

CEGSA NEWS



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

Volume 58 Number 1

Issue 229

FEBRUARY 2013



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.

2013 Committee

President	Mark Sefton	(H) 8277 9086 (W) 8313 0096 (E) seftons@adam.com.au
Secretary / Public Officer / Library & Records	Graham Pilkington	(H) 8258 8877 (W) 8258 8877 (E) p-c-h@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer / Membership	Chris Gibbons	(H) 8258 9847 (E) ragchg@bigpond.com
New Member Liaison	Ian Lewis	(H) 8295 6582 (M) 0427 284 051 (E) kanawinka1@yahoo.com
	Ken Smith	(W) 8375 1946 (M) 0407 603 118 (E) kenderiver@gmail.com
	Neville Skinner	(W) 8186 9256 (M) 0411 295 766 (H) 8296 4142 (E) 23nesk01@adam.com.au
	Matt Smith	(M) 0419 830 575 (E) matt@speleorovers.org
Museum Representative	Neville Pledge	C/- SA Museum

Other Office Bearers

Publications / Trip Log Book	Athol Jackson	(H) 8337 8759 (E) atholjax@adam.com.au
Webmaster	David Pollitt	(M) 0414 609 097 (E) daveju@adam.com.au
Landmanager Liaison (records)	Garry Woodcock	(H) 8380 5154 (E) jchapman@chariot.net.au
Quartermaster / Key & GPS Holder	Paul Harper	(H) 8297 8878 (W) 8222 5615 (E) paul.harper@health.sa.gov.au
Search & Rescue Co-ordinator	Harry Harris	(H) 8431 5395 (W) 8273 5666 (E) divedoc@adam.com.au
Training / Safety Co-ordinator	Tim Payne	(M) 0448 147 927 (W) 8259 5724 (E) payne.tim@bigpond.com
	All Trip Leaders	See list on p16

Area Coordinators

Eyre Peninsula, Murray Mallee, Gawler Ranges, Torrens, Pitjandjara lands, NW of SA	Records Officer	As Above
Upper & Lower S E(dry), Glenelg River	Kevin Mott	(H) 8723 1461 (W) 8735 1131 (E) jkmott@internode.on.net
Lower South East (wet), Narinna (wet)	Peter Horne	(H) 8295 6031 (E) ppuddles@yahoo.com.au
Adelaide & Kangaroo Is.	Grant Gartrell	(H) 8556 9100 (E) farm@blueberrypatch.com.au
Nullarbor Plain (SA & WA), Yorke Peninsula	Graham Pilkington	As Above
Flinders	Eddie Rubessa	(H) 8336 4775

Representatives

ASF	Graham Pilkington	As Above
SA Speleological Council	Graham Pilkington	As Above
The Nullarbor Karst Project Steering Committee of Western Australia	Paul Hosie	(H) 08 9259 5815 (M) 0428 992 109 (E) paulh@cegwa.org.au
Kanawinka Geopark Liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above

Cover Photograph: Stefan in the Main Weebubbie Lake with bubbles.

Photo: Liz Rogers – www.lizrogersphotography.com ©

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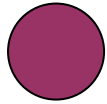
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QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 58 Number 2 (Issue 230) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **1st MAY 2013**. 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

The first time I went caving with CEGSA was in 1976. I had started caving a couple of years earlier in W.A. and then moved to Melbourne to finish writing my PhD thesis. As a member of the VSA at that time, I had heard about CEGSA/VSA dinners and so decided to hitchhike down to Naracoorte for that year's event. We stayed at the old CEGSA hut on the Naracoorte Caves Reserve and I went caving in Fox and Victoria Fossil caves. At that time, CEGSA was involved in regular exploration and mapping of those, and nearby caves. I don't remember much of the weekend apart from the appearance of a giant trogsuit made of hessian bags sewn together and each club had to see how many cavers they could cram into its arms, legs and torso (let history record that the event was won by CEGSA that year, thanks to a greater number of smaller, female cavers in its ranks). In more recent times, this joint gathering has only been organised occasionally, including last year when it was again held in Naracoorte and included some cavers from other clubs.

The old CEGSA hut is now long gone, and in the past few years, South Australian cavers have had little to do with caves on the Naracoorte Caves Reserve. But at this recent CEGSA/VSA dinner, the manager of the Caves Reserve spoke to those present and expressed a wish for us to become more involved in the Reserve. CEGSA, together with members of FUSSI and Scout Caving, have now established a working group to look into how this can best be done and we hope to establish a regular dialogue with the Reserve management and to start taking part in some caving activities there in 2013. Making the most of this new opportunity will depend on all of you.

Mark Sefton

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Annual General Meeting Report

The Annual General Meeting was held at the home of Karin and Mark Sefton on Saturday 9th Feb. The Annual awards for 2012 were announced and presented to those recipients present at the AGM. The Annual Report was presented and accepted, followed by the election of officers and committee. The results of the election were as follows:

President: Mark Sefton.
 Secretary: Graham Pilkington.
 Committee Members: Chris Gibbons, Ian Lewis, Matt Smith, Ken Smith and Neville Skinner.

The meeting was preceded by a social gathering and BBQ tea.

Athol Jackson.

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2012 AWARDS

Spirit of Caving

Matt Smith

For helping to encourage a new generation of younger cavers.

Golden Compass

Grant Pearce

For significant extensions to Olwolgin Cave.

Stirrers Spoon (Rivetts Reward)

Richard Harris

For reinvigorating Cave Search and Rescue in South Australia

Occasional Award (re-presented)

Peter Horne

A flexible compass for surveying in tight passages to prevent the need to masochistically return to retrieve crushed gear.
 (Originally presented in 1988. See item on P22 for explanation)
 (This presentation arranged after the Annual Report was done)

Motions to be put at the March 2013 General Meeting:

Preamble to motion 1:

The July 2012 General Meeting requested that CEGSA develop a strategic plan.

As part of the plan, the Committee felt that we should limit the power of a General Meeting. Currently a GM, without notice, can spend all of the Group's assets. This is in contrast to the Constitution and Rules that limits ad hoc expenditure and guides the control of finances.

