

CEGSA NEWS



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

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MAY 2014



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

<http://www.cegsa.org.au>

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Cover Photograph: Gypsum stalactite, 150mm long, in the far reaches of "Owl Roost" (N-4800), Nullarbor Plain.

Photo: Ray Gibbons, 11 Oct 2009

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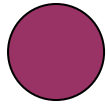
QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

High usage equipment will now be stored at the quartermaster's residence. Please make arrangements with the QM well in advance of required date for equipment. The QM can be contacted at the telephone numbers on the previous page.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

The deadline for copy for Volume 59 Number 3 (Issue 235) is Wednesday 13th AUGUST 2014. 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 post to 6 Hudson Ave Rostrevor 5073 on a CD, in Word or ASCII text format. Do not embed photos in text; send as separate files with notes where to put photos. Photos are preferred to be in colour (jpg format). Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted.

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



PRESIDENTS SPOT

The Group has over 20 trip leaders, so where are all the trips?

Maybe we should have a policy that all trip leaders must lead at least one trip each year to keep their trip-leader status. This would not be onerous and we could allow for leaders who are overseas or otherwise indisposed. However, what's the point of being a trip leader if you don't lead trips? Some clubs keep a tally each year - the annual report contains not only a list of trip leaders but also how many trips that they led. This would give members an idea of who the "real" trip leaders are. Such a list could be expanded further to indicate the caving Areas where trips were led which would create a summary of where most of our activities lay during the past year.

Another idea that has been drifting about for years without being acted upon is to encourage Full members to take on new members in a coaching role. Not necessarily taking them on trips or training them, but to guide/encourage new cavers in selecting trips and getting the experience and skills that generate the thrill of caving and speleological activities. This is a role that we should all be eager to take on. Older members can use it to reminisce and cave by proxy, remembering how it was when they first took up the activity. Younger members can get team mates to enable them to go on more trips. And new members will no longer feel like outsiders wondering how to join in.

Graham Pilkington

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Spirit of Caving Presentation

Aimee Leong was not present at the AGM when the awards for 2013 were announced by then president, Mark Sefton.

Aimee was the nominated winner of the Spirit of Caving award for 2013 for her enthusiasm for caves everywhere.

The presentation of the Spirit of Caving was made to Aimee by Graham Pilkington at the February General Meeting.

Congratulations, Aimee!!!!

TRIP REPORTS

Nullarbor Plains Trip, October 2009

Trip dates: 4 – 22 October 2009

Party: Peter Ackroyd and Ray Gibbons.

Introduction

The aim of this trip to the Nullarbor was really just to be part two of our earlier trip in 2009. On that trip, we had come across two features to which we had to return — one significant cave, Owl Roost (N-4800), which we had only partially explored, and a shaft that we found was too deep for our ladder (N-4835). We had also attempted to travel from Eucla to Old Homestead Cave (N-83), primarily in order to locate and tag temporary 'NX' features spotted from the air (Ackroyd, 2012).

So, our goals now were to complete our partial explorations and continue to pick up more 'NX' numbers, this time following a more northerly route to Old Homestead Cave.

Thar She Blows

Leaving Adelaide on 4 October, we made for Ceduna to stay the night. The following day, we stopped for lunch on the Nullarbor cliffs, about 130 km east of the Western Australian border, to be rewarded by the sight of a Southern Right Whale and her calf gambolling in the ocean swell, 90m directly below us.

At Eucla, now that we were safely beyond the quarantine station, we picked up our prearranged fruit and vegetables, before heading off into the real Nullarbor Plain.



A Southern Right Whale and her calf just off the Nullarbor cliffs.
Photo: Ray Gibbons, 2 Oct 2009.



A 40mm long Inland Robust Scorpion, *Urodacus yaschenkoi*, photographed at night at our campsite.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 Oct 2009.

The Nullarbor Proper

Our first task was to tag and document an old Quartermaine-Wheeler feature, N-985 (QWRH-51, see Wheeler, 1952-1980), which is a triple rockhole 7m to the west of the Eucla-Reid Road. From here, we followed an old bore drillers' track to the west, finding the original drilling camp containing bottles, tyres, wire, car parts and a piece of tin marked "Muir Diamond Ice".

We camped a couple of kilometres north-west of this point, where we saw and photographed our first interesting wildlife specimen, a 40 mm long Inland Robust Scorpion (*Urodacus yaschenkoi*).

Our next target was to bottom blowhole N-4835. We had tagged this shaft on our previous trip, but had failed to bottom because our 15m ladder did not reach (Ackroyd, 2012). This time we had our

SRT gear. After a bit of tricky rigging, to avoid the loose rubble cone above the blowhole entrance, we managed to get a rope down to the bottom.

Disappointingly, and despite the howling draught coming out of N-4835, it turned out to be a straight drop, typically 3m across and a mere 14m deep to a soil floor. The only noteworthy thing about it was the group of kestrel chicks I eyeballed 3m from the top of the shaft as I prusiked out.

We returned to our bush camp, one of the few times we used the same camp twice, to have a cold beverage or two and to cook up a meal in the coolish conditions. The night was very clear, and allowed us to spot 21 satellites, including the space station, which easily outshone Jupiter that happened to be at its zenith at the time.

Owl Roost (N-4800)

The following morning, 8 Oct, we packed up and headed to N-4800, Owl Roost, a cave I had done a quick descent of on our previous trip, exploring it for 170m before deciding it needed a serious survey effort at a later date (Ackroyd, 2012). Today was that day.

On the way there we hit a deep rabbit warren with such violence that it caused our heads to hit the roof of the vehicle. Unbeknownst to us at that time, it also caused a significant reshaping of the spare wheel and tyre carrier rails and the loss of some mounting components.

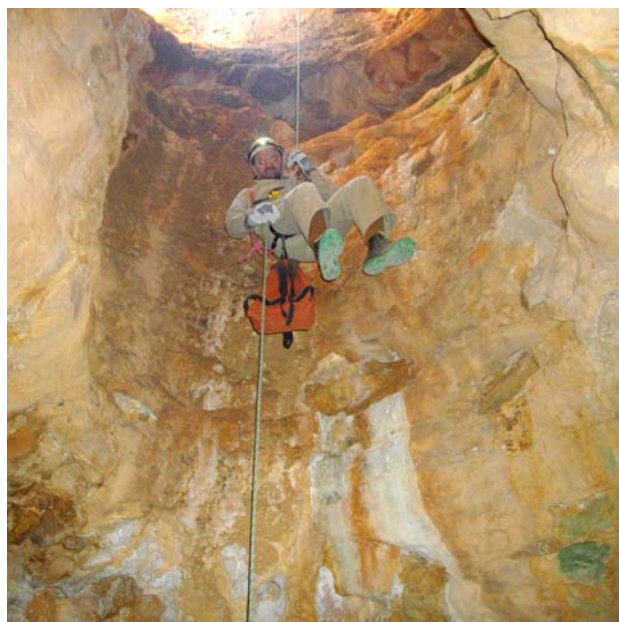
Arriving at Owl Roost, we found that kestrels and their chicks had taken up residence, along with at least eight welcome swallows. We also discovered our loss of roof rack components and reshaped superstructure. After unloading the spare wheels from the damaged rails, and backtracking 8km or so, we found the missing bits. So all that remained was some heavy engineering work carried out using the vehicle as a vice and the hydraulic jack as a press. In this manner, we soon had the carry rails straight again but by now it was pretty late so, we simply made camp near the cave. Unfortunately, the wind, strong all day, became stronger and colder — not a great night.



