated in some memorable CEGSA trips many years ago. It seems like only yesterday.

Grant Gartrell



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Library Update - several recent donations to the CEGSA Library:

Eddie Rubessa donated 6 books – “*Underground Worlds*”, “*The Life of the Cave*”, “*Ten Years under the Earth*”, “*Jenolan Caves*”, “*The Story of Caves*” and a science fiction novel called “*The Caves of Karst*”.

Fred Aslin donated some cave booklets and articles.

Grant Gartrell donated a copy of “*Blind Descent*”, a book describing the exploits of two main instigators on different continents trying to be the first to find a cave more than 2km deep. I didn't have time to read the book so I just read the first few paragraphs, then a few more, then the first chapter ... I managed to stop reading when I reached the end of the book.

Graham Pilkington

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
24/08/11	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. The potential of Sellicks Hill	Grant Gartrell
27/08/11	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
28/08/11	Caving	Portal Dig)	Graham Pilkington
Early 09	Caving	SOS Cave Entrance Restoration	Mark Sefton
14/09/11	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
??/09/11	Caving	Vic Fossil Survey continuation	Gary Woodcock
28/09/11	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Bullita Cave: Longest Cave in Australia.	Mark Sefton
01/10/11	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
01-03/ 10/11	Long W/E Caving	Avenue Range	Marie Choi
12/10/11	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
26/10/11	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. South Australian Museum	Neville Pledge
29/10/11	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
09/11/11	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
09/11/11	CEGSA NEWS	Newsletter Articles due	Athol Jackson
23/11/11	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. End of Year BBQ	Graham Pilkington
29/11/11	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
14/12/11	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
28/12/11	NO General Meeting	In December.	Mark Sefton
	Training	Ad Hoc training	Tim Payne
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil survey	Gary Woodcock
	Caving	Continuing Fleurieu Peninsula Exploration	Grant Gartrell

****Extra trips will be notified through CEGSA e-News via email****

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.