Motion 1:

"That Clause 16 is added to Rules of the Group to read:

16 Allocation of Funds

- 16(a) An annual budget shall be determined at the November General Meeting immediately prior to the year to which the budget applies.
- 16(b) If the sum of non-recurring items of expenditure exceeds \$300 in any annual budget then at least three weeks notice must be given to all voting members.
- 16(c) A General Meeting can approve expenditure outside the annual budget without notice providing that the sum of expenditure does not exceed \$300 at any one meeting. For any expenditure above \$300 then at least three weeks notice must be given to all voting members. Any expenditure must conform to all Clauses of the Constitution and Rules.
- 16(d) Unless agreed to by a motion that is treated in the same way as a change to the Constitution of the Group, then no more than a total of 40% per annum of unallocated cashable assets can be spent on items or projects not specifically noted in an annual budget. The amount of unallocated cashable assets is to be determined from the annual report of the Treasurer.
- 16(e) Unless agreed to by a motion that is treated in the same way as a change to the Rules of the Group, then annual expenditure of cashable assets outside of the approved annual budget is at a rate of not more than:
- (i) 20% combined on all items applicable to either Records or Library,
 - (ii) 10% on all items applicable to Conservation, and
 - (iii) 25% combined on all other categories,
- providing that total expenditure will not exceed that specified in Clause 16(d).

"

Preamble to motion 2:

The Committee has been limited to spending no more than \$200 per month and \$75 per item per month for at least the last 17 years. It's time to update these amounts.

Motion 2:

"That the amounts specified by Constitution Clause 9d regarding the maximum expenditures available to the Committee without prior General Meeting approval are changed to

per month	\$500
per item	\$200

and that any amount over \$99 must be announced at the next General Meeting."

Graham Pilkington

TRIP REPORTS

Weebubbie Cave, Nullarbor Plains – A magnificent lake under the desert!

Weebubbie Cave is truly the “Wonder Down Under” of the Nullarbor Plains. No - it's a lot more than that... there is nothing like it under the Australian continent! It is the world's third largest underground lake, after Dragon's Breath in South Africa and Cocklebidy (which is a bit bigger but muddy). In Mount Gambier we have two large underground lakes in McKay's Shaft and Young's Cave but they do not reach the magnificence of Weebubbie Lake. It is the most beautiful of all underground lakes and conceals fascinating insights into the formation of the giant caves of the Nullarbor. This article traces the history of Weebubbie Cave exploration, beauty and science as it is now becoming apparent that this cave holds many of the keys to understanding the phenomenon of what is hidden under one of the world's largest karstfields and treeless plains.

Early discoveries and Weebubbie's name

Most of what is known about the Nullarbor caves has been discovered since 1955 when organised speleology began explorations here. Before that, rumours and occasional magazine articles with some black-and-white photos gave hints about what lay under the desert. I still have my geography textbook from year 5 at school in which states that “huge lakes and rivers wind their way around through endless vast caverns and mazes under the Nullarbor treeless plain”. That's what we were taught in the very early 1960's. I remember being fired up by that description even as a kid but never dreamed that years later I would be involved in discovering and mapping those mysterious great tunnels!



Canoe on Weebubbie Lake
Photo: Capt. J M Thomson collection.

Weebubbie Cave is unique in several ways. It appears to be the first large cave on the Nullarbor to become known to European settlers. It is the deepest cave on the Nullarbor by at least 30 metres. It runs at right angles in a direction opposite to that of many large caves. Both these facts make it extremely geologically significant. It is also a very important bat colony and breeding site. And it has an amazing history of human adaptation and endeavour since settlement.

History records that two telegraph operators from the Eucla Telegraph Station were shown the cave by an aboriginal guide while kangaroo hunting on the Plain in 1900. There are differing stories about the origin of the name. One version says it came from two words – Wepa kapi – meaning “ants going down to water”. Another version is Weebabbj-Junnaibil, apparently translated as “slipperd feet”, or Weebabbie Karoo which may have been a reference to a place of storage for sacred items. Weebubbie seems to be a European-ised version of these earlier names.

A year after its discovery, which would have been *utterly amazing news* to settlers battling to survive in the dry Nullarbor Plain, the WA Government assessed it and later made it a Water Reserve in 1924, leased for grazing water supplies. There are some epic stories about trying to get the water to the surface of the plain and evidence of some of these can still be found in the sinkhole and surrounding area – old iron pulleys, remains of old iron ladders, the drill collar of the bore which was sunk directly into the lake, borepipe remains in the lake etc. When I first visited Weebubbie in 1969, there was a huge diesel engine by the side of the small lake and piping all through the cave to the surface, placed there at enormous effort by the Gurney brothers who grazed the Eucla and Koonalda areas. When the diesel started up, the cave was really noisy and smelly and built up with fumes. Horrible! Later the engine was removed, probably when the Eucla Motel went over to de-sal.

Cave exploring began about this time and the locals used whatever they could to access them. The easiest way was to use a hand-powered winch on the back of a truck and lower people over Weebubbie's edge! (see photo next page). Two turns of a rope around the winch and no Workplace Safety supervisors – but nobody died falling off, either! These would have been days of great adventure.

1930's-1950's Captain Thomson's Expeditions

After a life at sea commanding windjammers around Cape Horn, Captain J Maitland Thomson became Harbourmaster at the Port of Thevenard at Ceduna on the South Australian side of the Nullarbor Plain in the early 1930's. He was very familiar with the marine navigation maps of the region including the Nullarbor Cliffs along the Great Australian Bight, which had been mapped and sounded so well by Matthew Flinders in 1802 that no-one has needed to improve them since! Inland of the cliffs, the Nullarbor marine charts showed *absolutely nothing* except for some inexplicable reason *one single dot* on the inland part marked as "The Catacombs"! This appears to have come from a very early land exploration in the late 1800's.



Lowering a canoe into Weebubbie sinkhole
Photo: Capt J M Thomson collection.



Winching into Weebubbie sinkhole
Photo: Capt J M Thomson collection.

Thomson was fascinated with this and spent the next 30 years running 12 expeditions (1932-1962) to find Nullarbor caves. He was very energetic and innovative, using biplanes to search for entrances and signalling to ground parties, inventing a magnesium flame blaster for photographing the huge cave halls and lowering a boat and a canoe into

Weebubbie Cave to explore the darkness of the lake (see photos). He ran his expeditions like he commanded the Tall Ships that he used to sail around the world as a young man! In his final years I formed a friendship with him and in the 1970's took his giant magnesium blaster back out to the Nullarbor for spectacular cave photography. He then gave me copies of hundreds of slides and black-and-white photos of all his expeditions plus his early maps which I placed into the records of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA).