Ray Gibbons, entering Owl Roost (N-4800).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 10 Oct 2009.

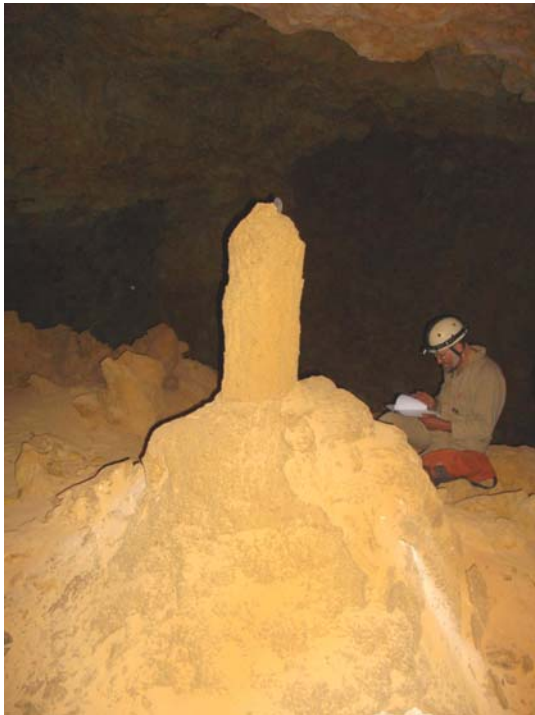
The following day we drove the short distance to Owl Roost (N-4800) and, in between showers of rain, used the vehicle to rig the 11m entrance shaft for an SRT descent. A spike driven into the ground was used to anchor a redirect to allow us to have a nice freehang down the centre of the shaft.

After surveying the two shaft entrances, we commenced mapping a chamber ("Owl Roost") to the immediate south of the entrance shafts. The floor of this 2–3m high room contains huge piles of disintegrating owl pellets. The chamber has obviously been used as an owl roost for a very long time. Some of the mounds were estimated to be 3m thick, and consisted of millions of tiny bones from the regurgitated waste of the owls. There was no sign of any resident owls at the time of our visit. On the south side of this chamber there is a low, intermittent stream passage heading to the south-west.



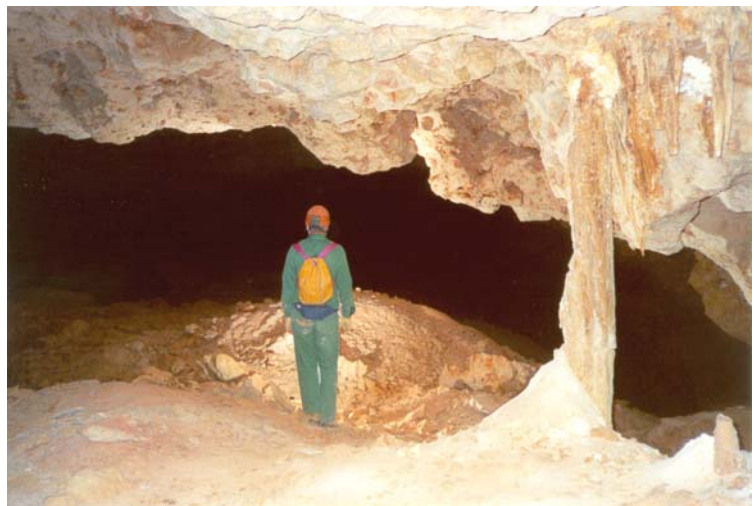
Peter Ackroyd abseiling down the entrance shaft of Owl Roost (N-4800).
Photo: Ray Gibbons, 10 Oct 2009.

Returning to the entrance shaft area, we commenced a survey into the northern part of the cave. A roughly 2–3m high passage descends a series of rocky cascades, leading to a bank of white sand and an even lower drainage point. This area has a mummified dingo and bones of other animals that have obviously fallen in and managed to crawl this far. A little farther on a prominent “black” (darkly pigmented) stalagmite marks the start of a quite large chamber, at which point we stopped surveying for the day.



Peter Ackroyd drawing up the survey at the “Black Stal” in Owl Roost (N-4800).
Photo: Rav Gibbons. 10 Oct 2009.

Returning the next day (10 October), we picked up where we left off at the start of the chamber. We followed the left-hand wall around and down a scree slope to enter the “Spall Chamber”. This was a wide black space containing hillocks of scree formed by the splitting off of shards of limestone from the roof and, sometimes, the walls.



Ray Gibbons at the commencement of the “Spall Chamber” in Owl Roost (N-4800).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 10 Oct 2009.

Some sections of this chamber retain their original decoration, especially near the edges, but in the central section it is a roller coaster ride of scree mounds. In the eastern parts of the chamber there are more recent speleothems of waxy gypsum to provide highlights (see cover photo). Mostly however, the decoration is very old “black” calcite.

We noted a distinctive dark-coloured marker bed (possibly a paleosol level) of porous limestone about 0.3m thick. It could be traced around a significant portion of this Spall Chamber.

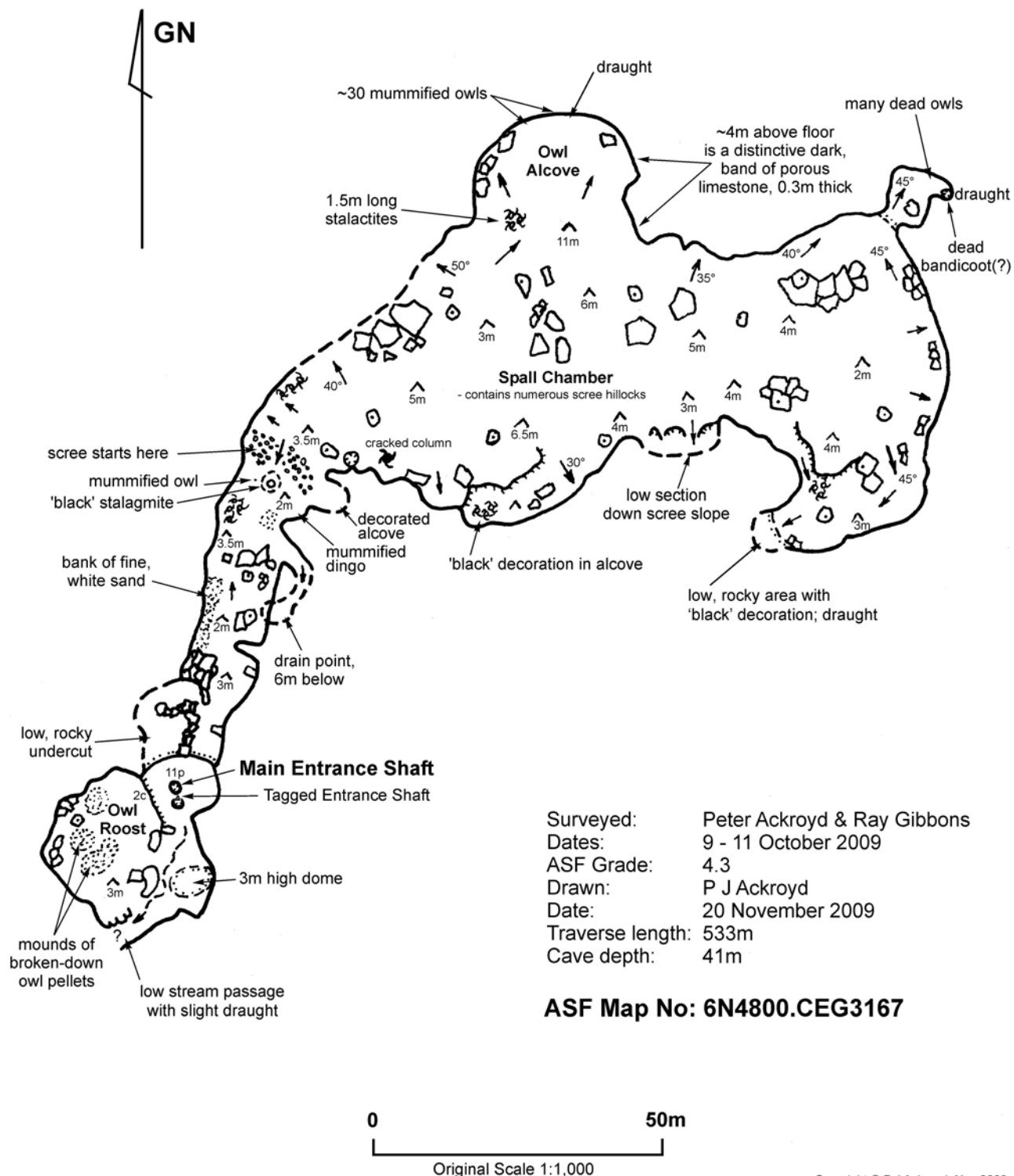
Here and there at the edges of the chamber the scree dropped steeply down to impenetrable, drafting lower sections with original floor. In these areas there were many mummified remains of animals, mostly common to the Nullarbor. Chief amongst those were barn owls (*Tyto alba*) of which there were scores. Interestingly, there was also a bandicoot-like animal in a small alcove, an unlikely resident of the modern Nullarbor. The entire chamber turned out to be about 125m long by 50m wide with a typical height of 4m (see map on opposite page).

