

CEGSA NEWS



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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

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

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Cover Photograph: Ray Gibbons exploring blowhole N-4945.

Photo: : Peter Ackroyd, 16 Apr 2010.

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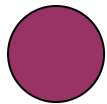
QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 4 (Issue 236) is Wednesday 12th NOVEMBER 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

Corra Lynn Cave was given State Heritage status last year after a year in the provisional list. The entry in the South Australian Heritage Register can be viewed on the SA HERITAGE COUNCIL web site as place number 22798. It has been given this status because it is a ***Designated place of palaeontological and speleological significance***.

The following map shows the extent of the Heritage protection. It doesn't just cover the land over the known cave (14km of passage but no more than 300m from the entrance) but extends a kilometre or more around the entrance to cater for future discoveries. This also acts as a buffer zone from encroachment of the nearby quarry. It's YOUR task to prove that this is warranted!



Graham Pilkington

TRIP REPORTS

A 'Loose Ends' Trip to the Nullarbor Plain, April 2010

Trip dates: 4 – 30 April 2010

Party: Peter Ackroyd and Ray Gibbons.

Introduction

The plan for this trip to the Nullarbor was to tie up some loose ends that were left from previous trips, then to complete the checking of all "NX" numbers not yet found south of N-83. These were temporarily numbered features, mainly logged from the air during ultralight aircraft searches in 2000 and 2001. There were only 86 of these and we had three weeks out on the plain so, how hard could it be?

The Trip Commences

Ray's Holden Rodeo utility, fully checked and prepared for the trip, and with its entire replacement bush set of wheels and tyres packed on the back, rolled out of Adelaide early on 4 April. We were making for our first night-time stop at Ceduna.

After a pleasant night at a caravan park, we continued west, just over the State border into Western Australia to arrive mid-afternoon at Eucla, where we picked up our prearranged fresh fruit and vegetables. These we had purchased and shipped all the way from Perth to comply with the Western Australian quarantine regulations. After carefully packaging them to preserve them for the rough ground ahead, we started for our first "loose end".

Moopina Homestead

Actually, the first task we had set ourselves was not really a loose end, more like a curiosity. During our trips in 2006 and 2007, when we were endeavouring to track down the rockholes surveyed by GR Turner and EAF Compton in 1885 (Ackroyd, 2010A & B), I had seen in their original survey field books references to Moopina Homestead, located some distance north of the old Eucla township. It was variously called Muir's House (John Muir was the owner) by Turner (State Records Office of WA, 1885B, p.11), Batt's House (JD "Jack" Batt was Muir's foreman and stonemason) by Compton (State Records Office of WA, 1885A p.1) then, later on, in September 1885 they both refer to the house as "Moopina" (ibid).

I became curious as to where this homestead had been built and whether any relics remained. A copy of a photo of the homestead, taken about 1885, was in the Eucla Museum. It showed a wooden house with a brick chimney and, behind that, a stone storage shed. The caption below the photo read, "Moopina Homestead, below the escarpment, was built by John and Thomas Muir in the 1870s. The stone store was built by Jack Batt in the 1880s."

Moopina Station was probably the first lease taken up on the Western Australian part of the Nullarbor. It took in the area from what was then regarded as the SA-WA border (the eastern boundary fence, remnants of which still exist, lies about 3½ km west of the true border), and extended about 20 km to the west.



Moopina Homestead about 1885
Photo: State Library WA

Asking the staff at Eucla Motor Inn about the exact location of the homestead site drew a blank. A phone call to long-time Eucla resident, Harvey Gurney, also drew a blank. Later enquiries at the South Australian and Western Australian State Libraries produced two photographs. One of these was taken by an unknown photographer in about 1885. It was the same as the one in the Eucla Museum and was a close-up, giving no hint as to the location of the homestead.

The other was a scenic shot taken by a Eucla telegraph operator, WR Evans, in 1902. It was taken from the top of the cliff looking south towards the original Eucla township and telegraph station. Moopina Homestead was in the distant middle ground and so we had some idea of its position. (Evans, 1902).

That afternoon, grasping copies of both these photos, we drove the short distance down the old Eucla Pass on to the Roe Plain to search for any remnants of Moopina Homestead. After rummaging around for a couple of hours and thinking along the lines of "where would I build a house if I wanted one in this area", we located at first a few old fence posts and then some old rubbish, before finally zeroing in on the brick outline of a fireplace and the footings for a four-roomed house.



*Gate post found at the site of Moopina Homestead ruins.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 5 Apr 2010*



*Fireplace footings — Moopina Homestead ruins.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 Apr 2010*

Nearby, we also found the limestone footings of the stone storage shed. The location of the homestead is at AGD 66 coordinates 52J: 488,252; 6494,517, while those of the shed are 52J: 488,229; 6494,515. The ruins are about 500m south of the current Eyre Highway, on a small rise.

After staying the night at Eucla, we returned to Moopina ruins the next day to get more photos, coming across a rather fine looking 1.2m carpet python on the way.



*Carpet Python (Morelia spilota imbricata), about 1.2m long, spotted on the way to Moopina Homestead ruins.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 Apr 2010*



*Close-up of Carpet Python (Morelia spilota imbricata).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 Apr 2010*

Maeraming Rockhole (N-4885)

After photographing the Moopina ruins, we drove west along the highway to Mundrabilla Station, having just one loose end to tidy up on the way. Of the Turner rockholes we had located in 2006, we were confident of them all except for one, Maeraming Rockhole. It was an early rockhole on our list, not being far from Eucla and, at that time, we had no real idea as to how precise Turner's survey was. We'd searched the indicated location, part way up the Roe Plain "escarpment" (actually a stranded sea-cliff line), finding a fair sized rockhole in a shallow gully amongst relatively dense mallee tree scrub.

We tagged the rockhole N-3928. It had an estimated volume of 100 litres so qualified as a significant rockhole that Turner would have regarded is worth recording. However, it was 300m out of position according to Turner's figures so I was uncertain whether it was the correct rockhole. We spent quite a long time checking among the mallee trees, failing to find another rockhole at that time. Accordingly, we reported N-3928 as Maeraming Rockhole, putting a question mark against it (Ackroyd, 2010A, page 11).

By the time we had finished locating the remainder of Turner's rockholes, in 2007, it had become clear that his data were accurate to 100m or better — usually within 20 to 30m (Ackroyd, 2010B).

So, I went back to Turner's date to recheck it for Maeraming Rockhole. Then, having found some of Turner's original 1885 survey cairns, I was able to recompute his figures to give a slightly more accurate fix for the location of Maeraming.

We stopped our vehicle near this point and tried to relocate an old boundary fence shown on Turner's survey. The fence was missing but we were successful in finding the northernmost strainer post precisely where Turner had said it should be. Greatly encouraged, we navigated our way up the rocky slopes to the coordinates I had computed for Maeraming Rockhole. We walked straight to it.

It was in relatively dense mallee scrub and could only be seen when looking at it from the southern side. Its estimated volume was 400L, four times the size of N-3928. We tagged it N-4885 and recorded it as Maeraming Rockhole.

In the early 1990s CEGSA member Max Meth had asked John Carlisle if he knew the meaning of some of the rockhole names. John had been a Nullarbor dog trapper for many years and knew some of the original Mirning people, the traditional owners of the Nullarbor. According to Max, John said that the name "Maeraming" meant a Mirning person had died there.

Having tied up that loose end, we continued westward to Mundrabilla Station, calling in to make arrangements to camp on the station land, before driving up the steep slope to the Nullarbor Plain proper.

The NX Series

Our goal now was to gradually make our way north, travelling to and checking all temporary NX numbered features south of Old Homestead Cave (N-83). Almost all of these features had been logged by GPS from an ultralight aircraft in 2000 and 2001, making both their position and description somewhat uncertain. In the past we have found these features to be within 100 metres of the given coordinates. Sometimes they turn out to be rabbit warrens or some other non-karst feature but they all have to be checked on the ground and, if found to be karst features, numbered, tagged, measured, described and photographed. These



*Ray Gibbons at
Maeraming Rockhole (N-4885).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 6 Apr 2010
(photo bombed by a fly)*

scattered NX features counted as loose ends because they had been “picked over” by other teams who had sought out the best features and had left these as being of less interest.

So, the remainder of that day (6 April) was spent heading to the various NX coordinates, then walking around in ever increasing circles till we either found the feature indicated or, as in several of the cases, found a rabbit warren (usually), or some other anomaly that from a height of 300m had been mistaken for karst.

We continued our checking till dark, then set up camp in a convenient flat spot and, after a refreshing beverage or two, consumed while watching satellites cross the darkening sky, commenced cooking a meal while being plagued by myriad moths that committed kamikaze on the flames of the shellite stove. No doubt some ended up in the food — it was too dark to see so we never knew.

The days quickly settled into a routine. The next morning (7 April), Ray changed all the road wheels and tyres for our “bush set” of wheels fitted with sacrificial tyres. During this I crunched the data collected from the previous day’s work.

We then set off looking for more NX features. Many were shallow rockholes, which, we noted, had been severely muddied by camels. Even though we were a fair way south of their usual range, the dry weather had obviously forced them to move down to the slightly better conditions on the southern edge of the Nullarbor. During the latter part of this day a tyre struck an old, burnt bluebush (*Maireana sedifolia*), which promptly staked it with a 25mm long gash.

A tyre change later and it was close to dark, so camp was made under a pitch black, threatening sky — no satellites to watch on this night. Later, the threat turned to fact and it rained heavily. The following day was spent in camp doing odd jobs between showers — there was no way anyone could drive anywhere in such conditions.



Panoramic shot of our campsite after heavy rain.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd

On 9 April the ground was still too wet to travel. So, between showers, the staked tyre was patched, using our biggest patch and plenty of glue.

Not far from this camp, near rockhole N-4891, I came across several small, rounded, black pebbles 10 – 20mm in diameter that appeared to be of metamorphic rock. Looking around I realised they were in a wide valley trending east-west, implying an old paleochannel. Looking around some more I found a piece of cave breccia consisting of more of the same rounded black pebbles cemented together by calcite. I surmised that the first pebbles I’d found had also once been part of some cave breccia and that it had been exposed by erosion, and then further eroded, liberating the pebbles from the calcite.