Modern Speleology, cavers, aerial photography and systematic cave documentation

In 1955, CEGSA was formed from a group of Adelaide Uni scientists and students, Rover Scouts, Captain Thomson and some of his experienced mates and researchers from the South Australian Museum. Almost immediately Captain Thomson left CEGSA partly because of the decision to include women in the Group. Obviously that was not how you ran a ship of the line. This was contradictory because he took his daughters out there on several of his expeditions! He had no connections with CEGSA for 20 years until I made contact with him to explain our cave diving discoveries in Weebubbie in 1972. He finally unbent and was delighted to know what we were finding, and said wistfully to me one day in his 80's that if SCUBA had been invented and available in his days, he would have had a red hot go. I am sure



Early explorers at edge of Weebubbie Lake
Photo: Capt J M Thomson collection.

he would have. But I am always glad that I could make contact with him and repair all those years of standoff satisfactorily before he died. Our reward was that his records are now available to us all. Recently I spoke to his surviving son and daughters to arrange a further meeting to look through his original glass slides which they still possess.

CEGSA organised the first Nullarbor Scientific Cave expedition in 1956-57. This was followed by 15 years of Nullarbor expeditions in combination with major caving clubs and speleological societies all over Australia. Professor Joe Jennings, the father of Karst Science in Australia at the brand new Australian National University in Canberra and Dave Lowry, Western Australian Petroleum's Principal Geologist, scoured all the new Nullarbor aerial photos available after World War 2 looking for Nullarbor Cave entrances. This led to a whole rash of major caving expeditions discovering Mullamullang Cave, Pannikin Plains, Tommy Grahams, Firestick Cave, Capstan Cave and the two Kestrels etc and maps of many of the major systems down to the water line plus a series of important scientific reports and papers published nationally and internationally.

In 1966 a week-long underground camp expedition in Mullamullang Cave mapped more than 6 kms of vast dry passages. In 1969, I first visited the Nullarbor on one of these large CEGSA expeditions and being only 16 and keen, I zoomed ahead of the party in Weebubbie and walked straight into the lake up to my chest before I spotted it! On that trip I swam the length of the lake (no wetsuit!) with a Pinnocchio mask and snorkel and looked down into that enormous sump at the end. Then I swam back and announced to everybody, "*I'm taking up SCUBA to come back and explore this!*" It was a life-changing moment for me and for the exploration of the Nullarbor, opening up this fantastic area for a whole generation of Cave Divers.

First Diving ... AT WEEBUBBIE WHERE IT ALL STARTED

I learned to dive from Phil Prust, Dave Warnes and Bob Turnbull (who probably still regret it!). My first qualifying dives were in Mount Gambier sinkholes! (Ah, they were the days before regulated training. In fact, they were also the days before the CDAA was even dreamed of.) I told Phil, Dave and Bob about Weebubbie and together we put together the first Nullarbor Cave Diving Expedition in Jan 1972. I organised the expedition arrangements and 30 cavers from all over the country, Phil and Dave and Bob Turnbull planned the diving and Ron Doughton arranged to bring the vital compressor from Sydney.

We discovered the enormous sump, the Inner Dome Lake and the Railway Tunnel, all on single tanks, single regs, little Aquaflash torches and 6-volt US Diver sealed beam lights. It was an unforgettable experience. We noticed for the first time all the bacteria colonies and other growth forms throughout the lake and tunnels and took samples back to Adelaide University. In the midst of all this, Steve Patupis, the owner of the Eucla Motel, dreamed up a publicity stunt about a "Nullarbor Nymph" – a blonde woman in a 'roo skin seen in various Nullarbor locations running through the bush leading a mob of kangaroos! The press arrived from everywhere and wanted to photograph Denise from our expedition in a cowskin but we didn't want anything to do with it as we were concentrating on cave diving.

On our recent trip out there I was reminded of a serious incident on that trip. The Inner Dome Lake is perfectly oval-shaped and the huge tunnels on either end look identical. Several of us had been in the Inner Dome on single tanks and headed back into the sump toward the Main Weebubbie Lake. However, halfway through we realised we were heading AWAY from the Main Lake into the other terminal sump. We backtracked to the Inner Dome extremely worried and realised we had to get back out to the Main Lake on about 70 bar. That huge sump is a hell of a long swim when you're trying to keep calm and with tiny lights but we just made it. On the next dive I wrote "WAY OUT" in the soft rock at water level in the Inner Dome so that no-one could run that risk again. Of course, it is fixed-lined now but the words are still clearly there just above water level and it was eerie last week to be back there exactly 40 years later and recalling how close it was. You can still read the words just above water level at the north-eastern end – divers can see them on their trip through. They are now part of Nullarbor Cave Diving history but will only ever be seen by cave divers' eyes.

It's worth recording here that I finally tracked down a very old report that a single diver had been in Weebubbie 10 years before us in 1962. David L Cook, a palaeontologist from the Western Australian Speleological Group (WASG) had dived alone "on an Aqualung to a depth of 30 feet and 200 feet in" while his buddy paid out a safety line from the end of the Main Lake, just far enough to see that the tunnel sloped upwards into a new chamber way beyond his reach. (On the same trip he also got 80 feet into the muddy sump of Cocklebidy and turned around thinking that the wall came down to the floor in the gloom. So he was first there too, but had no idea it goes for 7000 metres!) This was

seriously brave diving and credit must be given to him for being the first cave diver on the Nullarbor. As far as I can find out, he never returned nor cave dived anywhere else afterwards. It was open to us to do all the discoveries in 1972.

In recent times, Ken Smith took Forrest Wilson to Weebubbie (see photo). This must be the first time ever that the Nullarbor had a "Forrest" on it. Sorry, bad joke, folks!

About the huge MAP and CEGSA – the recording authority

The centre-page feature in this issue is the epic map which I drafted up by hand (pen and ink!) on our return from that expedition. It was more than 1metre square on the drafting board. That's how caving societies recorded maps 40 years ago. CEGSA through its affiliation with the SA Museum and by arrangement with WASG in WA is the central recording and numbering authority for all Nullarbor Plains Cave maps and records. Weebubbie is one of the earliest caves numbered and is numbered "N2". At the time of our 1972 expedition there were approximately 300 caves, dolines and blowholes listed on the Nullarbor. Today there are *more than 5,000* with *another 7,000* spotted but yet to be investigated! We have barely started to record the immensity of the karst features across the Plain in both States.

The map is reproduced with CEGSA's permission. Although I did the survey and drafted it, it is part of CEGSA's official records, so it is copyright, but CEGSA recently agreed for me to publish it in the CDAA "Guidelines" journal as it was a great opportunity to show it to the cave diving community after so many years for divers interest. The map is in feet (Imperial system before Australia went Metric). It took a lot of effort for the divers to drag 300-foot (100m) tapes through the Sump, Inner Dome and Railway Tunnel and to map all the cross-sections in detail. You can see that we didn't even get into the Short Cut and the Hole-in-the-Wall at the time.