Having spent 2½ days surveying and photographing Owl Roost, we continued our journey north-west on 12 October. Our aim for this part of the trip was to reach the north-eastern end of the “Long Donga” in order to commence picking up ‘NX’ features, most of them spotted from the air in 2000 and 2001.

We reached the Long Donga by mid-afternoon after which we started our search. Features spotted from the air can be a bit approximate, usually within 100m of the given coordinates, so they can take a bit of finding when on the ground. Sometimes of course a “karst feature” can actually be a rabbit warren or simply a cracked pavement slab.

6N-4800: Owl Roost, Nullarbor Plain

PLAN VIEW



We meandered along, attempting to locate and tag as many of the 'NX' points as we could, while at the same time trending generally to the north-west. Not long into our search we slashed a tyre on a razor rock, completely wrecking it. Fortunately, we carried two extra tyre carcasses so the first job for the following day was now established. Putting on the spare wheel, we carried on until we reached a suitable campsite and stopped for the day.

As usual, we pitched our tents and erected a tarpaulin as a windbreak around the rear of the vehicle for our camp kitchen and for our rest area. The wind on the Nullarbor can be quite strong and sometimes quite cold, as it was on this night, so we were glad of our preparations.



One of our typical Nullarbor campsites.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 15 Oct 2009.

The next morning I crunched the data on the computer from the previous day's karst search, whilst Ray went for a 5 km walk looking for new features. After about an hour he returned, having found a new rockhole, before replacing the slashed tyre and plugging a few leaks in others.

All shipshape again, we set off to continue the search, first tagging Ray's rockhole (N-4839), then moving on to the next NX number. On the way we hit yet another razor rock, completely ruining a tyre that Ray had only just put six plugs into sealing all its leaks. Not happy Jan! After yet another tyre change, salt was rubbed into the wound when the NX "feature" turned out to be no more than a rabbit warren.

Carrying on regardless, we continued to locate NX numbers, and when they were found to be karst features we explored, tagged and documented them for the database.

This area had several plants we had either rarely or, in some cases, never noted before. For example, there were several Rock Sida (*Sida petrophila*), a Plantain (*Plantago* sp.) and some delicate Fringe Lilies (*Thysanotus tuberosus*). In addition, there were many more kestrels occupying blowholes and caves than we had ever seen in the past. It had clearly been a pretty good year on the Nullarbor.



Fringe Lily (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) about
100m north of N-4848.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 15 Oct 2009.



Kestrel fledglings in N-4860.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 16 Oct 2009.

The days passed in a similar pattern of searching for and documenting NX features, setting up camp wherever we found ourselves each night, crunching karst data and repairing the occasional tyre or two.

On 17 October, we reached the old section of the Forrest-Mundrabilla Road, at a point about 5 km south-east of Old Homestead Cave (N-83). We were now in an area that had already been looked at and the NX numbers checked by Graham Pilkington in late 2006. Graham had not physically tagged

these features (about 10), so we thought we'd correct that situation, given we were in the area anyway.

Inexplicably, we found many more features, some quite significant, in the same area. Some of these were quite close to features to which Graham had given numbers. We worked throughout the next couple of days exploring, tagging, photo-tagging and documenting.

Late on 18 October, we headed for the cavers' hut at Old Homestead Cave to have a late meal and a few cold beverages on a beautiful, balmy evening — our first (and only) windless day of the trip.



Gravestone of Annie McGill, who died at Mundrabilla Homestead on 18 August 1879.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 20 Oct 2009.

On 19 October we cleaned up the car, then ourselves, before we put the road wheels back onto the Rodeo, ready for our homeward trip. We discovered that the outback toilet building had been pressed into service by a pair of nesting kestrels, which had built a nest of twigs on top of the water tank at the rear of the structure. We found we could still use the facility, noting that the parents circled warily overhead whilst we were inside. I'm not sure what they made of the new aromas that we left but they seemed not to mind too much.

The following morning, we made our way south to Mundrabilla Homestead, stopping to chat with the owners and to fix up our camping fees. We also photographed two graves on the property. One of them is that of Thomas Kennedy, an original settler at Mundrabilla. Thomas died on 8 July 1896 at 67 years of age. The other was particularly poignant. It is that of Annie McGill, wife of William McGill, who also settled at Mundrabilla. Annie died in childbirth at 28 years of age in this lonely spot on 18 August 1879. The baby did not survive (Saunders, 2005).

Leaving Mundrabilla Station, we continued our journey back east, camping for the night in the scrub 31 km to the west of Eucla. Over the following two days we drove to Ceduna, then to Adelaide, arriving on 22 October.

Appendix 1: Listing of features examined and karst numbers allocated

New 'N' numbers allocated, tagged and documented:

N-4836 — 4884.

(Total = 49)

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

N-985, 3268, 3269, 3272, 3273, 3274, 3275, 3277, 3278, 4800 (surveyed), 4835.

(Total = 11)

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

NXK-2, 3, 6, 357, 366, 367, 368 (rabbits), 371, 372, 388, 421, 429, 440, 512, 513 (rabbits), 514 (nil found), 515 (rabbits), 516 (rabbits), 565, 566, 567, 698, 699 (rabbits), 700, 701, 806, 807, 829 (rabbits), 830 (rabbits), 870, 939, 940.

(Total = 32)

All our cave information was entered into the CEGSA Karst Index (now OzKarst) in January 2010 so as to be accessible to all cavers.

References

Ackroyd, Peter, (2012), Circle Work on the Nullarbor Plain, April/May 2009. *CEGSA News* **226 (Vol 57 No 2)**: 22–27.

Saunders, B. A., (2005), Spirit of the Desert: The story of Eucla, W A , After the East-West Telegraph Era, Eyre Highway Community Association, W A (328pp).

Wheeler, Harry (1952–1980), Quartermaine-Wheeler List: Catalogue of blowholes caves & any other surface features of the Nullarbor limestone that have interesting underground connections. (Unpublished — copy held by CEGSA).