By the next day (10 April) the ground was firm again, so we continued our search for NX features, gradually trending northwards. Whilst searching, we also found features of our own, especially as Ray went on morning karst walks while I did the computer work on the previous day’s data. Very rarely did Ray come back with an empty GPS.

On 11 April we saw four Bustards fly off (*Adeotis australis*), not the most graceful of birds during lift off but once in the air, usually flying not more than 10m above the ground, these large birds, common

in the Nullarbor 100 years ago but now relatively rare, present a majestic sight. It would appear that the rain was already causing changes on the Plain.

Over the following days, this was confirmed, with sightings of about 12 Black-faced Wood Swallows (*Artamus cinereus*) giving a fine display of massed soaring on the strong breeze. These birds usually inhabit grasslands with rainfall twice that of the Nullarbor. So, somehow they knew within a few days of it happening, that rain had fallen here.

By 14 April the flies had hatched out after the rain and proceeded to make our lives a little harder with their incessant stabbing at the corners of our eyes, presumably to increase fluid flow for their own selfish purposes.

Ray continued to find new features during his morning karst walks and we continued to tag them, along with the NX features. Typically an NX feature took about an hour to find, tag, record and photograph before we could move to the next; and so we progressed.

Most of the features we had been finding were blowholes or rockholes, although one of Ray's own finds turned out to be a 20m long cave with some clean washed passage (N-4925). Another feature, a blowhole (N-4952), had a nice exposure of what appeared to be river cobbles at its entrance, suggesting we were in another paleochannel.



*Entrance of blowhole N-4952. Note river sediments.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd*

We did more tagging of NX features until late on 17 April, by which time we were getting close to Old Homestead Cave (N-83). We drove the 3 or 4 km to the north to reach the hut a little after sunset. The following two days were spent on data crunching and maintenance tasks around the hut and the toilet building. We also erected a line of boulders across a new vehicle track people had made between the hut and the toilet. Apparently tourists cannot possibly walk 100 metres to the loo. Finally, we washed ourselves and refilled our water containers to be used for the remainder of the trip.

On 20 April, we drove south from Old Homestead Cave hut to carry out more tagging of NX features, this time mainly covering the eastern side of the Forrest-Mundrabilla Road. As usual, we also found a few new features of our own, not to mention a new puncture or two.

The next day we were further south in an area looked at by Flinders University Speleo Society (FUSSI). Several features had been explored, named and recorded by them on 22 and 23 September 2004. We tagged these features as we came across them in our systematic search. The names given by FUSSI have been retained, (see Smith, 2005): Sharons Cave (N-4986), Two Gecko

The following day started well but by mid-afternoon we could see an approaching storm front. We had the compensation of being able to observe about 30 Fork-tailed Swifts (*Apus pacificas*). They were flying very fast and acrobatically, flashing back and forth feeding on insects in front of the approaching storm front. We were able to tag a couple more features between showers before the rain really set in and we made camp for the night.



*Ray Gibbons and approaching storm.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd*

Blowhole (N-4977), Minute Grunt (N-4974), Dead Cat Cave (N-4980), After Beer Cave (N-4975) and Suckhole (N-4993).

Early on 23 April we had yet more rain, which slowed our start by half a day. Once the ground had dried out we got going again, tagging and recording until dark. We could see that the Plain was starting to green up after the rains. We saw a few more Bustards, mainly solitary birds, one of which flew so close to us we could see its colouration clearly, a burnished golden-brown.

Near one blowhole, N-5008, we found a standing stone — a tall, lichen-covered rock that appeared to have been deliberately placed on its end with a supplementary rock behind it to support it. Over the years we've occasionally come across similar standing stones and theorised as to their purpose — possibly a signpost system.

On 26 April there were more thunderstorms dumping more rain and making driving impossible for us. However, we still had plenty of features within a few kilometres of our camp. We were able to walk to these and progressively record and tag them. The rain meant we would not be able to complete all the NX features in this area on this trip — so much for our careful plans.

The next day was to be our final day on the plain, so we steadily worked our way through as many NX features as we could, noting that the plant life was noticeably greener than when we had started our trip.



*The greening of the Nullarbor,
photographed from top of vehicle at N-5021.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 27 Apr 2010*



*Standing stone, 0.5m high, near N-5008.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 25 Apr 2010*

On 28 April, we made our way south, tagging a few more features on the way and, later, having a chat with the station owner at Uanna Dam, where he was carrying out some welding work, before driving down to Mundrabilla Station to settle up our camping fees. We then made our way to Eucla for the night. Two days later, we were back in Adelaide.

Appendix 1: Listing of features examined and karst numbers allocated

New 'N' numbers allocated, tagged and documented:
N-4885 — 5024.
(Total = 140)

Existing 'N' numbers visited, data collected and feature tagged (when no tag found):
N-688, 1351, 1779 (Rip 'n Tear Cave), 1890.
(Total = 4)

Temporary 'NX' numbers visited and 'N' numbers allocated (where applicable):
NX-257 (Maeraming Rockhole);

NXK-7, 8, 87, 90 (rabbit warren), 91 (rabbit warren), 92, 95, 96, 101, 102, (nil – loose rocks only), 103, 109, 110, 111, 374, 375, 376, 378, 389, 390, 393, 394, 422, 423, 428, 441, 765, 773, 776, 777, 780 (rabbit warren), 785, 790 (rabbit warren), 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798 (rabbit warren), 801, 802, 835, 837, 838, 839 (rabbit warren), 840, 841, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849 (rabbit warren), 851 (rabbit warren), 852, 853, 854, 855, 861, 862 (rabbit warren), 863, 864, 867, 893, 894 (rabbit warren), 895, 898, 903, 907, 911 (nil found), 915 (rabbit warren), 941, 1154.
(Total = 75)

All our cave information was entered into the Australian karst database 'OzKarst' in July 2010 so as to be accessible to all cavers.

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Ackroyd, Peter, (2010A), The Turner Rockholes, Nullarbor Plain, Part 2: April/May 2006. *CEGSA News* **217 (Vol 55 No 1)**: p. 11.

Ackroyd, Peter, (2010B), The Turner Rockholes, Nullarbor Plain, Part 3: April 2007. *CEGSA News* **218 (Vol 55 No 2)**: p. 41.

Evans, W R (1902), Photographic Collection – Views of Eucla (Eucla from the Cliffs & Moopina), State Library of South Australia, Call No. B 54057/5.

Smith, Guy, (2005), Economics 10001A – Deflation, *FUSSI Newsletter* **Vol 17, No 1**: pp 8 – 15.

State Records Office of Western Australia (1885A), Record Series 32, consignment 3401, item TURG/08: Turner field book No 8, (written by E A F Compton, 1885).

State Records Office of Western Australia (1885B), Record Series 32, consignment 3401, item TURG/09: Turner field book No 9, (written by G R Turner, 1885).

Peter Ackroyd, 30 Jul 2014

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YARRANGOBILLY TRIP REPORT (part 2)

January 31st to February 9th 2014.

All photos copyright: N.R.Skinner 2014.

(continued from Vol 59 No2 p41)

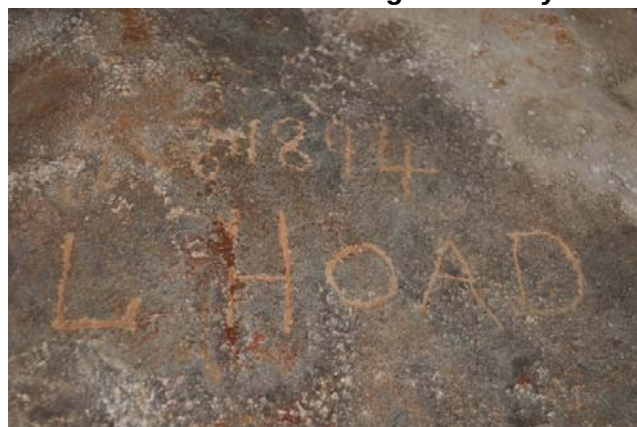
Wednesday 5th Feb

Mark started the day by finding he had a flat front tyre caused by the side wall being penetrated by a finger-sized splinter from the previous day. After replacing the tyre with the spare, it was decided it would be best if Mark went into Tumut with Thomas, about an hours drive away, to get the tyre replaced.

While they were in Tumut, Heiko, Jean & myself headed off with Clare in Mark's vehicle to go back into **Y12 Coppermine Cave**, to show Jean a very pretty cave (as opposed to another rockpile). While Clare showed Jean through the cave, Heiko and I investigated the upper section looking for the gated tunnel. Unfortunately Clare & Jean returned just as we were closing in on the area where Clare had suggested the gate was likely to be, so we ended up leaving without having sighted it. At that stage we really didn't have the time to look as we were concerned that Mark & Thomas would already be waiting for us.

In fact when we got back to camp they were, and after some quick discussion we agreed to return to the Caves office to re-arrange the weeks caving, as we still did not know where Mutmut was and we were keen to show more caves to Jean.

After having some lunch, Thomas & Heiko announced they would go and look for Mutmut cave, while Clare, Mark, Jean & myself would go and check out the **Y4 entrance to the Eagles Nest system**.



Climbing down into the Y4 doline

The 1894 graffiti put there by young resident L. Hoad

After locating the Y4 cave entrance, we entered at around 5pm. In an afternoon that was very reminiscent of the previous day, we worked our way down through the rockpiles not finding anything particularly interesting until we discovered a rock with the name of "L. Hoad" scratched on it, and the date "8.1894".

I was intrigued by this and it puzzled me since I recalled seeing the surname Hoad in one of the historical books in the Yarrangobilly Caves Visitor Centre, which I had perused on one of my visits to the visitor centre.

Since returning from the trip I did some research on "L. Hoad", and found that Leo Hoad had been a well-known cave guide in this area. The 720m section of road, Leo Hoad Drive, that runs past the Yarrangobilly caves tourist office was named after him, and a stone entrance gateway built in his memory in 1957.