The survey notes make interesting reading and the little inset map shows the drainage lines leading up to the entrance. If Weebubbie ever cops a cyclonic cloudburst like Pannikin Plain (or like Cocklebiddy did one year when one of our expeditions were camped there), a torrent of water will flow from the flat blowhole plains into the sinkhole entrance and disappear into the huge boulders. But it won't filter into the Main Lake as there is no evidence whatsoever of silt or clay runoff from the surface ever reaching that lake, and our brilliant world-class visibility will never be ruined!

So where does all the stormwater runoff go? It is now thought that short sharp big flood events are the agents for continued large-volume development as the fresh water runoff mixes with the brackish groundwater to boost the dissolving power of the water at lake levels, going to work rapidly on the very soluble white limestone. This might seem to be rare events, but when you multiply such storm events (eg once or twice a year somewhere on the Nullarbor Plain) over several million years, that's a hell of a lot of forced dissolving occurring underground.

About the new photos, new science and ABC's Catalyst programme

In late November 2012, the ABC's scientific research documentary programme "Catalyst" contacted the CDAA about doing a special on the Nullarbor Caves. They had heard about Pete Buzzacott's recent observations, recordings and logging of increased temperatures in Murra-EI-Elevyn Cave which he'd published in several reports in "Australian Caver". My PhD karst research in the Mount Gambier sinkholes and in the larger dry caves at Naracoorte has been focusing on why some caves are so large and how they are not filled to the brim with natural rock collapses as a result. This has led to insights about massive rates of dissolution of limestone under non-normal circumstances, including acidifying effects on the groundwater associated with volcanic activity around Mount Gambier.

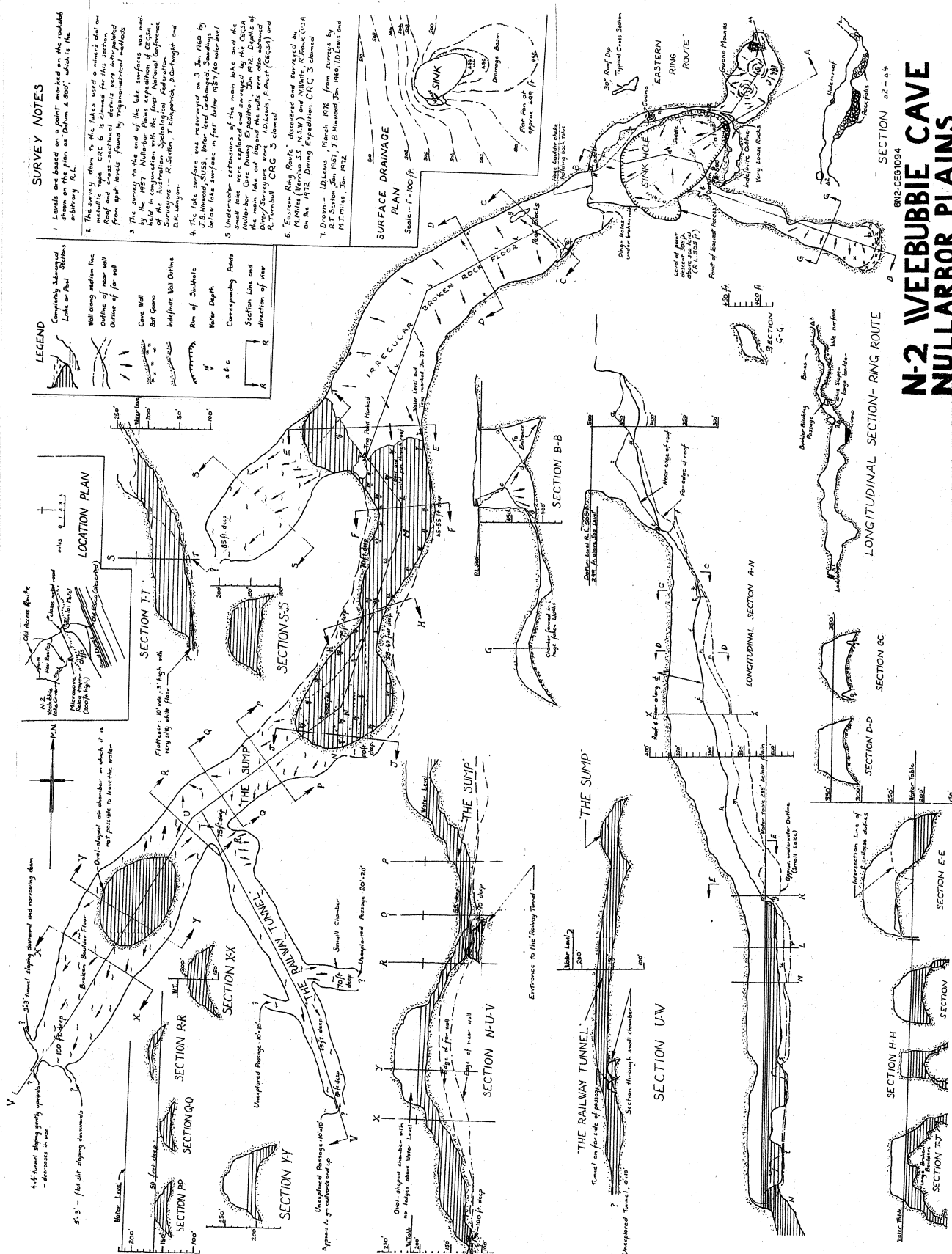
Pete and I have been working on understanding the "warmer zone" of cave waters reported by many divers over the years around Tommy's, Murra, Pannikin and Inner Cocklebiddy. We are very interested to see what kind of geological and hydrological links there might be as the Nullarbor limestones are very similar and were laid down by the same ancient seas at the same general time as the Mount Gambier limestones and both have giant caves and sinkholes. Even Martyn Farr on his website recognises that Weebubbie Main Sump and the Railway tunnel are the largest underwater tunnels in the world. Woo Hooo Weebubbie!!

So Catalyst have just filmed Peter and myself out at Weebubbie examining it closely for further evidence, because it's so big and the deepest cave. They contracted Liz Rogers who is fast becoming one of the world's best cave diving photographers and Stefan Eberhard joined us as specialist in Nullarbor Cave invertebrates another micro-creatures (called Stygofauna). It's beaut that

**N-2 IVEEBUBBIE CAVE
NULLARBOR PLAINS**

07C

SCALE :- 1 inch = 50 feet



Stef was involved as there is great current interest in the links between biology, geology and hydrology over the long time frame of Nullarbor Cave formation. Catalyst have scheduled their Documentary on Weebubbie Cave for February 21st, 2013 (before this Newsletter is out) so we'll tape it for a meeting night. Liz has provided a selection of her brilliant photos for in this article as an indication of the underwater footage you will see in the program.