Peter Ackroyd, 31 Mar 2014

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YARRANGOBILLY TRIP REPORT (part 1)

January 31st to February 9th 2014.

All photos copyright: N.R.Skinner 2014.

I left home around 6pm on the Friday night and drove to Clare & Heiko's, where I met up with Thomas. After unloading my car and repacking my gear into Thomas's, I parked my Forester in their shed and departed in Thomas's vehicle at 7pm, arriving in Tooleybuc around 1am. Here we stayed the night with Clare, Heiko & Mark, who had arranged accommodation at the local caravan park. The room was hot and cramped, and the air-con was noisy; however, we survived the ordeal.

On Sat we drove from Tooleybuc to Deniliquin, up to Finley, then onto Lockhart where we stopped for fuel. The temperature was about 41-42 degrees in the shade and the bitumen was melting in the main street, so imagine my horror after the service station had directed us to the public toilets, to find they had no open windows or ventilation at all! I estimate the temperature inside the toilet blocks would have been about 50-60 degrees Celsius. (Note to self - NEVER stop at Lockhart again!)

From there we drove to Wagga Wagga where we did our grocery shopping for the trip and had some dinner (in my case, fruit buns) before heading off to Tumut, where we made our last fuel stop to ensure all tanks full. I was very surprised to find the temperature in Tumut was also about 40 degrees, and extremely uncomfortable. Once refuelled, we continued the last 70 or so kms onto Yarrangobilly Village camping grounds, arriving around 5 – 5:30pm. When the camp was set up we settled down to a G&T or three, before retiring for the evening.

Yarrangobilly Caves are located 77 km from Tumut, 109 km from Cooma, and are 975 m above sea level. According to the brochures, the caves were formed in a belt of limestone that is 440 million years old, and there are an estimated 60 caves in the area, of which four - **South Glory Cave, North Glory Cave, Jersey and Jillabenan** - have regular tours running. The largest building on the site is **Caves House**, built in 1901 when the caves were the most popular resort in New South Wales.

Sunday 2nd Feb

One of our main objectives for this trip was to locate and explore Mutmut Cave. We started the day by discussing how to best locate the cave, given all we had was sketchy data on how to find the cave. After that we visited the Yarrangobilly Caves tourist office, which was some 10 or so kms south of our campsite, on the edge of the Yarrangobilly River. Yarrangobilly Caves are located in steep terrain, with gravel roads built onto the sides of the mountains and with no railing on the roadsides to prevent cars from going over the edge, so due care is required at all times when driving in the area.

We were made to feel at home in the Parks Office and even invited behind the counter to use their phone to ring George Bradford, the Parks Manager, who had apparently had expressed disappointment that he had missed catching up with us when we first arrived. In fact I was very impressed with the attitude of the staff, who actually seemed to enjoy and get satisfaction in being able to serve the public. While we were there we picked up access keys for the caves we planned to explore.



Yarrangobilly River, adjacent to the tourist caves

Once we had the keys, we headed off to check out the Yarrangobilly River in the caves area to ascertain how open it was and how deep, to ascertain whether accessing Mutmut Cave via walking down the River to avoid the dense scrub was a viable proposition. It wasn't! We then proceeded to drive to Lobbs Hole/Blue Ck to see what the vegetation was like as an alternate option of accessing Mutmut. That was when we discovered that the 'locked' gate on the track leading to Mutmut Cave had been forced open with the use of what appeared to be either a very large boltcutter, or some industrial equipment, as a piece of 25 x 5mm steel bar had been snipped in two like a piece of paper.



Seeking an easier way to Mut Mut cave...



Vandalised gate locking bracket.

We photographed this for the Parks Manager, but declined to enter the gate without proper authorisation. Clearly, there were some highly motivated 4WD users of this track that saw it as their right to enter as they pleased.

We then trundled off to **2Y-12 "Coppermine Cave"**. Although this cave does not require a key to access it, there is a padlocked gate on the track to it, and having the key to this saves a 2km walk in (and out).

At one stage Heiko, Thomas, Mark & myself got out to shift a large log off the track while Clare, who was driving, stayed in the vehicle. However it quickly became evident that only Heiko & Thomas had the energy required to move the log, so while Mark took on the role of Supervisor, I picked up a small branch and started to pretend that I was whipping the two workers to make them go faster, while at the same time pointing to the logs that had to be moved, and to where they should be moved. Clare thought this was very funny and was still laughing at my *gesticulations* after we arrived at the cave.

Once there we donned our wetsuits, and we entered a wet and very cool cave at 3:15pm, which had a lower level (creekbed) and an upper level, which was apparently quite muddy and was kept locked to stop cavers from trampling mud through the lower section. Heiko checked out part of the upper level that was outside the gated section while Clare, Mark, Thomas & myself went to the end of the lower level. This was a very pretty and interesting cave with lots of pictures taken by Clare & myself, and was a great way of escaping the heat outside.



Clare examines the formations



Thomas photographs the others in front



An elevated rim-pool just off to one side



Mark & Thomas inspecting the roof decorations



More of the wet section



Some of the smaller areas next to the track were stunning



Heiko examines the decorations



Not water, but flowstone, from the ceiling to the floor!



Heiko examines where the water flow has eroded the floor of the cave

We left the cave at 5:30pm and headed back to camp.

Monday 3rd Feb

Clare went to Tumut to meet up with Parks Manager George Bradford to discuss access to Mutmut Cave, and other issues such as fire bans and gate access.

At the same time Thomas, Mark, Heiko and myself went to **2Y-50 "Restoration Cave"**. We had some trouble finding this at first, because the direction of the cave as given by the GPS's suggested it might be shorter if we went around the RHS of the doline, as we approached it. I should say at this point the doline consisted of a sheer drop of some 30-40m on the facing side, with steep rocky inclines on the adjacent two sides, along with a generous serving of blackberry bushes, scrub and things that stick to your socks on the 'easy' approach! We would later realise this was typical of most dolines in this area. So after about 45 mins of climbing large rocks and the trunks of large fallen trees, and bashing through the scrub in 35-40 degree heat, we decided to retreat back to where we came from and go up the left side instead. That proved to be the right decision, but even then, as we reached the top LHS of the doline, a difference of opinion between two GPS units saw Heiko going one way with his GPS and Thomas going the other with his, while Mark & myself sat under the shade of a tree and pretended we felt cooler. Luckily, after 10-15 mins Thomas reported back they had both made it and Heiko was at the cave entrance waiting for us. A quick check of the cave ID disc near the entrance proved we had the right cave. The time now was 11am.



Thomas taking GPS coords at Y92 entrance



Fossil bed in Y92

In fact, there was another very easily accessible cave just 2m away from where Mark and Heiko had started to get their gear sorted prior to entering the 'Y50' cave, which Thomas & myself checked out as well. There wasn't much to see, but it was cool inside and that was a good reason for checking it out. Actually, it wasn't much more than a chamber sitting under a rock fall, with some fossils up against the back wall. These fossils had been collected and put together; some were on an old groundsheet. That said, it provided a cool spot to gear up in and the two of us availed ourselves of the opportunity to catch up on some rest in a cool area, while Heiko & Mark spent 10-15 minutes just outside the cave entrance in the heat, cursing and pulling the prickles out of their clothing.