I also discovered Leo Hoad was 13 years old when he put his name on this rock, having been born Leo James Alexander Hoad in 1881. Leo's father Walter married Olive Brownlie in Tumut in 1880 and came to live at Yarrangobilly (village) in 1891, after he bought his retiring father's sheep farm.

In "1890 he built a two-roomed hut for his family near the Yarrangobilly River. This hut was replaced in 1898 by Cotterill's Cottage, built by Walter, Harry (?) and son Leo Hoad. The Hoad's new home had nine rooms, internal fireplaces, large windows and verandas..."

Courtesy: <http://www.brownlee.com.au/Pages/Charts/Chart%2010142.html>

In 1894, at the time Leo scratched his name in the rock, he had 6 sisters - Olive, Muriel, Gertrude, Eva, Ruth & Sylvia. No wonder he took up caving.

Courtesy: <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=monaropioneers&id=I118237>

On the website <http://www.blowering.com/yarrangobillyps.html> I found the following:

"Entering Yarrangobilly Caves the visitor passes through stone gates which commemorate the

contribution made to Caves history by **Mr Leo Hoad**. The gates were opened in 1957 some years after Hoad had retired as guide. He was caretaker of the Yarrangobilly Caves from 1919 to 1946 but remained at the caves (his sons became guides after him) until the mid-1950s when he retired to Tumut.

He discovered many caves in the area including the famous (some rate it as the best cave in the complex) Jillabenan Cave in 1910.

Leo Hoad was a remarkable man. One of those true Australian pioneers who was always ready with a humorous story or an informative and entertaining anecdote. He spent his winter months around the kitchen stove drinking endless cups of tea and remained remarkably strong and fit even when he was in his eighties.

He was at the end of a tradition of Caves management which dated back to the nineteenth century. The caves were first discovered by the stockman **Mr John Bowman** who, so the story goes, found some cattle sheltering in the Glory Arch. The year was 1834 and he explored the cave with bark torches.

The Jersey Cave was discovered by graziers in 1861 and by the 1890s the caves, although difficult to reach, were becoming a tourist attraction. **In 1891 Mr Charles Kerry** discovered a cave which he named after the Governor of New South Wales, Lord Jersey. The following year the Governor opened his namesake for inspection and four years later the **Thermal Pool** was built out of wood - it was enlarged and cemented in 1906. In 1901 the Caves House was completed.

The caves were closed from 1966-1968 while prisoners from Cooma Gaol modernised the facilities. The caves were rewired, the Glory Hole was made a self-guiding cave, new steps were built, and the old shed at the Thermal Pool was upgraded and improved. The area was reopened in 1968 by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife with the house where Leo Hoad had lived converted into an Information Centre and the Guest House converted into accommodation for Park Rangers. It may have been an improvement but a lot of charm had disappeared from the area."

Leo Hoad had devoted 50 years of his life to work associated with Yarrangobilly Caves, and I can't help but wonder why this historical piece of graffiti has not been cordoned off to prevent damage from unsuspecting people walking past this otherwise unremarkable rock.

We continued our journey in Y4 and soon came to a visitors log station. This was a short section of 8" PVC tube sealed on the bottom with a lid on the top, and with visitors book inside to enable people to sign and comment. This seemed odd to exist in the middle of the cave, so I checked out an adjacent tunnel and reported back that I could see daylight. I then climbed up and exited the cave to check the ID disc and found it to be the **Y5 entrance**. In the absence of other information, one might conclude that Y5 was discovered by Leo Hoad in Aug 1894.

Finding we had traversed from one cave to another without seeing anything but rockpiles (except for L.Hoads name on a rock) was a blow to our morale, so we decided to head out via the Y5 entrance at around 6:30pm, to avoid going back through more rockpile! The look on Mark's face as we left said all that had to be said.



The look on Mark's face said all that had to be said

After the 1 km walk back to the car through thick scrub, followed by the slow drive back along the track, we (Clare, Mark, Jean & myself) arrived back at camp at 9:40pm, exhausted.

By then Heiko & Thomas had also returned from their adventure, and Heiko reported he and Thomas had successfully located Mut Mut cave - "armed with metre-accurate GPS co-ordinates and a good description of the approaches to the cave, we chose a modified route via the Natural Bridge, rather than the Blue Creek fire trail or wading up-river to try to locate Y222 Mut Mut cave. As we had the key to the gate and instructions to clear the track, we drove as far as practicable (about 900m) along this trail (that also leads to Y1/2). The trail was tight in parts and somewhat under-used.

Parking the car, we then checked our options, deciding to head for the river about 400m south of the Natural Bridge, as this seemed the least scrubby and most direct route to Mut Mut, but it was steep for about 150 vertical metres (and less steep for another 100). But progress was good and we avoided most of the Blackberries, Briar Rose, native Raspberries, Prickly Acacia, etc, etc, and made the river quite easily. We crossed it carefully, as algae made the bottom slippery in parts and made us grateful not to have attempted to gain access by following it. We found a relatively clear, but equally steep, slope to access the area we thought that Mut Mut was in. Alas, a lot of pointless bush-bashing followed until we eventually were forced to the conclusion that the GPS location was wrong and we were needlessly collecting thorns and wasting our time. (Note: Gaiters AND tough gloves are recommended.)

We were about to give up when Thomas had a brilliant idea: Check the map datum!

We had no idea. If it wasn't WSG84, what could it reasonably be?

Try AGD66. The new location was about 200m northeast of our current location so we walked along the contour to our new co-ordinates and, sure enough, there it was! In a clear but steep patch by a sharp, narrow, high, rocky ridge protruding perpendicularly from the river valley hillside, about 100m up from it. We had seen it and the small patches (there are three entrances) of pink-hued rock on our approach from the east side of the river valley, but dismissed it as being in the wrong area.

We had a quick look in the cave, as far as the first pitch, got an accurate GPS fix and then more-or-less retraced our steps to return to the car by 9 and home by 9:30. From the cave, the Natural Bridge is just visible to the left, but the way over to it seemed quite steep. Until the route via Natural Bridge is tried, the scramble slightly north of due west seems the preferable route in. Though not trivial: allow 90 mins or so, 2 hours if the track gate is locked. Hard yakka in the heat, particularly if carrying the full SRT kit and ropes required to explore Mut Mut."

Clare had just turned the gas on to start cooking spaghetti at 10pm, when suddenly at 10.05pm a loud bang that lasted for a couple of seconds was heard near the bridge. This happened just after a car had gone past the cottage where we were cooking dinner. Without discussion, the gas was turned off, Mark ran to get the First Aid Kit, and everyone else ran for the bridge. This was one of those days...

We were expecting the worst, so were surprised to find a vehicle, appearing relatively okay on all sides, parked in the centre of the bridge. There was significant damage to the LH guard rail leading to the bridge, with the first 10-12m bent at 90 degrees and facing down the slope away from the road. There was also parts of the underside of the vehicle strewn across the road.

As we got closer I could see the driver had just gotten out of the vehicle and was walking to the back of his Mitsubishi Triton, where he complained of a sore knee. Apart from that he looked okay, stating that he had swerved to miss a Brumby, which seemed a little odd as this in was the middle of a camping ground. At the same time other campers from the adjacent section of the camping ground below the bridge were arriving on the scene.

Clare took control of the First Aid side of things and insisted he move away from the middle of the bridge to the side, where she could check his leg, but even then it required the intervention and support of the other campers to convince him to do so. He was insisting the leg was not bad enough to warrant inspection, and all he wanted was help to carry his camping gear to the camping ground below and set his tent up so that he could spend the rest of the night there and call for a tow truck in the morning.

After the driver finally agreed to Clare checking his leg and finding nothing obviously wrong, Clare applied a compression bandage to his right knee and suggested he go to hospital for a more detailed examination.

While this was happening, I activated the vehicle hazard lights and cleared the road of debris, while two other people set off to locate themselves 200 to 300m either side of the bridge to warn oncoming traffic of the bridge closure ahead. We were acutely aware this was an extremely dangerous situation because the bridge sat in a steep valley, in a 110kmph zone between two corners used by large transport that went at high speed through all hours of the night. And the damaged vehicle was right in the middle of the bridge with one flat front tyre and one rear shattered alloy rim, surrounded by 9 or 10 people who had nowhere to run should a loaded semi-trailer suddenly appear around either one of the corners.

Mark went to his vehicle and brought back an 8-10 tonne rated snatch-strap, while one of the other campers fetched his Landcruiser. This allowed the vehicle to be dragged backwards to an area clear of the bridge and off the road. After that, everyone retired to their beds for the night.

That is, except for Thomas and Clare, who had taken the driver off in Thomas's vehicle to Tumut to receive medical treatment. It was not until they reached Talbingo that they had mobile phone reception (SOS only) and it was then that the Police and Ambulance were contacted to report the

accident and request medical assistance. By this time the driver involved in the accident was lapsing in and out of consciousness on the back seat, causing Clare & Thomas some grave concern (pun intended). Approximately 10kms out of Tumut, they were met by the Ambulance from Tumut, and then some two minutes later by the Police, who had come from the Talbingo direction.

The injured person was then asked to climb onto a stretcher, which was subsequently found to be too high for him to climb onto. Despite this, and to Clare's disgust after she had requested it be lowered, they would not do so and no assistance was offered to the patient by the Ambulance drivers. After some considerable struggle he finally got onto it.

After the police had heard the account of the accident by both Clare and Thomas, they both returned to camp, arriving back at around midnight. This was barely 10-15 minutes after we had gone to bed, as we had not been able to start cooking dinner until 11pm.

By the time Clare and Thomas had eaten, cleaned their dishes and finished discussing the night's events between themselves, it was 1- 1.30am before they got to bed. It had been a long day for everyone.