Stefan at the start of the main lake.



Ian diving in the beautiful main lake.

Photos: : Liz Rogers – www.lizrogersphotography.com ©



Stefan in the enormity of the railway tunnel where it widens. Photo: Liz Rogers – www.lizrogersphotography.com ©.



Weebubbie Lake.
Photo: Brian Kakuk.



Far left hand end of Weebubbie.
Photo: Ken Smith.



Railway Tunnel.
Photo: Martin Farr.

All of us would like to thank the CDAA committee and particularly National Director John Vanderleest for directing Catalyst towards our scientific and filming work. This shows the quality of environmental expertise and knowledge of caves and groundwater which cave divers can bring to the eyes of the world of science, particularly as groundwater is an increasingly precious resource in

an apparently drying planet. A feature article will appear in the next issue of Guidelines on the Catalyst expedition and the new science which is being revealed about the Nullarbor Caves.

As a direct result of this trip, several future expeditions are being planned for Weebubbie to measure and map in great detail the geological features and micro-temperatures within the deep water columns. The real stars of the show are the huge floodlights which reveal so much more about the cave which we can't spot with isolated torches and are providing great new information, and Liz's fabulous underwater photography which brings the hidden splendour of Weebubbie Cave to the world. Now the school geography textbooks will have to be changed and completely updated!

And whenever I think of Weebubbie Cave, I also think of the first explorer Edward John Eyre who nearly died staggering across the Nullarbor in 1840, never dreaming that only a few miles inland from where he was passing lies one of the greatest underwater spectacles imaginable – huge, clear, cool, refreshing, beautiful Weebubbie Lake Cave. What an absolute privilege to be able to dive there.

Ian D Lewis, CEGSA # 6701

%%%%%%%%%

Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y-1, 27th December 2012

Participants: Graham Pilkington, Damien Pilkington, Isiah Pilkington, Juliet Pilkington, Charlie Pilkington and 3-month Introductory members Charni Pilkington, Rodger Pilkington, Siona Pilkington, Jamie Schmidt.

A Christmas treat for my relatives and a way to shed some of the weight gain from all the partying. We didn't see much of the cave beyond Grand Central, Crystal Maze, and the run out to Bushwalkers but this was plenty for some of our participants.

Graham Pilkington

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Cliefden, NSW, 11-16th January 2013

Participants: Graham Pilkington and other attendees from the 29th ASF Biennial Conference.

I arrived late on the 11th at the luxury of an old shearer's quarters run as a caver's hut by Orange Speleological Society (our host for this post-conference caving trip). The Cliefden Hut has bedrooms, mains power, running water, hot showers, fridges, stove, microwave, all the other mod cons including a lounge room; and even a flush toilet.

During this time I visited the following in order: Island Cave (2CL-6), Gable Cave(2CL-7), Main Cave (2CL-1), Murder Cave (2CL-2), and Trapdoor Cave (2CL-4). Some of these have multiple entrances; we did a through trip of Main coming out of the lower entrance 2CL-47.

The Cliefden caves are very well decorated and usually require no vertical gear. They vary from dry and dusty to dripping wet mud with pools. The larger caves are typically located close to a river or creek in limestone headlands and rocky hills that show prominent bedding ridges.

Graham Pilkington

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George & June's Conference Trip

- 1) ATTENDING THE 29TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE, FROM 6TH-11TH JANUARY 2013.
- 2) PLUS OUR RETURN JOURNEY 12TH-18TH JANUARY AFTER THE CONFERENCE BY GEORGE AND JUNE MACLUCAS, (GEGSA MEMBERS.)
- 3) CAVES VISITED 2-16E-4 ON 13TH JANUARY IN BOODEREE NATIONAL PARK NSW.

At the Conference held at the St. Clements Retreat at the town of Galong (pronounced Gay-long) and owned by the Catholic Order of the "Redemptorists". We made the correct choice to pay extra for an air conditioning room as we were hit with quite a heat wave, therefore the speleo sports had to be changed to a morning venue to avoid the heat. Luckily the lectures and workshops over the five days were carried out in air conditioned comfort.

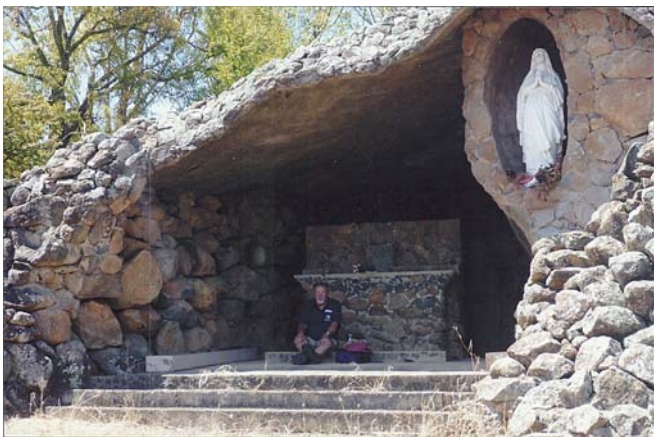
Altogether there was six CEGSA Members at the Conference: George & June MacLucas, Lance Hoey, Barbara Wiesner, Graham Pilkington and Stan Flavel in his role as ASF President.

The main lecturers were Dr. Julia James, Garry Smith, Bob Kershaw, Dr. Armstrong Osborne, Dr. Sue White, Graham Pilkington, Peter Dykes, Al Warild, John Dunkley, Bruce Welch, Ian Collette, Nick White and Dave Wools-Cobb. These lectures we thoroughly enjoyed and we are looking forward to the publications when they are produced.

Special interest to us in the grounds of the monastery was a reproduction of the "Lourdes Grotto". Lourdes is a town in the South West of France where there is a Shrine and Grotto of the Virgin (our Lady of Lourdes).

A Grotto is: 1) A small cave or cavern.

2) An artificial structure by excavation made to resemble a cave or cavern.



George sitting in reproduction of Lourdes Grotto.



George walking the Labyrinth.

Also the organisation has assembled a labyrinth using the Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth as the planned layout. This was a great interest to June and I, as we visited the Chartres Cathedral in France 20 years ago, where we had the experience of walking to the centre of the Labyrinth in the large and historical cathedral (about 90km South of Paris). This reproduction of the Labyrinth set in these grounds of St. Clements Retreat is laid out in the open. June counted her steps to the centre (535 steps).