Doline with Y50 on the left side & Y92 on the right side Entrance to Y50 cave (yes, that hole near the middle)



First Chamber:



Rabbits Ears



Second chamber: Different coloured rim-pools



Very large roof decorations, some 20m distant



Restoration Cave had a quite small, almost insignificant, entrance with an eyelet in the wall some 2-3 metres just inside the entrance, at a point where one has to drop down about 2m into a narrow fissure. The cave basically had two chambers, the first was reasonably large and the second was huge with massive boulders covering the floor, such that it would have been dangerous to try to navigate them. And around these boulders there appeared to be lots of crystal formations that would be easily damaged by cavers trying to navigate the floor section. This would explain why cavers are asked to remain on a small section of marked track and not deviate.

To avoid issues with slave strobes, Mark & Thomas photographed the first chamber while Neville and Heiko photographed the second chamber. When done, we swapped over.

This cave had some quite pretty sections and was worth the effort in getting there, but it really needed several large slave strobes to light up the second chamber for the camera.

We left the cave around 2:30pm and arrived exhausted back at camp around 5pm, which was two hours later than expected, but we were pleased to see Clare had arrived safely back from Tumut with more keys from George.

Since we had a couple of hours to spare before dinner, Clare, Thomas & myself decided to head off to the **Thermal Pool** for a dip, and to see if it was as good as the brochure said it was. As it came into view in the distance, I was surprised to see it nestled in a steep valley, some 700m from the carpark, down a steep winding path. Ah, well, that's life in them thar hills...

On arrival at a point almost above the pool, I was surprised at how large the pool was - 20m long, and about 8m wide, with a children's wading pool fed by the water flowing from the main pool, change rooms, toilets and picnic facilities. The water reportedly remains a constant 27°C all year round. It was an incredibly serene area; we were the only people around and we shared the pool area with the lizards & kangaroos.



Thermal Pool located dead centre of image



Thermal Pool from the path above



We shared the area with two large bucks



Lizard about 2ft long near the change-rooms

I read that it has been estimated the water in the pool rises from a depth of 762 metres and bubbles out at the rate of 91 kilolitres per hour. The downside is that the pool is 700 metres down a steep track (considerably steeper if one takes short cuts as did I) and the effort required to return to the car park almost outweighs the benefit of the swim, except that they have installed a shower in the carpark for use by returning swimmers! It all made sense to me, if you can have a Symphony Orchestra in the Botanical Gardens, why wouldn't you have a shower in a public carpark?

When we got back to camp, Heiko told us that he had met up with a French caver named Jean, who had come to Australia to visit his son in Melbourne and had set up camp right next to us. It turned out, coincidentally, that Jean was a very experienced caver and was very pleased to see us, and keen to do some caving whilst in Australia. So we invited him to join us for dinner, after which he showed us his portfolio of pictures taken in caves he had recently visited in Laos and Vietnam. Very impressive photos!

Tuesday 4th Feb

The next day we went to the **Y3 Eyrie entrance of the Eagles Nest system**. We reached the cave at 12:30pm, after having to clear the 4WD track on the way through and then having to walk about 850m to get to the cave.



The track that spiked Mark's tyre...



The walk... followed by relentless searching...



GPS says we're there... it must be underneath us...



Found it! (Entrance leads off behind Clare)



Eyrie chamber



Trail continues steeply down

When we entered, we were faced with climbing down a large rockpile, only to end up on a ledge looking down an almost sheer drop! After some searching we found a way around the left hand side from where we were and were then able to get to the bottom. Sadly, when we did so we had trouble finding the way on, so after 10 mins searching I found a way out that looked good, except that we ended up in another room, with another sheer drop to a lower level. This time it was decided that Thomas would drop down on his own to investigate, as coming back the same way did look quite challenging, and better to have one caver stuck in a pitch with three cavers to help, than to have four cavers stuck in a pitch with no-one to help. Thomas had a good look around and then returned, saying he had found himself in the bottom of pitch with moss growing in it and he could see daylight coming in above him. From this we deduced that he had been on the bottom of the Y1 entrance pitch. Thomas reported there appeared to be no other lead out of the lower area. How did we manage to end up here? This wasn't planned!



To assist Thomas in getting back out, Mark & I set up a handrope with knots in it and after 10 mins of huffing & puffing, Thomas rejoined the group.

Meanwhile, Clare and Jean had scouted around and found a short cut that took us straight up to the first chamber, bringing us out directly underneath the rocks we had stood on while we pondered how to get down in the first place! That said, we can be excused for not seeing it on the way down, because the location was such that it was a tad scary to come out on the side of a 10m pitch, about 350mm from top, having to reach above and use a stalagmite to help pull oneself up onto the rocks, whilst taking care not to lose balance and fall backwards down the pitch.

So where does the Y1 entrance take people that choose to enter that way? By now we didn't really care, we had had enough of rockpiles and were starting to dream about that G&T that was waiting for us back at camp. So we left the cave around 5:15pm, returning to camp totally disillusioned with the day's caving.

(part 2 next issue)

Neville Skinner.

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DON'T FORGET THE EGGS

Reprinted with permission from FUSSI Newsletter Vol26, No2, 2014.

Wet and wild weekend; FUSSI trip March long weekend 7-10th March 2014

Attendees: Thomas Varga; Clare Buswell, Neville Skinner; George Voustinos, Huan Wang, Edwina Virgo, Aimee Leong.

So the trip began (as it usually does) heading out of Adelaide late Friday afternoon. Sadly; Heiko Maurer was a last minute pullout for the trip; as there was housework that needed to be done (literally, to the side of the house). After much deliberation about transport and carpooling; pizzas and coffee with the others; Neville and I headed out of Adelaide around about 6.30pm. It was a nice (and relatively uneventful) drive, with Neville's eclectic CD collection - a mixture of opera/jazz piano/Diana Krall/Missy Higgins/Angus and Julius Stone. It was fantastic!! The only thing we really noted was a deer's behind, which we spotted on the side of the road after passing through Kingston and were very lucky that it didn't decide to turn around and run onto the road.

We arrived at Millicent Caravan Park (Hilltop caravan park) at 10:30pm, where we were greeted by one of the caravan park's staff members, who had kindly stayed up to wait for us. We were greeted by two decent sized cabins; each identical and each having sound cooking facilities and ensuite toilets (LUXURY!!). Neville and I unpacked most of the stuff from the car; and pottered around our cabin whilst waiting for others to turn up. We were greeted by the others about 11.30pm. All 7 of us shared two cabins, with Edwina deciding that she was going to camp outside. It was well past 12pm before any of us got to bed, excited about what the next few days' exploration was going to bring. There was discussion as to when to pick up the keys needed for Saturday's caves. Unbeknown to most of us, Thomas kindly drove the 100km round trip into Mt Gambier to pick up the keys and ended up getting back to camp about 1.30am. Thank you Thomas once again!



Huan Trying not to get wet!

Saturday morning - we all arose relatively early with Edwina doing the door knock - and we ended up leaving the campsite by about 9am (Clare, do you remember what time we actually left??). There was a quick stop in Millicent to pick up some lunch stuff/nibbles. It was there when Neville discovered he'd forgotten the eggs needed for breakfast Sunday or Monday morning. Knowing that he had 2 dozen sitting in his fridge at home ready to be eaten, buying more was a pained process! Well ok, the stop was not all that quick - coffee, cake etc had to be had!

It was then all systems go Gran Gran cave, with me questioning why the cave was named as such. Some theories included something involving a grandmother, but no one seemed to know why it was named as such. The beautiful bright, sunny morning began with us gearing up at the entrance to Gran Gran, with Thomas running back to the campsite after discovering he had left the keys of the cave behind. It was all about checking each other's cave 'bling', as we all pulled on all our gear - with many discussions about shoes, kneepads, overalls, and head torches. Huan won the contest hands down, with his bright red overalls. He had bought from China, (at apparently a ridiculously low cost comparatively to prices in Australia), and looking like they were glowing from just being freshly out of a packet. After gearing up, Thomas arrived back with the key and we were all ready to troop into the cave.