Thursday 6th Feb

In the morning we got off to a slow start, and learnt from the other campers that the Police had arrived at 3am, along with a tow truck. They checked the scene, spoke to the other campers about what they knew and retrieved the damaged vehicle. They also told the others that alcohol was involved. A check of the area the next day revealed that all 6 of the impact absorbing plastic posts that held the first six rail posts in place had been sheered off, allowing the railing to slide down the embankment. It was at the start of the section where the steel posts were concreted into the ground that the railing was bent at 90deg. The vehicle then continued, evidently with its left-hand side floor panels on top of the railing, to damage the next seven steel posts, before jumping back onto the road where it continued for another 47 metres before stopping in the middle of the bridge.



Our outdoors kitchen (mess) area



L to R: Mark, Clare, Thomas, Heiko, Jean, Neville

As this was Mark and Heiko's last day with us, and Mark needed to be back in Adelaide on the Saturday for the CEGSA AGM, we started the day with a group photo, before heading off for a drive down the **Long Plain Road to Coolaman Plains**, where we started with an exploration of the old **Coolaman Homestead** and out-buildings, arriving there about 2:30pm.



The Southwell House (built c1882)



Newspapers used to stop draughts date back to 1883



Some interesting war-era headlines



Campbell House (built c1892)



The Cheese Hut (built 1889)

Thomas mentioned to me that there was supposed to be a sinkhole somewhere just north of the house, so I set off and located the runaway hole about 150m north of the cottage. It was full of old kerosene and other fuel drums. We left the old Coolaman Homestead around 3:25pm, and arrived at the **"Blue Waterholes"** some 10 minutes later. The "Blue Waterholes" were just deeper sections in the mountain stream, which had a blue-green colour due to the high mineral content of calcium carbonates dissolved in the water from the surrounding limestone.



The old Coolaman sinkhole (or 'runaway hole')



A "blue waterhole" with cave 2CP-90 shown.



Inside view of 2CP-90 cave, with exit far end.





Looking back down the Gorge, I could see Mark standing on the top looking back (see zoom photo above)

Clare, Heiko, Thomas and myself walked down through the Gorge, while Mark walked to the top of the gorge to check out the view from up top and to check out the Karst. On the way back from the Gorge walk, I checked and photographed cave number **2CP-90** (as I recall), adjacent to one of the blue waterholes. It was a simple straight tunnel about 20m long, with entrances at both ends, but I thought it was photogenic. I did not bother to see if it had a second cave number for the second entrance.

We arrived back at camp at around 6:40pm, and after having a quick bite to eat we headed off to the main Parks area where we went for a 1.6km walk down the **“Castle Walk” track to Castle Cave.**



The start of “Castle Walk”

Small snake sunbaking on edge of path to Castle Cave

This was once a show cave and still contained the remains of the original balustrade designed to keep tourists on the designated pathway. This cave contained some beautiful formations with a lovely little rim pool surrounded by stalactites and an beautiful little crystal ball hanging on the end of a lone stalactite right above the centre of the pool.





Rim-pool with crystal ball on end of stalactite



Close up of the crystal ball



Stalactites with crystals growing off their sides



Clare departing the cave

On the way back from the cave, as we walked down "Castle Walk" at 8:30pm in the dark, we turned a corner and encountered a wombat right in front of us scratching himself! I quickly stepped back a couple of paces and alerted the others in the group, before we crept up to the corner to spy on the wombat. It was not at all fazed, and put on a 5-minute show for us while scratching himself all over. Despite having difficulty focusing the camera in the dark, I managed to grab a few good shots. We told the Park Rangers the next day and they said that wombat was probably one of two in the park that had been hand-reared.



We arrived back at camp around 9.30pm, exhausted as usual, but at least we had already eaten.

Friday 7th Feb

We spent the morning sorting gear so that all excess gear could be loaded into Mark's vehicle, as we otherwise believed we would not get it all in Thomas's vehicle. Mark and Heiko departed for Adelaide at around 12noon and arrived back in Adelaide at about 12:30am, where Mark then had to unload all the excess gear off at Heiko's, so that Thomas & myself could pick it up on the way through the next day.

Mark & Heiko broke camp at around midday, leaving Clare, Thomas and myself to stay on for another two days of caving.

In the afternoon we went to the **Y2 entrance of the Eagles Nest system**. Initially, in error we went to the Y1 entrance, but upon realising our mistake we beat our way 100m north to the Y2 entrance,

through the Blackberry bushes and wild roses, arriving there around 2 - 2:30pm. This was a small triangular shaped entrance with some cork screwing through the start of the rock pile before we hit the LH wall of the cave, which we then followed down until we hit some red guideline. This had been installed to assist people through the cave and came with a warning to keep to the marked track. It became evident very quickly why this was so important as the site is in almost pristine condition with all trog marks confined to the specified tracks.



Calcified mud covering rocks in Eagles Nest (Y2)



Clare examines the roof pendants

After we came down through the "Railway Tunnel", we entered a large cavern with literally dozens of gigantic limestone roof pendants hanging from the roof. These were some meters high and had been sculptured in-situ by the effects of water erosion over thousands of years. They were very impressive. Just after the "Roof Pendants" the ceiling rose up to majestic heights; possibly 25-30m above the rock pile we were traversing.



The start of the rim-pools



Thomas checks out the long string of small rim-pools

After that we entered a smaller more narrow section, where we discovered a series of rim pools and crystalline features that ran either side of the track for about 20-25m. At that point we stopped to recalibrate our visual sensors, as the bar had been suddenly raised substantially. This part of the cave is some of the prettiest I have seen, well, except for a distinct boot print in one of the pools that was virtually on the track, and just after a short section where we walked through the middle of a dried up rim pool that had a small natural bridge to allow people to cross. In retrospect, one wonders if it might not have been better to place a plank across this rimpool for people to walk across.



Thomas ponders the Crystal Chamber



We then continued onto the Crystal Chamber, which is also beautiful, before turning back. We exited the cave around 7:30pm, changed back into more comfortable walking clothes and then started the long walk back to the vehicle. It was dark before we got there, but at least it was cooler.

Saturday 8th Feb

We started the day by returning the keys to National Parks, and booked ourselves into a tour of Jillabenan Cave at 1:30pm, followed by a self-guided tour of the Glory Hole Cave afterwards, which turned out to be at 2:40pm.

It was short drive up the hill to **Jillabenan Cave**, which is a stunning little cave, probably about half the size of Tantanoola Cave; only 73 metres long and containing 20 steps. Leo Hoad had discovered the Jillabenan Cave in 1910 whilst on one of his Sunday walks. It took Leo eight weeks of chipping the rock away to make the entrance so the public could access it. With an estimated age of 2 million years and a richness of formations it is regarded as one of the most beautiful caves in Australia, and contains an outstanding reflection pool, nested amongst the stalactites and flowstone. I have never seen a cave where the roof is so tightly packed with stalactites that are literally growing one on top of the other, and it is like that from one end to the other. The guide allowed us to wander through of our own accord, but with a time limit of one hour as the next tour would start then.



Stunning Jillabenan rim-pool



The ceilings were totally packed with stalactites

The walk to the **Glory Hole cave** is about 500m from memory, and the cave is located on the side of a steep hill facing the Yarrangobilly River. Apparently, the walk was built by one man, Anthony Bradley, in 1907.

The Tumut Historical Society records that *"Mr. John Bowman, of Curringo, and later of Talbingo, discovered the Glory Cave in 1834. Whilst searching for lost cattle a thunderstorm forced him to take shelter and this resulted in his discovering the huge Glory Cave arch. He found some of his cattle, too, sheltering inside."* Bowman explored the cave with bark torches.



Castle Walk to The Glory Hole cave



Majestic entrance dome to the The Glory Hole cave

The tour of the cave is self-guided, allowing people to wander through the caverns reading the plaques and inspecting the formations. The distance through the cave is about 470 metres, with 206 steps rising about 45 metres.

Once inside you are climbing steps most of the way, or at least that is how it felt. This cave is very large and majestic, and has one small section of roof that has the shape of a gabled roof, because the roof has reached the final stage of it's progression where it is now inherently most stable and therefore least likely to further collapse.



Under the grand entrance dome of the The Glory Hole



First section of the Glory Hole Cave



The most stable roof shape



The orange spot top-centre of the pic is a small section of lit path; can you see the person in the enlarged pic?



At various points throughout the cave there are little signs that explain how each formation was formed, and other signs that tell the history of the cave. It was a very pleasant tour and worth doing. Near the exit (at the far corner of the car park) is a sink hole where Rules Creek, which runs through the picnic area, disappears into an underground stream which resurfaces at the Yarrangobilly River upstream from the Glory Hole.

After that we packed all our caving gear away, grabbed our toiletries bags and headed off to the Talbingo Caravan Park, where for \$5 they are happy for people to use their showers. Since we had not had washed with soap for a week, and this scruff really needed a shave, this was heaven.

After taking our showers we lingered on the lawns outside, in the shade of the trees, and watched the kangaroos as they mowed the lawns around us. Very pleasant. Of course it was still around 38 degrees outside and we really needed to get to the Talbingo Country Club where we planned to have dinner, so we left for the club.

Walking into the air-conditioned Country Club felt great; we chose our table, checked out the salad bar and then ordered our meals. On the menu that night was Rump Steak, Fillet Steak and Smoked Trout, along with several other selections that looked just as good. The food service was excellent. Clare ordered salad only and Thomas & I chose the locally produced "Snowy Mountains" premium wood smoked Trout. We had barely paid for our meals when the barmaid announced she was going out the back to get our meals. Wow, that was quick I thought, we should come here more often...

Imagine my surprise when she reappeared barely 35 seconds later with two plates, and on each of those two plates a vacuum packed plastic bag containing one "Hot Smoked + Ready to Serve" trout!.. "Yer can heat 'em outside on the barbeque... you'll find they're already turned on and hot", she exclaimed. "An' help yerselves to the salads!". At that point I was thankful that I did not order the Rump Steak. So, with little choice and no-one to complain to, we did as we were told and went back outside in the 38 degree heat to cook our own dinners. I wished I had gone for the vegetarian dish... Once back at camp we took our baths in the creek (but not at the same time) and then completed packing as much stuff as possible into the vehicle, leaving out only the bare essentials such as breakfast. We even relocated our tents up onto the cottage veranda, to avoid any chance of being confronted with heavy dew overnight, and because this allowed us to pack the tent flies beforehand. I must say this not only worked, but had me thinking this was what we should have done from day one – I could have avoided returning to camp to find it was 60 degrees inside the tent.