Labyrinth: 1) An intricate structure of interconnecting passages.

2) In cathedrals as in Chartres Cathedral when treading the maze, it was seen as a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in miniature. As most parishioners would never have the opportunity to make such a journey.



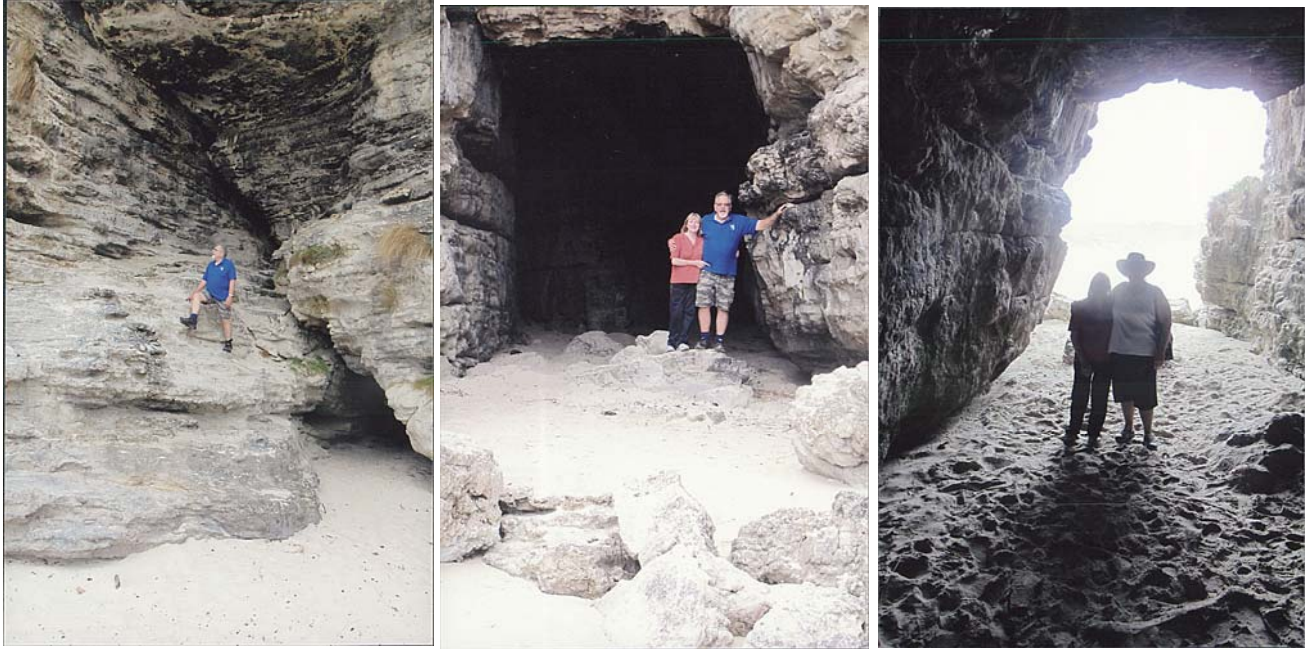
Christmas beetle.

An overall understanding of the use of the intricate form of the Labyrinth, is a spiral, which continues on, returning back to the starting point. It can be a representation of the cosmos, the world, the individual life, the temple, the town, the man, the womb, the consciousness, the pilgrimage, the journey and the Way of the Heart.

During the Conference the grounds were inundated with Christmas Beetles (Fam. Scarabeidae). Every day the gardener would sweep up the dead beetles. These large and attractive insects normally appear around Christmas time and feed on the leaves of Eucalypts. Sometimes they can occur in

very large numbers that can strip a tree of all its leaves. The larvae live in the soil and feed on the roots of plants and this can be a pest for suburban living as they can kill lawn grasses. On the positive side, these grubs are a source of food for magpies.

After the Conference we visited my cousin in Vincentia, NSW. Hence our visit to some nearby sea caves in Booderee National Park, No. 2-16E-4. The caves are in conglomerate with four entrances interconnected with horizontal passages. (Conglomerate, a rock consisting of pebbles and gravel embedded in a loosely cementing material.)



Beach Sea Caves No. 2-16E-4 in Booderee National Park.

Due to the threat of bushfires many National Parks were closed. On the way to visit June's niece on the Hawkesbury River we had to drive past the entrance to Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park that had reopened this day. The reason for the interest in this park was to have a look at the petroglyphs (engravings). They were like no others we have seen before in our visits through June's membership of AURA (Australian Rock Art Association). These figures were full sized engravings of males along with various fish life.

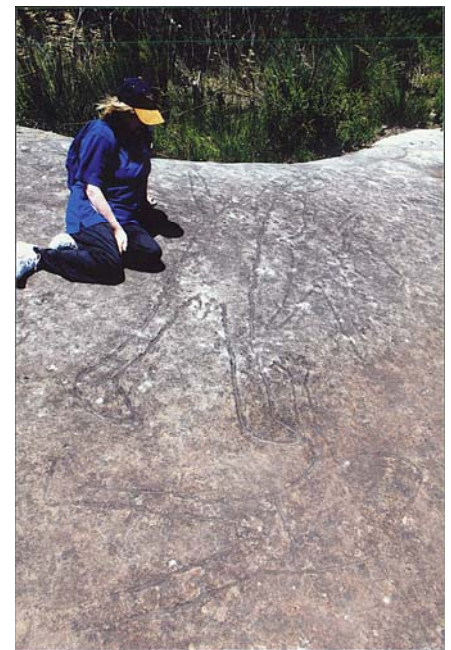


George has a close encounter with a Lace Monitor.

After our visit to the petroglyph area, we went to the West Head lookout where I had a standoff with a Lace Monitor (*Varanus Varius*), thankfully he decided I was

not a tree and walked straight passed me. This large monitor frequently descends to the ground and is well known as an unwelcomed visitor to

picnic sites in Eastern Australian forests. It is partial to barbeque meat and may even raid garbage bins in search of meat scraps but despite its size and strength it is easily shooed away. When alarmed it quickly runs up a tree.



June examines a Petroglyph of a male at Ku-ring-gai Nat Park.



Cicada.