Huan, Neville, Edwina and myself ventured in first, leaving our gear near the cave entrance and went for a bit of a poke around. Neville was explaining to us whereabouts he thought there was a section of the cave with bats in it. So Edwina and myself decided to check out a few entrances, which led us to nothing of particular interest, anyway no bats. After wriggling around in a whole lot of mud/dirt (as one does when one goes caving), we made our way back to where Neville and the rest of the crew were. We then all trooped into the main chambers of Gran Gran, with Thomas leading the way.

We were met by water just inside the cave. It was fun and games, as most of us had decided to try and keep ourselves dry as much as we could. However, for me personally that lasted a whole 3 minutes before I decided to try and wade in up to my knees. It was cold! I didn't get very far through the water, as it was quite silty at the bottom, very much of the consistency of quicksand - gloopy and muddy and tending to suck my shoes in. It took a while for all of us to eventually make our way through. George was earning some serious brownie points by being of support (for Clare and Edwina, and allowing them to step on his shoulders to get to the higher parts of the ledges out of the water). Thomas commented that the water levels had definitely risen since the last visit about a year ago.

We then all ventured deeper into the cave and just after the first water spot we discovered basalt. I have never seen basalt, so for me it was absolutely fascinating for it to be sandwiched in between layers of limestone. To me it looked like



A Basalt Necklace for a Limestone Boulder

chocolate. Mmmm!! Clare made the comment that basalt was as hard as ... rocks. Literally. Hehe. Here we also discovered some old, blackened fossilised bones, some fascinating delicate structures (halite with water droplets on them?) and 'caveman' graffiti on the wall, left from a previous explorer.

This is where Edwina, Clare and Neville decided not to explore the next water section, with Huan, George, Thomas and myself venturing in onwards through the water section. Again, Thomas led the way and, unbeknown by the rest of us following him, he was capturing every moment on a Go Pro. HE managed to keep dry. Huan made it safely through the deepish water part first - with myself following. After holding onto what I thought was a decent hand hold, it broke off leaving me going for an unexpected swim, and a few swear words were captured on the Go Pro, with Huan laughing hysterically in the background. George also managed to get through unscathed. Then we went exploring the deeper section of the cave. Since I was completely soaked through, I decided to turn around after a few steps in, and then I made my way out.

Finally we met up with Clare, Edwina and Neville and we were slowly making our way back. George also caught up with us, and was helping Edwina make her way down off the ledge and being very careful to stay dry when we heard someone come crashing through the water followed by a loud voice "I NEED TO GO TO THE TOILET!!" it was Huan, obviously in great need and not giving the cold water a second thought in order to exit the cave. It was one of those moments you just had to be there - it was hilarious. After all of us exited Gran Gran, it was time to try and dry off in the warm sunshine and head back for a spot of lunch back at the cabins.

Saturday afternoon brought about us going into Tindales Cave. It was a short abseil into the cave (about 7-8 metres). We were rewarded handsomely by a beautifully decorated cave. There was one steep uphill, whereby Neville was scoring some brownie points by offering a leg as a 'foot up'. We all marvelled at the amazing tall columns of flowstone. Sadly, there was also quite a bit of graffiti - a lot of it was written in pencil too - dating back to about 1945. Tindales cave is mainly two long, parallel passages, which were supported by a middle section. You were able to look underneath and see someone else in the other passage.



Wall detail, Tindales Cave



After taking some photographs and spending a bit of time in the cave, we all trooped back to where the entrance was with Edwina discovering there was a brown snake (?3 ft long?) that had made its way in. It was just sleepily napping behind a rock. Needless to say, there were photographs taken and a wary eye was kept on it at all times as we all hurriedly exited the cave. By the time we got back to camp, it was late-ish and we all sat down to a wonderfully home cooked meal by Clare and a few beers and wine.

Sunday morning brought about a trip to Hells Hole. Clare and Thomas left to rig it whilst Neville, Huan, George, Edwina and myself went down to Allendale General Store to hire wetsuits, masks and snorkels. We arrived back at Hells Hole to meet up with Matt Smith with some younger scouts who were also down in Mount Gambier to do some caving that weekend. Neville and I abseiled down first, spending a bit of time exploring the ledges of Hells Hole. Neville found many primitive sponges that looked remarkably like dessert - big creamy puffs decorated by a red ring. They were plentiful.

Neville also managed to find some bottles of water, along with a few pens, which had evidently been thrown down into the hole and with the rise and fall of the waterline had become trapped in small caves in the ledges of Hells Hole. It was a long SRT session back up for me - and it was sunny and hot, 34 degrees Celsius. SRTing in a wetsuit and being waterlogged was quite difficult. After emerging from Hells Hole, it was time for George and Huan to head down into the hole. It was decided on the edge of the platform that George had overheated in his wetsuit and was not safe to go down. Some of us made a trip to the nearest pub for water and then onto Mount Gambier to purchase more water for everyone else back in Hells Hole as we had realised that we were very low on water, given the hot weather and the sunshine. We arrived back at Hells Hole, whereby we dropped off the water, and then it was decided that Neville, George, Huan, Edwina and myself would head onto Ewens Ponds to go snorkelling/diving; whilst Clare and Thomas would head into Hells Hole.



Neville at the bottom of Ewens Ponds

Ewens Ponds was magical as usual. Neville commented that the ponds' vegetation was the best he had seen in 10 years. Neville and myself went for a dive, Huan and George went for a snorkel, with Edwina dipping her toes in and deciding that it was indeed too cold for her likes to jump in. In pond #2, Neville caught two divers who had intentionally decided to go for a bounce and roll around in the lush moss at the bottom of the pond whilst Go Pro-ing it. He promptly pulled them to the surface and told them off. We were then making our way through the channel to the 3rd pond when one of the divers tugged on his fin, and told Neville that they had lost the Go Pro! We then made our way back, where Neville found the Go Pro, and was waving it from side to side for a good 30 seconds before one of the other divers noticed that he had it. He rushed back and shook Neville's hand. We made our way back to the last pond and exited after 50 minutes of being in the cold water.

Back at the cars, we bumped into Clare and Thomas. Clare mentioned that she had also developed heat exhaustion at the top of Hells Hole, and decided that she did not want to risk descending in if she did not have the energy to SRT back up 30-odd metres. We decided to leave Clare and Thomas to enjoy Ewens Ponds, whilst the rest of us decided to head back to our cabins and start getting dinner ready. Dinner was pasta, with a beautiful Greek salad made by George, and dessert - an apple crumble and lemon meringue pie brought by Neville. All accompanied with a few glasses of wine.



A Yabbie for Dinner Anyone?

Monday morning it was a trip to Considine's cave, whereby we rigged a hand line down into the cave. Considine's is a wet-ish cave, and pretty active. What struck me were the amazing formations, lots of grand structures and flowstones. However, the cave had collapsed sometime in the past and a lot of the formations were damaged having fallen off the roof. Since it was an active cave, lots of water was dripping 'plink plonks'. It was pretty amazing to see the limestone holes which were bored away by the drips of the water. We also found two troglobitic? (they were white) yabbies in a pool of water. Neville and Clare mentioned that they were indeed much bigger than they were a few years ago, when they last visited the cave. There also seemed to be a potential opening in the pool of water. Neville mentioned that he wanted to remove some rocks at some stage and have a look.