Sunday 9th Feb

As agreed the night before, we were up at the crack of dawn and had completed our breakfast and were finalising the loading of the car by 7am. This gave us a good early start, and in my mind justified the pending roadside coffee stop that was inevitable, in accordance with standard FUSSI Rules and Procedures, number 1.

When we reached Wagga Wagga we sought out a suitable coffee shop, ever mindful of the fact this was Sunday morning, but to our surprise we discovered one of the nicest Hot Chocolate shop I have ever been to (and which also served good coffee). They explained their chocolate was made on the premises, and it was clear this was indeed a very swish choc shop, with an array of takeaway chocolate sweets, lounges for patrons, oil paintings covering the walls, and even a children's creche/nursery for the Mums. I imagined this would be the meeting place for most of the local Mums in the area, and was surprised that Clare was not aware of this place before. Perhaps she was, but wanted it to be a surprise. This shop is owned by one very smart entrepreneur, I thought... it even had a dimly lit corner for cavers.

With that drug habit temporarily satisfied and with the FUSSI cavers coffee-cup fingers no longer quivering, we headed for Deniliquin for lunch. It was about 42 degrees in Deniliquin when we arrived, but we were pleased when we discovered a takeaway shop called the "Laughing Chicken", which had an amazing selection of fresh salads on offer. I would happily go back there again, and recommend it to everyone, should you be in the area.

Then on to Adelaide, where we arrived at Clare & Heiko's at about 8:30pm. It took us about 30 mins to unload, identify all our gear, repack my vehicle and Thomas's, before we were heading home.

Many thanks to Clare & Heiko and everyone involved for organising another very memorable FUSSI trip, thanks to the National Parks for their assistance, and thanks to Thomas for taking me in his vehicle.

Neville Skinner.

%%%%%%%%%

MEANDERING AROUND THE NULLARBOR

(Reprinted with permission from FUSSI NEWSLETTER Vol26 No2 2014)

In order to, perhaps, escape the Easter peak hour exit from Adelaide, the group of us organised 300 litres of rainwater, food for 10 days, caving gear and the 8 of us into 3 vehicles and ran away from Adelaide by 5pm on Easter Thursday. We then drove till the horses stopped at Wudinna and fell into bed by 1am. Good Friday saw us end the day at Mundrabilla Road House and Easter Saturday we pulled into Old Homestead Hut and set up camp.

Those on the Trip:

Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Thomas Varga, Mark Sefton, Jan Schmorte, Sarah Phillips, Bronya Alexander and Aimee Leong

Day 1: Easter Sunday 2014.

Old Homestead Cave was only about a 400 metre walk from our campsite and Day 1 brought all of us down to Old Homestead Cave. Jan was unfortunately unable to come as his back was sore; so the rest of us trooped to Old Homestead Cave, with Thomas and Clare leaving about ½ an hour earlier than the rest of us to set up the rigging in the well. We started the day with breakfast - breakfast #1 was coffee and cereal; and breakfast #2 was bacon and eggs, with Jan doing his own breakfast cooking show outside of Old Homestead hut.

After our two breakfasts, we decided to head onto Old Homestead Cave about 11.30am, carrying a tub of fresh veggies and fruit which we wanted to keep cool and out of the sun. It was an impressive entrance: grand and wide, and many photos were taken to show the scale of the entrance in relations to people. After the initial drop in into the cave via an old wooden ladder, we met Clare and Thomas at the top of the well with everything rigged up. We all then proceeded to SRT or climb the ladder down into the well. Whilst most of the group had made their way in, Thomas and Clare were the last two to come in, and they had 7 4WDs in convoy with a few random people interested and peering into the cave, where Thomas kindly told them they were able to come to the top of the well and have a look.



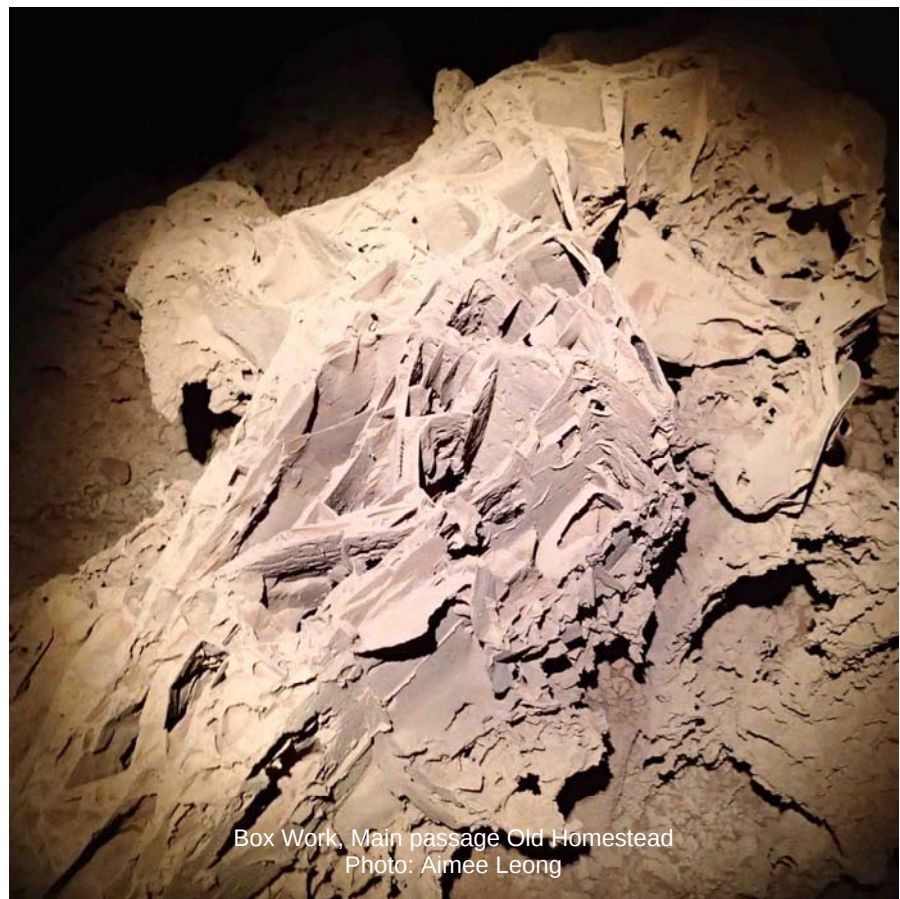
Ok, On Which of These 5 Pages Are We?

As we all made our way down into the well (about a 7 metre drop) it was onwards into Fridgidaire (named appropriately as there was an icy blast of cold air as you crawled through it), and where we arrived at 'the beach', just in time for lunch. It was then the Easter Bunny came, and dropped off a couple of Easter eggs for us in the cave! The mission was to look for the Officer's Mess, which no one had been to before; and it had been a year since Clare, Thomas and Heiko had been in Old

homestead, with Mark's last trip being about 16 years ago. Most of the day was spent around the main passages, as we tried to figure out whereabouts we were on the only map we had that dated back to 1996. After a day of caving, we figured out that we had been as far as RFD"NC" and down towards Gypsum Rain tunnel, which was through the Milky Way, and through the Oesophagus Tunnel.

What was amazing to me was the incredible cracked mud work which resembled hot cross buns and chocolate, which would have dated back to years and years ago. There was also interesting features such as 'box works' which were also incredible, and were dotted throughout the Milky Way. The Milky Way was named after it was marked out with reflector lights, and when you shone a light on it, the reflector lights resembled the Milky Way.

On the way back, we went up and through Yikes and Away, as well as the White Room and having a quick look for the Officer's Mess before leaving the cave for the day. Mark left all his survey gear in the White Room for the next day, and



Box Work, Main passage Old Homestead
Photo: Aimee Leong

with us not having any luck with finding the Officer's Mess. We passed the cracked pottery formations on the way out, which were spectacular to see. Frigidaire, oddly enough, was not blowing on the way out, and we were relatively warm as we crawled out. Sarah, Bronya and myself then proceeded to exit the cave - astonished to find that it was quite dark, and were able to find Old Homestead by the cosy light of a fire in the distance. Back to camp it was, with Sarah's homemade stew, supplied with rice and Naan bread, and then it was time for bed to catch some sleep for the next day of caving.

Day 2: Easter Monday

We all awoke, had our 1st and 2nd breakfasts and then all trooped back to the cave. Clare decided that she was not going to come caving as she had things to work on, and that Old Homestead was the best campsite to get things done. So back into Old Homestead we trooped about 12.30pm, and into the White Room and further in, hoping to find the Officer's Mess. Thomas led the way further in, into a chamber that he remembered from last visit and that he remembered that they had looked around and could not see any way on. Mark remembered that there was a left hand side passage, and a 'slot', but was not able to remember whereabouts exactly it was.

There was a side passage that I had crawled through; and noted that it kept going; and it was quite a horrible rocky crawl and after a while (with Jan, Sarah, Bronya and Thomas following), we decided to come back out into the chamber we knew and debated where to look next. After much crawling and ferretting around with lunch, and sitting around trying to decide where to look next, it was pretty late when we decided to explore the same passageway that I had initially looked down, with everyone following this time. It opened up into a bigger space, with the rock pile on the right hand side, and the cave wall on the left hand side. We again weren't really sure what to do next.