Further in our trip along the Hawkesbury River in the Blue Mountains we were entertained by some Cicadas (Fam. Cicadidas). These insects often congregate in huge numbers, their combined chorus being quite deafening. Only the males can sing. The sound is produced by the rapid vibration of a tightly stretched membrane covering a drum like structure, this movement being operated by powerful muscles. Cicadas often damage trees and

shrubs by piercing the tissue with their strong peaks to reach the sap as well as by splitting the bark to

lay their eggs. When hatched the nymphs drop to the ground and burrow into the soil where they suck the sap from the roots of plants. They usually remain in the soil for two or three years. When fully grown, the nymph creeps out of the soil and climbs a short distance up a tree. The adult Cicada then burst out of their skin. In the United States there is a Cicada that when in its stage of growth in the ground, it takes 17 years before it creeps out of the soil climbing up the bark of a tree.

Further on the way home we stayed at a friends house at Orange (Denis Marsh). He was still away guiding people on post conference trips, but his wife Ronda welcomed and made us comfortable for the night.

Next day I intended to check out Borenore Arch Cave 2-BN1, but due to fire restrictions the park was closed.

The only downer on the trip was whilst travelling during the heat wave, due to high temperature on our radiator of the 4WD, we could not use our air conditioner. One Caravan park we stayed at had a recording of 51 degrees C during the day. This at times was handy, for if we wanted a cup of tea, we did not have to heat the water as our bottles of water were hot enough to infuse our tea bags.

George MacLucas.

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Past Trips from General Meetings

November 2012

1. **Eddie Rubessa** went to the Flinders Ranges. They looked unsuccessfully for Mt Hack Cave. Grant Gartrell noted that his X brother-in-law has been to the cave and Grant will try to get a location description.
2. **Grant Gartrell** went to Kangaroo Island for 4 days. Some SAM people were present looking for bones. His party was accompanied by the Kelly Hill Cave Manager Nick and they worked their way into the new cave discovered last trip.
3. **Ken Smith** went cave diving in France and the UK.
4. **Neville Skinner** enjoyed south China's very large caves and canyons where rivers flow through towers.
5. **Lance Hoey** visited M2, the Murray Bridge cave.

January 2013

Matt Smith took his five year old daughter into a Naracoorte tourist cave.

Lance Hoey and Barbara Wiesner went to the ASF conference at Galong. They reported that the conference was well organised and that they found several of the papers particularly interesting, including one on 3D cave mapping, and one by Graham Pilkington on the karst database. They went caving at Cliefden, Wee Jasper and Jenolan before and after the conference.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Nil changes reported.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES became due on January 1st. To ensure continuity of membership and privileges (particularly insurance) please pay before March 31st.

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 still required to be submitted for database information purposes.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2013 YEAR

Full Membership	\$ 55.00
Full Country Membership	49.00
Associate Membership	47.00
Long Term Associate	55.00
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 2013 YEAR

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

2013 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$55.00	\$ 68.00	\$123.00
Full Country Membership	49.00	68.00	117.00
Associate Membership	47.00	68.00	115.00
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	\$94.00	\$121.50	\$215.50
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$86.00	\$121.50	\$207.50
1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$16.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$78.00	\$121.50	\$199.50
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	Nil
Chris Gibbons	Nil
Damian Grindley	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Paul Harper	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Lance Hoey	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
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
Matt Smith	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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Library Report

The following book/booklets were obtained for the CEGSA Library at the TROGalong Conference:

Living On Karst: A Reference Guide for Landowners in Limestone Regions. 26pp 1997

Living On Karst: A Reference Guide for OZARK Landowners. 26pp 2003

Magic happens here: welcome to Jenolan Caves. 8pp 2012

Guide to New South Wales Karst and Caves. 40pp 2010

A Karst Atlas of New South Wales: the Documentation System. 90pp 2012

Click Go The Cameras at Jenolan Caves 1860-1940. 42pp 2010

Souvenir Booklet of The Temple of Baal Cave. 32pp reprinted 2011

Souvenir Booklet of River Cave. 32pp reprinted 2011

The Orient Cave, Jenolan Caves. 32pp reprinted 2011

Steam Cleaning of Orient Cave, Jenolan Caves. 32pp reprinted 2011

The Lucas Cave, Jenolan Caves. 24pp 2012

John Lucas. Incorporating The McKewen, Fish River, Binda or Jenolan Caves. 32pp 2010

The Binoomea Cut, Jenolan Caves. 32pp 2011

The Discovery of the Barralong Cave, Jenolan Caves NSW. 28pp 2010

The Jenolan Caves, New South Wales. 96pp 1890, reprinted 2011

Jenolan Caves, Guides, Guests & Grottoes. 74pp 2007

Wellington Caves. 34pp 2008

Wee Jasper Caves. 66pp 2010

Graham Pilkington

Mercedes College Letter and comments

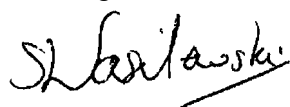
Dear Graham

I am writing to you with the end of another scholastic year in sight and a time to reflect on our long association with you and your organisation. It is some thirteen years since we began our links with CEGSA and there have been many challenges, changes and memorable experiences. At the outset, on behalf of Mercedes College I'd like to thank you and CEGSA for being a key part of the Study Extension Program (STEP).

This year was by all accounts quite a challenging one for STEP. However, we managed to negotiate through the many issues that appear to be part of modern life. As a wholly experiential program, STEP provides young people with many situations, experiences and opportunities that are unique as a comprehensive model of learning. So it is indeed sobering to read their final 'Closure' stories and their insights as adolescents. Each of the 83 students (over two semesters) is asked to complete a personal story. I am lucky to read all of these and from this I am able to share some of their thoughts. I have attached some of these comments with the expressed intention of providing you with their reflections on the value of their experiences and our connection with CEGSA. The reflections are not edited and I have for privacy matters only referred to their first name and a surname initial. Each student in the course is 15/16 years of age.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you and CEGSA the best of wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I hope that we can maintain our association with you and the value it clearly has provided and continues to provide. We are indeed richer for it.

Kind regards



Steve Wasilewski
STEP Coordinator

Student Comments

"By doing this activity I got over those fears and it taught me it's all in my head."

Erina B.

"The satisfaction of overcoming one's fears is something I could recommend to everyone. I was truly surprised at how far I could push myself outside my comfort zone."

Elizabeth S.

"I loved this experience, it was daring and adventurous. I would love to repeat the experience."

Morgan B.

"When I came to caving I never really thought I would be able to achieve what I did. Even though it was scary, I pushed myself to the limits and it turned out to be a lot of fun."

Claudia W.

"Before doing caving I was really scared and didn't think I could do it. But it is doable if you remain calm and communicate with the other people."

Maddie M.W.