We all then sat in silence and listened to the 'plink plonks'- it was very musical!

After exiting Considine's cave, it was mid afternoon and time to head home back to Adelaide. There was a stop in Millicent at the pub to work out expenses, and after that Neville and I were on our way back home. There was a stop in Kingston, where we (again) caught up with Clare, Thomas and Huan who had also stopped off. It was all the way back to Adelaide, to clean up and get ready for another week of working. It was an enjoyable trip, with many memories and thank you to everyone who was part of it. Thank you Thomas and Clare for organising everything. Neville, don't forget the eggs next time (heh). Looking forward to the next time.

Aimee Leong.

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GLENELG RIVER

Date 22 Mar 2013 & 25 Apr 2014

Caves 3GXDJL14, 3GXDJL15, 3GXDJL16, 3GXKRM65, 3GXKRM69, 3GXKRM70

Party F Aslin, D Lawson, K Mott, D Nearmy

The first trip was a boat trip along the river to relocate some older collection sites of Fred's and to locate several caves along the river. We set out from Pritchards Landing and headed upstream to get a location for one of Fred's earlier collections. We then headed downstream to relocate 3GXKRM65. This is a small cave on the north bank of the river in line with the projection of the southern bank. It is located about 7m above the water level.

The next target was a spring shown on the geological sheet. This turned out to be a depression 1m x 1m with a spring flowing out of it at about 0.2m/sec. The spring follows a watercourse for about 10m before joining the Glenelg River. This was recorded as 3GXDJL15.

A third feature, 3GXDJL14, was found further downstream in the northern bank. An opening 1m x 1m at water level lead to a fissure cave 10m long x 1.2m wide x 4m high running parallel with the bank.

The second trip was to follow up on a couple of large dolines reported earlier. The first feature visited is a blind valley 60m wide x 12m deep with a stream sink 0.7m wide x 0.4m high. A sub stream also enters from the north. An excellent fern colony exists in the bottom of the valley. Between this valley and the river is another doline 75m x 30m x 10m deep. These have been collectively recorded as 3GXDJL16

The second location visited is a collection of 9 features that have been recorded as 3GKRM69. Their descriptions are:

- 1 Doline 17m diam x 3.7m deep.
- 2 Doline 6m diam x 2.6m deep.
- 3 Doline 3m diam x 0.8m deep with a hole in the bottom. 2 and 3 are joined by a small streamway.
- 4 Doline 4m diam x 2.0m deep.
- 5 Small hole.
- 6 Small hole.
- 7 Elongate doline 20m wide x 2m deep with indeterminate ends.
- 8 Doline 30mx 20m x 5m deep.
- 9 Doline 40m diam x 2m deep with 10m diam swampy floor.

We then visited 3GKRM70. This is a doline 70m x 50m x 5m deep. The deepest point is at the SE end. A smaller doline, 4m diam is on the slope at the SE end. The floor is covered in Teatree and Gleichenia (Coral Fern). A small streamway flows in from the north and there are small peaty pools in the southern end.

Kevin Mott.

Lower South East

Date 23 - 24 April 2014

Party K Mott, M Fresacher

Caves L524, L525

The trip was organised to show Matthias some of the cave types of the Lower South East and to teach him the basics of cave surveying. We started by looking at L525. This feature was shown on Lands Dept surveys of 1921 as "Cave water". It was also mentioned to Fred Aslin by the owner but the cave had not been looked.

It is in a broad depression and the area has been fenced off and planted with a shelter belt. The entrance is a tube 1.3m x 1.6m x 1.5m deep. It drops 4.7m to the top of a rock collapse. The cave is a chamber 10m diam with low extensions continuing for 4m to the NW and SE. The cave reaches a total depth of 8m. No water was visible in the cave but it is calculated to be about 0.5 to 1m below the lowest point of the cave.

A nest was found in a wall of the cave. It consisted of old sheep bones, grass and bits of old rope. There was a small amount of rubbish in the cave, old bottles and tins.

Matthias completed a survey of the cave and a map will be produced in the future.

An area of collapse was noted on the aerial photos to the NW of L525. This turned out to be a series of rock exposures that had been modified by quarrying. The northernmost was probably a doline as the rock on the west side is natural and the road boundary deviates around this feature.

We then moved on to L524. Once again this cave was first reported in a Lands Dept survey in 1909. Nothing was done about the cave except for a reported trip by Grant Pearce some years ago.

The entrance has had a concrete sill, 0.9m x 0.7m, constructed around it. A mesh gate has been fitted to the sill to prevent stock falling in. The entrance drops 7m to the floor.

Matthias did a quick recce of the cave. From the entrance it heads SE over a pool of water to another chamber. NW from the entrance it continues to a talus mound with another chamber possibly beyond this.

The survey was cancelled the next day as Matthias was called back to Adelaide. The survey will be continued at a later date.

Kevin Mott.

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Checking Thunderdrum Cave 5F29, Flinders Ranges

Following a report that the entrance to Thunderdrum Cave in the Flinders Ranges National Park had collapsed, Eddie Rubessa and Ray Gibbons stopped off on their way to Narinna on Good Friday (18th April) to confirm the damage. They were joined by Athol Jackson and daughter and son-in-law (Anthea and Carl Hudson) who were already in the Flinders conducting the school holiday Events program for the Friends of the Flinders Ranges NP.

The rock over the entrance hole has collapsed and is very unstable for a considerable height above where the entrance was. It would be virtually impossible to stabilise it to gain access there. It may be possible to dig a new entrance hole under the more solid rock to the left hand side of the old entrance.

Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby Cave 5F33 entrance was also visited.

Athol Jackson.



Collapsed entrance to Thunderdrum Cave 5F29

Past Trips From General Meetings

PAST TRIPS FROM FEBRUARY GM

1. **Neville Skinner:** Back from Yarrangobilly with FUSSI. Visited approximately 8 caves. Excellent trip but a little tiring, was quite hot on some days (40 degrees). Caves themselves were quite cool inside but not as cold as expected. Some very long days with multiple caves visited and late dinners.

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PAST TRIPS FROM MARCH GM

1. **Matt Smith:** Trip to Mt Gambier with the Beefacres Venturer Unit. Visited Snake Hill Cave, Mt Burr Cave, Graveyard Cave and Beekeepers Cave as well as a day excursion to the Byaduk area. Bats were found in good numbers in both Snake Hill and Mt Burr Caves. The doline at Mt Burr Cave is now quite overgrown with ferns and blackberry bushes, making access a little tricky.
2. **Aimee Leong:** Attended a FUSSI Trip with Neville Skinner. Gran Gran water levels seemed a foot higher than last time. Tindales Cave lots of graffiti from 1945. Brownsnake was sleeping near the entrance. Hells Hole snorkelling. Notice 3-6m below surface noticed a few holes. At least one appeared to go in at least 10m. Lots of sponges under the water. One colony had some reddish algae amongst them. Lots of rubbish (plastic bottles) seems to be in the tunnels, partially due to fluctuating water levels. Ewans Ponds snorkelling and diving (huge native cray!). Chinese divers were in pond 2 showing little regard to the delicate environment in the ponds, Neville Skinner thoughtfully helped them retrieve a lost camera. Considines Cave, nice decorations. Land owner seems happy to grant some access to the cave (at least to FUSSI members for now).