The Officer's Mess:
Photo: Aimee Leong

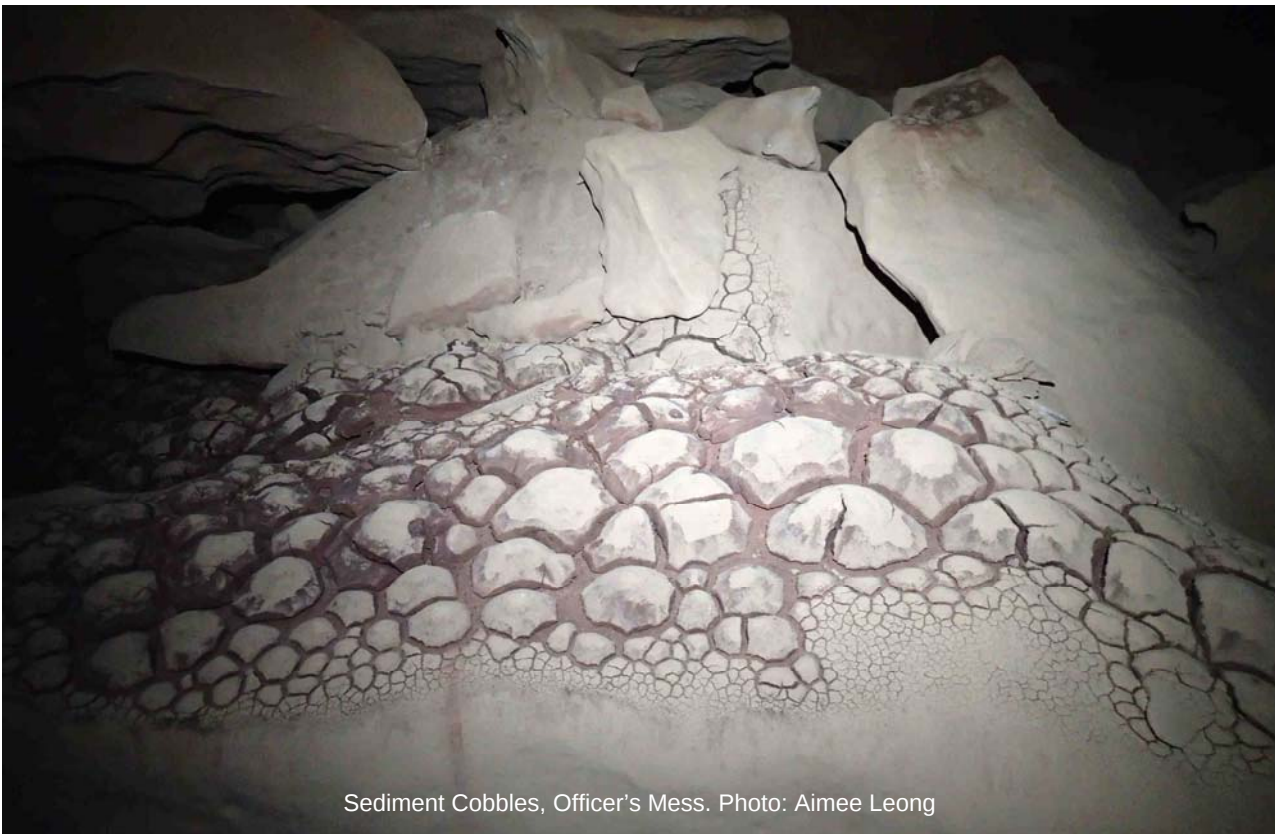
But Heiko came from behind and decided to climb up over some precarious dodgy looking rocks and go for a ferret. He then discovered a bigger chamber, whereby Jan decided to follow him up and have a look. Thomas came around, and there was a small hole that kept going and he went for a ferret and that didn't end up going anywhere - according to him it was 'tight and rocky and horrible'. There was then a shout from Heiko, saying that he thought he had found our way back to the main passage (the Milky Way), and that we should all come have a look. Mark was extremely wary about the two boulders which looked like they could dislodge any time soon, so as each of us cautiously made our way up and over the rock pile, the rest of us hid behind other rocks/boulders in the event one of us accidentally dislodged something.

After we all made our way into the big chamber, we then noticed a big cairn (about 2 foot tall) which was something Clare mentioned she had seen on a previous visit to Old homestead when shown the entrance of Officer's Mess. We all then cautiously made our way down where Heiko had seen marked reflector spots and quickly then realised that it was not the Milky Way (the main passage) but indeed the Officer's Mess.

The Officer's Mess is a fantastic area, covered in lots of caked chocolate-like hot cross bun formations. Most of the tracks were marked, however there were sections where we did have to step across on the formations and it was difficult to do so without wincing as they were quite pristine. There was also lots of box work formations; and dry, sandy banks. As it was so tucked away, a lot of it was beautifully pristine. We also found some larger gypsum needles, which had fallen down off the ceiling at some stage, and there was much large, deep cracked mud features. After about an hour of walking through the Mess (it was also quite warm and still, not much airflow), we headed back the way we came, exhilarated at our find for the last 2 days. We finally exited the cave at 6.50pm, after derigging everything, and headed back to camp where Clare had started a cosy fire and we enjoyed Jan's homemade curry.

The next morning, we had decided that Thomas and Clare should go back into the Officer's Mess whilst the rest of us packed up camp before moving on to Webb's cave to set up camp for the night. They both had a good look around, familiarising themselves with the route and land marks.

Aimee.



Sediment Cobbles, Officer's Mess. Photo: Aimee Leong

Wednesday 23rd April

After a leisurely start to the day, which included two breakfasts(!), we piled into two of the vehicles and drove to Thampanna Cave. Clare and Thomas began rigging the entrance for both SRT and laddering while Heiko demonstrated the strength of the outward draft by throwing his hat across the top of the three metre wide blowhole and watching it immediately disappear downwards to be tossed around and around by the draft half way down. Fortunately, the draft strengthened over the next half hour and eventually the cave spat his hat back out again. One by one we descended the 11m pitch and finally we were all at the bottom – just in time for lunch!

Because of the lateness of the start, and because no-one in our group, except me, had seen it before, we decided to go and look at the area beyond The Tube, which was a shorter trip than trying to find our way through the Drain and the main part of the cave beyond. It was 16 years since my last trip here and I was pleasantly surprised (and relieved!) to be able to find the way through without any difficulty, a task that was made easy by the strong draft which made it obvious where to go, once the way out of the entrance chamber had been located.

Soon we were through The Tube and into what is effectively one end of a huge collapsed chamber that is seemingly divided into various subsections by rockpiles and large boulders that reach the roof in many places. The main way on had been track-marked with reflective discs which led us through extensive deposits of 'Coffee and Cream' (formed when grains of limestone are flaked off the roof by crystal wedging). The marked route took us around and back over the top into what is named as The Enigma Chamber, where numerous pristine gypsum chandeliers kept the photographers in the group busy for the next half hour or more.



Bronya in the Syphon.
Photo: Aimee Leong



Gypsum Chandelier, Enigma Chamber.
Photo: C Buswell

Meanwhile, I spent some productive time checking and annotating the bits of map drawings that I had brought with me and making a few more measurements for the survey that I hope to get around to drawing up some day. After pointing the rest of the group in the direction of the Mudmen Chamber, which is in the opposite direction to the Enigma Chamber, I continued with this exercise until the group returned. Unfortunately, they had not been able to find the way on. On rechecking this area, it became apparent that the last two track markers led into a bit of squalid rockpile and small dead-end chambers that I had surveyed many years ago. Why these last reflectors were placed here I do not know, unless it was a mistaken assumption by whoever placed them that they were marking the main way on (it isn't!). As time was marching on and we still had to get eight people up the entrance pitch, seeing the Mudmen Chamber with its unusual corroded speleothems had to wait for another day.

Everyone enjoyed the day. For some, experiencing a gale-force wind up an entrance shaft was a 'first', and the gypsum speleothems in the Enigma Chamber (and elsewhere in Thampanna) are an unusual feature of caves

anywhere. Finally, there is no more surveying still needed in this part of the cave and I now have no excuse for not drawing up the map!

Mark Sefton

After visiting Thampanna, the next day we covered two caves, Witches and Purple Gorange. Visiting two somewhat similar caves in one day has left some of us with some confusion about what happened in each cave! We were still camped at Webb's Cave and drove to Witches Cave in the morning (by FUSSI time standards). There was no additional gear required – just the usual sturdy clothing and elbow and knee pads preferred.

The doline of Witches Cave was quite small and covered over with vegetation, so Heiko did some on the spot pruning and we noted that there were issues with Horehound weeds which got stuck in our clothing. A quick look on the CRC for Weed Management says that it appears it may have been

introduced by Joseph Banks and was intended for use as a garden herb and for beer brewing. I am not sure it is used for either purpose these days and instead it is a noxious weed across southern Australia.

The cave entry was a bit of a squeeze through, but what lay beyond was very well worth it! The floors were pristine, washed clean by recent rainfall, most likely that of 2011. We had to be very careful where we walked. Witches is a very old cave with an incredible amount of decoration – huge numbers of straws and stalactites, and evidence of many of them falling off the ceiling and onto the floor. 'Helictites on steroids' was one of the comments made. There was evidence of bats around the place (what does one expect in a Witches cave) and Aimee saw at least one flying bat. Some of the decorations were very thick and of black calcite and gave a sense of the immense age of the cave. While it is sometimes difficult to work out where cave names come from, it is easy to see in this case. The place looked very much like a place a witch may well have enjoyed to live in, and even create.

There was a range of colours – a few were pure white but most were striated or marbled with reds, oranges and deep brown colours. It was only the call of lunch and the promise of another cave in the afternoon that took us back out of the cave. Jan and Aimee commenced their modelling careers with Mark and we hope that some of the photos have worked out (I quite liked the look of Aimee sitting in lotus position in front of the decorations!). It will give a much better impression of the considerable size of some of the beautiful structures and decorations. Great place to see and to return to!

(Jan's ghost writer). **Sarah**



Bronya being the model in Witches Cave.

Photo: Aimee Leong

Purple Gorange is only a short drive (in Nullarbor terms) from Witches Cave followed by a cca 500 meter walk. Some scarce shade can be found by driving an extra 2-300 meters further away from the entrance along the road. As opposed to Witches Cave it has not been fenced off, nor are there any signs informing the general public of 'cave risk'.

The cave has a unique double-doline entrance. The one closest to the road is a daylight hole with some vegetation cover. Entry is via the second doline which only requires a short clamber to the adjoining doline and from there into the cave proper.