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57#2	May 2012	issue 226
57#3	Aug 2012	issue 227
57#4	Nov 2012	issue 228

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Caving Activity by Area

Trip Reports

Technical and Other Articles

Members and Club Management

Key to abbreviations used in the index:

A	Anthropological	L	Location
At	Art in all forms	M	Map
Bi	Biological	P	Photography
Bo	Botanical	Pa	Palaeontology
C	Cleanup	R	Rubbish removal
D	Description	S	Surveying
Di	Diving	Sc	Scientific
E	Exploration	SR	Search and Rescue
Ex	Excavation	T	Tourist
F	Fantasy	Tg	Tagged
G	Geological	TM	Track Marking
Gt	Gating	Tr	Training
H	History	W	Work

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Schroeders Pants Cave	57#1	p 12	Fred Aslin	SR
Streamway Cave	57#3	p 53-57	Roger Howlett	Pa
Telegraph Office Sinkhole	57#1	p 12	Fred Aslin	D, H, L
6AU-8	57#3	p 53-57	Roger Howlett	H, Pa

Lower South East

5L-4	57#1	p 8	Fred Aslin	SR
5L-552	57#2	p 31-32	Mark Sefton	D, E, H, L, S
5L-552	57#2	p 33-34	Kevin Mott	D, E, H, L, S, Tg
5L-553	57#2	p 31-32	Mark Sefton	D, H, L
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5N-49	57#1 p 9-11	Ian Lewis	Di, E, P, SR
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5N-180	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	Bi, D, G, H, L, P, S
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5N-349	57#3 p 50-52	George MacLucas	P
5N-352	57#3 p 50-52	George MacLucas	
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5N-528	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	D, L, Tg
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5N-2561	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	D, S
5N-3821	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	D, P, S, Tg
5N-4094	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	D, Tg
5N-4095 to 4099	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	Tg
5N-4095	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	D
5N-4096	57#2 p 22-27	Peter Ackroyd	D, Tg
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5Y-1	57#3 p 58-59	Graham Pilkington	T
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A tribute to Andrew Wight – renowned Cave Diver and Underwater Film Specialist	57#1 p 9-11	Ian Lewis
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PRESIDENTS SPOT	57#4	p 71	Mark Sefton
SA&VicCavingWeekend@Naracoorte	57#3	p 49	Marie Choi

Graham Pilkington

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FUSSI wet and wild trip

Just to let you all know FUSSI is running its Wet and Wild trip to Mt Gambier on the March long weekend, 9-11. CEGSA members are invited to join in for the weekend.

It will involve snorkelling in Ewens ponds, (Piccaninnie Ponds is currently closed), visits to some sea caves at Robe - dependent on tides, as well as visits to four or so caves just for the mud, or decorations or bats or all three. The trip is suitable for beginners and experienced alike.

Due to this being a long weekend, the need to book accommodation and a couple of other logistical issues I would like replies re your attendance ASAP.

Costings:

Accommodation: cabin with ensuite at Pine Country Caravan Park/Kalganyi Caravan pk: somewhere around \$30 - \$40/person/night. Unpowered tent site is \$25.00

Wet suits are mandatory for Ewens. The water is COLD, 8 degrees or thereabouts. If you don't own a wet suit they can be hired from the Alandale General Store for around \$35.00 a day. The price includes the full kit-and-kaboodle: wetsuit, hood, mask, snorkel, gloves, boots and fins. You do not have to snorkel if you do not wish to do so.

FUSSI Gear hire fees for the weekend will be \$10.00. This gets you a helmet, light, harness. FUSSI ropes/ladders/safety gear will be used. (For those of you who have your own gear the same rate applies. It basically covers the use of the rope and admin for the trip.)

Mark Sefton.

Background to the re-presentation of award.

Mark,

It was with great dismay that I received news most distressing. It would appear one of our esteemed members has allowed corruption by those infernal underwater beings to soften his resolve and attitude to CEGSORIAL tradition and life.

To wit, he has allowed a most sacred and revered antipodean artefact to deteriorate to the point where it is barely recognisable.

THIS IS TREASON. My first thought was to flog the miscreant in the presence of the colony of bats in Bat Cave, withdraw membership and send him on his jolly way. However in pondering the situation I have reconsidered and decided the fellow probably deserves mercy and a second chance. It was not his fault he became caught up with those diving types.

I have decided to present him with a reconditioned award.

Attached to the reconditioned award are codicils.

He must swear to look after the new award. To help him toward this end I have provided him with a selection of hand picked and handcrafted MOTT BALLS.

Should he fail to meet this condition he must recite the Sermon on the Mott three times in Yiddish

Further as a reminder of his lapse of integrity he must do KARST PENDANCE. I have, at great pains, provided him with one of the few Karst Pendance devices remaining. It has served me well in the past. The straws were carefully collected from the far reaches of Blackberry Cave. Hopefully this will assist him to atone for his lapse.

Kevin Mott.

MOTT BALLS

Specially formulated for the
preservation of rare and
antipodean caving artefacts

KARST PENDANCE

To assuage one's remorse for failure to treat
rare and antipodean caving artefacts with
due reverence and respect the bearer must on every full moon

1. strip naked in front of the Alexandra Mirror Pool
2. hold the device in the left hand and
3. vigorously flail their back over the right shoulder 60 times



Matt Smith receiving the Spirit of Caving
from Mark Sefton.
Photo: Athol Jackson.



Mark Sefton performing "The Flailing"
on Peter Horne.
Photo: Athol Jackson.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
27/02/13	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Flinders Ranges	Eddie Rubessa and Ian Lewis
02/03/13	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
??/03/13	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
09-11/03	Adelaide Cup W/E	FUSSI Wet&Wild trip to Mt. Gambier	Mark Sefton Coordinating
27/03/13	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Cave Safe No.2 DVD	Graham Pilkington
30/03/13	Working Bee?	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
29-01/03-04/13	Easter W/E	Flinders Ranges Narrina area	Eddie Rubessa
29-01/03-04/13	Easter W/E	FUSSI Flinders Ranges Trip	Mark Sefton Coordinating
??/04/13	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
14/04/13	Caving	FUSSI Corra Lynn one day trip	Mark Sefton Coordinating
24/04/13	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Subject to be advised via CEGSA e-News	Mark Sefton
25/04/13	Anzac Day		
27/04/13	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/05/13	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
08/05/13	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
22/05/13	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Cave Safe No. 3 DVD	Graham Pilkington
25/05/13	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/06/13	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
08-10/06	Queens Birthday W/E		
26/06/13	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
	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 on the website and 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 to the Records Officer in a timely manner.