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PAST TRIPS FROM APRIL GM

1. Ken Smith – Trip to the Row Plain (WA) in which 500m of new passage has been found in Olwolgin Cave.
2. Dean Casement – Trip to Beekeepers Cave, and it appeared that the second entrance had been cleared. Unsure of who is assessing and cleared.
3. Ian Lewis – involved in SE Mt Gambier sinkholes documentary made by Channel Seven, will be aired on Sunday 6.30pm, 'Sunday Night' on Seven.
4. Ian Lewis – Trip to Koonalda Cave with the SA Museum
5. Ken Smith – Trip to lower Flinders in conjunction with the SES and Police with a report on the stability of a well.

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TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES became due on January 1st. To ensure continuity of membership and privileges (particularly insurance) please pay your fees promptly.

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 2014 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 2014 YEAR

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	117.00
3 Month Introductory	20.00
Student	61.00
Journal Subscription	25.00

2014 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 \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$95.00	\$117.00	\$212.00
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member			
Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$87.00	\$117.00	\$204.00
1 st Associate Member + 2 nd Assoc Member			
Less \$15.00 for only 1 CEGSA News	\$78.00	\$117.00	\$196.00

Don't forget \$15.00 discount if you get CEGSA NEWS via the Website.

Discount for Country Membership applies for Family Memberships.

Membership fees have not increased this year, but the ASF Levy has decreased 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	Trip Co-ordinator only
Chris Gibbons	Trip Co-ordinator only
Paul Harper	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Lance Hoey	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Kraehenbuehl	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Ian Lewis	Horizontal and Laddering
George MacLucas	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
June MacLucas	Horizontal
Steve Milner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Tim Payne	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Graham Pilkington	Horizontal and Laddering
Eddie Rubessa	Horizontal and Laddering
Mark Sefton	Horizontal and Laddering
Matt Smith	Horizontal and Laddering
Tom Szabo	Horizontal and Laddering
Gary Woodcock	Horizontal and Laddering
Michael Woodward	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical

All the above named are also CEGSA Trip Co-ordinators.

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.



Ningaloo Underground 30th ASF Conference

Place: Exmouth, Western Australia

Date: 21-26 June 2015

Organisations: SCoWA / ASF

Web Site: <http://ningaloo.wasg.org.au>

More information:

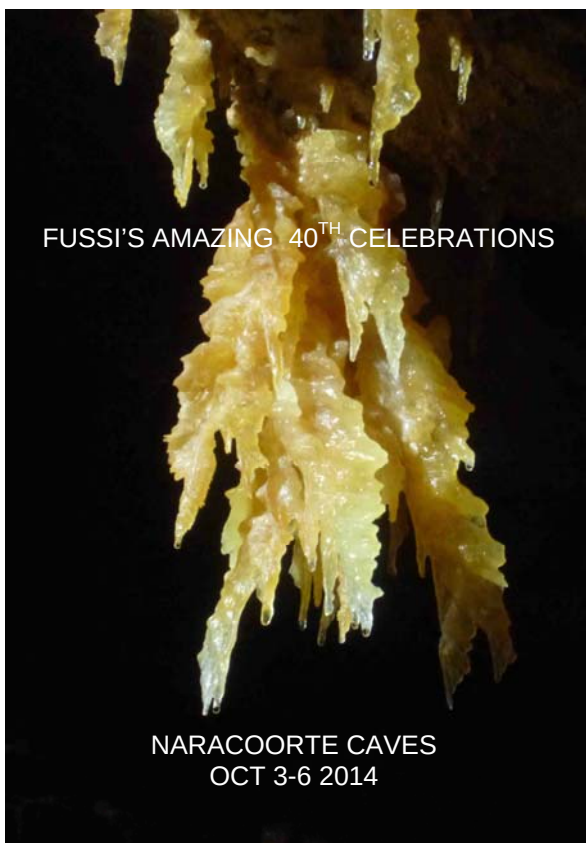


Escape the southern winter (or the northern hemisphere!) to enjoy a packed conference program and explore **Range, Reef** and **Gorges** with the benefit of local knowledge (always a plus).

- Learn why Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range were declared a World Heritage Area
- Snorkel straight off the beach and see coral on the land
- See blind gudgeon fish less than 50m from a road or encounter a *Draculoides brooksii*
- Swim and dive with a whale shark
- Camp on the top of the range for pre- and post-conference caving and have a real chance of finding a new cave
- Improve your SRT skills in the multi-pitch caves

Get **Underground** and **Underwater** with us in 2015.

FUSSI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Lots of caving will be happening in great caves on this weekend, so don't stay at home and mow the lawn!

Guest speakers are being arranged: Germain Greer, Al Gore, Bart Simpson.

The FUSSI committee has booked accommodation at Wirreanda for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

The Saturday night will be a fully catered meal.

Sunday night you do your own thing.

We will be sending out more details (prices etc) over the next week or so.

RSVP: to fussi@fussi.org.au by Sept 5th. 2014 .

FUSSI 2014 Calendar

CEGSA members are welcome to attend any of these trips. See Mark Sefton, Neville Skinner or Aimee Leong for further information.

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|---|--|
| 30 th May – 1 st June | Lower Flinders Ranges. Great fun weekend in beautiful caves. Bring your camera. All welcome, trip suitable for all levels of experience. Clare and Thomas coordinating.
RSVP by 27 May, 12 noon if you want to go.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 7 - 9 th June LWE | June long weekend, Narrina and Wooltana (Provisional at this stage)
Neville and Clare coordinating
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 22 nd June Sunday | One Day trip. Corra Lynn. Yorke Peninsula. South Australia's longest Cave.
Bronya and Thomas coordinating.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 14 - 27 th July | Mid Semester Break |
| July 25-26 th | Naracoorte. A Weekend of Caving.
Suitable for all levels of experience.
Clare and Thomas coordinating.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 10 th Aug | Sellicks Hill Cave, A5 and Grant's Roadside dig.
Meet 9am, Flinders Uni. Outside the Registry Bld
A one day trip. Bronya Coordinating.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 16 – 17 th Aug | Mt Remarkable/Melrose Trip
Climb Mt R and/or cave in Mt R blowhole. SRT competency mandatory for the caving bit.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 14 – 15 th Sept | Joint clubs come and play SRT weekend.
Lower Flinders Ranges.
Clare/Matt Smith/CEGSA coordinating.
SRT competency needed.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 4 - 6 Oct. 40 th | Birthday Celebrations. Naracoorte Caves.
Be there or you'll miss the party of the year!
Go on, don't be afraid, get down, get dirty and sell your soul to the devil.
RSVP SEP 5th.
fussi@fussi.org.au |
| 5 - 8 Dec. | Mole Creek, Tasmania.
Fly-in fly-out. Croesus, Lynds, and others.
RSVP AUG 20th if not before!
Limited numbers. Clare coordinating.
fussi@fussi.org.au |

CEGSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
28/05/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Video from Library	Graham Pilkington
31/05/14	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
01/06/14	Caving	Punyelroo Ladies Only Trip	Tom Szabo
06 - 08/ 06/14	Long Weekend Caving	Flinders / Narinna Lake Cave	Peter Horne
07/06/14	Caving	Corra Lynn Portal Dig	Graham Pilkington
??/06/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
25/06/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Subject TBA	Graham Pilkington
28/06/14	Working Bee?	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/07/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
23/07/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Subject TBA	Graham Pilkington
26/07/14	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/08/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
13/08/14	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
27/08/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Subject TBA	Graham Pilkington
30/08/14	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/09/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
14 – 15/ 09/14	SRT	Joint Clubs SRT Weekend, Lower Flinders	Matt Smith
24/09/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Subject TBA	Graham Pilkington
06 – 09/ 10/14	Caving and Social	CEGSA / FUSSI / VSA / SCOUTS Combined For FUSSI 40 th Birthday Celebrations	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 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.