Once underground what stands out is the dark, aged tone of the formations. There are already a large number of stalagmites and stalactites near the entrance but further inwards the density keeps on increasing with areas richly packed with various formations. All of these formations appear to be quite old and mostly dark in colour.

Track marking within the cave guides the visitors through the main chamber area providing good vantage points as well as protecting the formations from getting trampled on. Caution should be exercised when crossing soft floor areas to try and minimize disturbance. Be very careful of sediment banks. Red markers placed side by side signify no-go areas that house the more fragile or densely packed formations. It is worthwhile having a look at the seemingly 'bare' rock walls as some areas have very delicate, strand-like, gypsum formations.

The cave is relatively small but still spacious enough to allow a small group to spread out and meander. Allow cca an hour for a scouting visit. No special equipment is required. Purple Gorange is ideal for cave photography as access is easy and relocating within the cave is also simple, no need to pack up and negotiate a squeeze to get to another chamber.

Thomas.

On Friday 25 April, we drove from Webb's Cave to Abracurrie via the old Coach Road, and on the way visited a related cave, the Chowilla Doline. Abracurrie essentially is a walk-in cave – we had a bit of a scramble down the side of the cave but did not require any harnesses or even a handline. The entrance to the Abracurrie looks very similar to Weebubbie with the entrance at one end at the bottom of a cliff and the drainage of the landscape creating an oval shaped base that was well vegetated and quite grassy.

As we approached the cave entrance, there was a bit of a squeeze and clambering over rocks to head down and into the cave, which appears to be the rockfall. There were swifts and bats and their associated chatter and excreta! The cave is a very impressive large internal space with a large chamber off to the left, a large chamber off to the right and then an amazing long tunnel branching from the right chamber. The cave definitely ate up our lights – it was impossible to see the rear wall from the beginning of that tunnel – but with some strategic lighting, we are hopeful that Aimee may have been able to get some interesting photographs.



Abracurrie Cave. Photo: Aimee Leong

The group pottered about exploring the cave – Clare was looking for flint in the cave walls and also showed us two handprints from Aboriginal people. The height of the handprints suggests that the cave floor has dropped since they were made. The cave abruptly stops at the end of each chamber and tunnel – it looks like silt has just accumulated and sealed off any further extensions of the cave. The walls were very interesting too with the base looking like it had been washed with mud from flood waters and then an abrupt line above which the walls are a very white colour with some visible fossils. The ground was largely silty and soft with a few rocks which made walking easy and very quiet. There were numerous germinating plants that had unfortunately been blown into a

most unfortunate spot – with no light, they were very pale and doomed to a spindly and, I would assume, brief existence.

We probably spent over an hour wandering about in the cave which really is just magnificent in size and proportions. We left earlier than we might have because we were heading next to Weebubbie and were conscious we did not want to run out of daylight for setting up camp.

Sarah

Weebubbie was our second cave for the day, and in true style we were running later than planned and only headed to the entrance at 7pm after a quick camp setup. Clare opted not to go in and instead cooked us all dinner for the night!

After Thomas set up a short handline to get down the first little drop, as well as a rope for support over the next section, we scrambled down to the cave entrance while trying to dodge the snails that were active now the sun was down.

As usual we had been briefed on the cave so we knew to pack our bathers, and the thought of a quick “wash” after a week of no showers outweighed the notion of very cold water (about 19 degrees according to Thomas’ intelligent watch). So we all went in for a dip except Mark: upon remembering that it was time for the Sat phone call from Karen he used that as an excuse to stay high and dry and return to camp before the rest of us.

Jan and Sarah both had mask and snorkels and swam right up the end of the lake and back. Thomas and Bronya, sans snorkel, also headed to the end of the lake and gleefully stumbled (splashed) upon a rubber ring which Thomas had mentioned was in the cave the last time he visited a couple of years ago. So they happily paddled back on top of the ring and out of the cold water, and left the ring at the sensible end of the lake. Aimee took lots of photos as expected, and Heiko mumbled expletives about the water temperature. On the way out we were all just that little bit cleaner, and very thankful to have dinner already prepared for us on the surface.

Bronya

Dinner consisted of: moth surprise, moth loaf with moth sauce followed by poached moth in a rainwater coulis! The chef was very stressed, catching moths to feed 8 hungry cavers is intensive to say the least! The fact that the moths - body size as large as your middle finger, wing span as wide as your open hand - flew into every cooking pot, gas light or gas burner did not give the cook any advantage. Neither did the rain.

The following morning, Saturday, we packed up, travelled via Koonalda Homestead and Koonalda Cave, back to Kimba for a shower and nights rest. We managed to get to Adelaide by late afternoon on the Sunday.



Inside Weebubbie: Photo: Aimee Leong



Koonalda Cave. Photo: Clare Buswell.

Notes.

We carried 300 litres of water for 8 people for 9 days.

Fruit and Veg was purchased from Perth and delivered to Mundarbilla Road House.

Diesel was most expensive at Nullarbor, \$2.08/litre, and about \$1.98 elsewhere.

Accommodation at Wudinna hotel, was basic but very economical. Kimba was basic but not so cheap - expect normal hotel rates.

We hired a Satellite Phone for contact with the outside world.

Permits have to be obtained for Old Homestead, Weebubbie and Abracurrie caves from the Dept of Lands in Perth and from the Dept of Aboriginal Heritage also in Perth. Eucla Police have to be

notified of your plans and also on returning home through Eucla that all is well. Weebubbie cave is closed to the general public.

The trip cost those going around \$56.00 a day for 10 days, all inclusive, bar 2 meals on the road.



The crew at the Bunda Cliffs: L-R: Jan, Sarah, Aimee, Mark, Thomas, Bronya, Heiko, Photo: C. Buswell

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Corra Lynn Cave trip, 7th June 2014

Attendees: Damien and Graham Pilkington.

Due to the small numbers, I took the opportunity to use the trip to receive training about trip coordination and speleology. In the car on the way up we discussed the things that a Trip Coordinator needs to do and to understand before organising a caving trip. Once at the cave we undertook some repairs to the cave door. The cave door is suffering from a lot of rust; however, it now opens and closes a lot easier but still needs some work done to it. We then spent time REALLY having a good look at the cave. We identified an area near the entrance that needs protecting so on the next trip we will take some tape and poles to put up a barrier.

This part of the trip was focused on the speleology side of the training, focusing on the different speleothems, how the cave was formed, and the different rocks. Cave minerals and cave meteorology were discussed. Other interesting topics included passage structure and what to look for as to where passages may lay. I was getting rather warm at this point so we went to the entrance of the Alberta to appreciate and discuss cave meteorology. I gained a greater appreciation for what was around me. We also went exploring during this time and visited some of the older known passages, finding a lot of interesting things including walls of cave decorations that need to be photographed. We found evidence of an old pond in an offshoot passage that I have not seen before.

It was wonderful to have an in-depth look at the cave. An area of the cave that I have passed many times but never looked up had a delicious flow stone. In fact the old section of the cave had lots of flowstone and evidence of false floors still there. It was interesting to see the different types of cave coral depending on the distance from the bedding plane or old false floors. I climbed up behind this stone into a small chamber and drew a map of what it looked like as well as trying to identify where the flow originated. I learnt about changing techniques or even direction to get where you want to go. Graham didn't think I would make it in there but I did!

Part of the journey went through two main passages: Grand Central and Upper Woodside. During this time unfortunately we also found fresh graffiti in the cave. Someone who has recently visited the cave has drawn with crayon, or scratched, arrows onto the walls. Some we were able to remove but others still remain. A potential dig site was also identified. We spent five hours underground on this part of the trip.

After an aboveground rest break we attempted to repair the toilet door (watch out for the Redback spiders if you plan to use the facility). We then returned underground for a trip down to the Twin Pits beyond Bushwalkers Chamber. This part of the trip was just for fun and also a familiarisation trip for me. We went along the Bushwalkers Run and I was able to identify entrances to the Crystal Chamber. I attempted what I will call the last entrance (the not for beginners entrance) but due to insufficient grip on my shoes we turned around and went back to the Run. Note to self: I need new caving shoes!

I took a cave map with me, not a very detailed one but enough to sit at the bottom of the Rope Crevasse and look at different ways to get to the top. The Rope Crevasse is a tight squeeze for me but fun nonetheless. During the day I spent time studying high-detail maps as well, which certainly helped when looking at the overall map.

Damien Pilkington

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Punyelroo, 5M-1, 5th July 2014

Participants: Graham, Charni and Ellie Pilkington, Rolf and Jamie Schmidt.

This was an introduction to caving for Rolf and Ellie. Rolf did a theses on invertebrate fossils found in the cliffs of the River Murray near here hence it was appropriate to get him into the rock instead of next to it. We visited both major arms of the cave. The youngsters even dragged me off to see the pond. It's a walking cave for some but stooping can get arduous after a while.

Rolf declared that it was nice to visit, once, but Ellie did not want to leave and will be racing her elder brother Jamie into the next cave.

Graham Pilkington

Comments of trip participants reported by Charni.

Ellie: I thought it was exciting and I got to walk when the adults were crawling! I also liked seeing water in the cave.

Jamie: I saw water in a cave for the very first time! Ellie saw the mud first then I came down and saw the mud too. Then I noticed that there were bubbles on top of the mud and I realised it was water not mud! We thought it would be further away, but the water was right there, it was cool!

Rolf: I had heard all about caving from Charni, Jamie and Graham for years, but had been reluctant to come along as I am not a fan of tight spaces. When it got to be my youngest child's turn to be old enough, I thought I would give it a go too. The fossils in the rocks going down the river path were fascinating for me as a geologist,(even more so as I did my Honours thesis on the Murray cliffs themselves) I saw mainly Lovinia (heart urchins), bryozoans, shrimp burrows, pecten clams. I didn't find the caving too bad until it got a bit hot and humid and the space got smaller! So I had a break

while the others went ahead, and turned off my light. It was so completely pitch black it was almost visceral and with the absolute silence, the sensory deprivation was such an interesting affect!

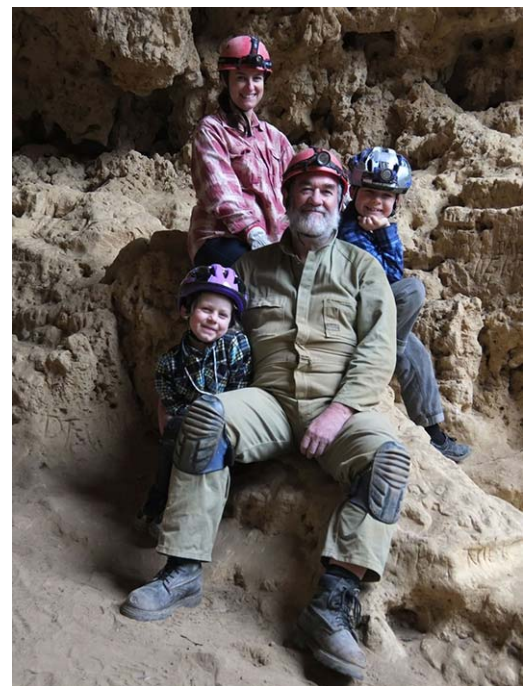
Charni: Being Graham's daughter, I have been caving since I was a young girl gleefully walking with my head high while the adults were stooping. I had a break for about 20 years, then when my eldest child became old enough to go caving I went with him and his "Grahampa", and now my daughter is also old enough. I have loved the experience from an adult's perspective and watching my children have the same experience as I had as a child was really interesting. I now had the adult's view of what it had been like in assisting a child through a cave and I felt the experience come full circle. I am very proud of how my children embraced the experience, listened to instructions and remembered the safety rules all while enjoying getting as grubby as possible!



Found fossils walking down the cliff track to the cave!
Photos: Charni Pilkington



In the cave Ellie's first time.
Photo: Charni Pilkington.



Three generations of cavers.
Photo: Charni Pilkington.

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Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y-1, 8th July 2014

Participants: Graham, Damien and Charles Pilkington.

Charles led the way. This turned out to be of great benefit for me because I got to see places close to the entrance that I'd not visited for many decades and largely forgotten about. Back then, I'd looked around with only one thought in mind – where does this lead to? Now I could look again with a bit more experience and see much more of the structure and evolution going on around me. Roofholes with decaying cemented rubble fill; stratified floor deposits showing episodes of flooding, slow cave wall flaking, and surface calcrete infill; and an appreciation of just how much cave fill has “disappeared” with the question – where is it now?

Graham Pilkington

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Corra Lynn Cave, 5Y-1, 10th August 2014

Participants:

party leaders: Graham Pilkington, Gary Woodcock, Michael Woodward, Ray Gibbons, Paul Harper, Matt Smith.

party assistants: Jeanette Chapman, Steve Wasilewski, Carol Thomas, and 3 Scout caving leaders/trainee leaders Mark Corbett, Callum Hue and Cameron Roy who joined CEGSA to help out for the day.

other participants: Chris Gibbons, Ben and Nicola Harper, and 42 3-month Associates who were all students from Mercedes College.

With so many beginners on the trip, we were lucky to have six members who knew the cave well enough to lead a party of novices. Of course we had no problem with congestion, even staying within the longest known sections of the cave. We could have taken twice the number without conflict. We could only cave for 3 hours because of the restrictions imposed by transport and parents, but Matt managed to stretch his trip out a bit longer than everyone else by going out to the *Skeleton Maze* and having to negotiate the drop out of the *Wombat Runs* and the return via *Bandicoot Bypass*. His party was surprisingly chirpy on exit. The rest of us went to the more usual places such as *Grand Central*, *Bushwalkers* and the *Crystal Maze* in various order and route.

After the students had left, a couple of smaller trips were led by Paul and Matt.

Graham Pilkington

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Past Trips From General Meetings

PAST TRIPS FROM MAY GM

1. **Matt Smith:** Visited Punyelroo & River Road (Gloop Cave) with 10 Scouts.
2. **Neville Skinner:** 14 kids from Mercedes College and teachers + 7 CEGSA member caved in Corra-Lynn Cave. Students had a great time.
3. **Neville Skinner:** Diving trips with a film crew in Kilsby's Cave. IMAX quality camera filming a movie regarding free diving.
4. **Neville Skinner:** Nullarbor Warbla Cave as part of a Japanese documentary, studying why Nullarbor caves are white. Ian Lewis was also part of the trip with Liz Rogers filming the underwater sections.
5. **Aimee Leong:** FUSSI went to the Nullarbor over Easter visiting Old Homestead cave for three days. Also visited Webbs, Thampanna, Witches, Abrakurrie and Weebubbie caves as well as others. Mark Sefton also in attendance. Visited entrance of Koonalda cave (ran out of time to visit).
6. **Ray Gibbons:** Flinders Ranges over Easter. Visited 4 features and found several deep

holes. There will be another trip later this year (possibly October) to visit these discovered features. One could be 30-40m deep as it is in on top of a large hill. CO2 is a potential concern and are on the look out for a CO2 detector. Also looked into the *Thunderdrum Cave* collapse. It's at the entrance and looks like it could be dug out. Nothing can get in, which could be a concern for the local bat population.

- Aimee Leong:** Caving in the Yanchep Cave region with WASG. Catacomb Cave and Alturinga Cave, the former having suffered from recent vandalism.

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PAST TRIPS FROM JUNE GM

1. **Eddie Rubessa:** Looked at a feature they found several years ago that appears to be breathing a lot of air. Looked at Stinking Blood Cave- very close to a breakthrough, however didn't have a hammer on the weekend!
2. **George MacLucas:** Got back from the Nullarbor with a fellow caver flying an ultralight. Checking out discoveries NW of Koonalda Cave. Visited 54 new sites, only one big cave was found.
3. **Ken Smith:**Went to Narrina Cave with FUSSI. Snorkelled in the cave (no diving was permitted). Didn't make it to Wooltana Cave due to a motorcycle accident.
4. **Tom Szabo:** FUSSI visited Corra-lynn Cave on the 22nd of June. Graham did some service work on the outside of the cave. Thomas from FUSSI lead the team underground. New members Chris & James enjoyed the experience and are keen to come again. 3 CEGSA and 5 FUSSI members attended.. Tom thanked *Thomas Varga* for leading the trip.
5. **Tom Szabo:** Punyelroo 1st June – ladies only trip. Only 4 took part, but had a good time regardless.

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PAST TRIPS FROM JULY GM

1. **Grant Gartrell:** Went via boat from Cape Jarvis to Rapid Bay and spotted what could be a lost cave high in the cliff.
2. **Graham Pilkington:** 30th June to Punyelroo. Introduced some family members to caving.
3. **Graham Pilkington:** Corra-Lynn 9th July. Damien + son having fun near the entrance.
4. **Ian Lewis:** Went to Naracoorte with La Trobe Uni students in May. Started creating an accurate survey of Blanche cave, which hasn't been done since the 50s.

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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.

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T-Shirts

The Committee has investigated producing T-Shirts with the CEGSA Logo. After evaluating the options and costs, it has been decided to supply embroidered CEGSA Logos that can be sewn onto any garment, not just T-Shirts. The badges are available from the Secretary for \$5 each to CEGSA members. Metal pin badges at \$5 each are also available.

The Committee

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 40th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



IMPORTANT THINGS

THE REGISTRATION FORM IS DONE

(See Back Page)

Now you have to fill it in and return it to us!

RSVP: 5th September to:

fussi@fussi.org.au

In keeping with FUSSI traditions it is requested that you bring your formal attire and a surprise.

Any incriminating photos of past members would be most welcome.

Expect a night of bribery, blackmail, coat hangers and chocolate.

FUSSI 2014 - 2015 Calendar

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

28th Aug General Meeting **Caves of the Bunda Cliffs:**
Steve Milner will talk on the exploration of caves on the Bunda Cliffs, Nullarbor. 6pm – 8pm. Flinders Uni.
Rm to be announced.

13 - 14 Sept Joint clubs come and play SRT weekend.
Lower Flinders Ranges.
Clare/Matt Smith/CEGSA coordinating.
SRT competency needed.
fussi@fussi.org.au

18th Sept General Meeting. **Talk & Demonstration on Rigging**
Trevor Arnold, State Emergency Service.
Location to be announced. 6 - 8pm.

Mid Year Break 22 Sept – 5 Oct

3-6 Oct. 40th B'day Celebrations. Naracoorte Caves.
Be there or you'll miss the party of the year!
Go on, don't be afraid, get down, get dirty. Go caving.

23rd Oct **FUSSI Library Cleanup and Post FUSSI 40th Birthday windup.**
Flinders Uni. **4.40pm -8 pm.**
Meeting up details TBA.
Pizza provided for the workers.

2nd Nov The Caves of Southern Adelaide.
A one day trip with a cruise the along the cliffs(maybe)
Meet 9am, Myponga.
Clare coordinating.
fussi@fussi.org.au

Nov 8-Nov 22. Exams. General Feeling of Gloom.

30th Nov **FUSSI fund raiser.**
Snag cooking at Bunnings.
8.30am-4.30pm.
Lots of Help needed.

5-8 Dec. Mole Creek, Tasmania. Fly-in fly-out.
Croesus, Lynds, and others.
RSVP AUG 20th if not before!
Limited numbers. Clare coordinating.

For the first few months of 2015.

7-15th Feb 2015 Buchan Vic.

22nd Feb Orientation week Flinders Uni. Sell caving to the world.
FUSSI Stall. Helpers needed.

Semester starts 2nd March 2015

7-9th March long weekend Wooltana. SRT competent ONLY.

21-22 March Wet and Wild Caving. Mt Gambier
A fun beginners trip. Sea caves, Cenotes, and much, much more!

3-6 April Easter Staying at home!

CEGSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
27/08/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Extended Trip Reports	Graham Pilkington
30/08/14	Working Bee	Library and records	Graham Pilkington
13 – 14/ 09/14	SRT	Joint Clubs SRT Weekend, Mairs Cave, Lower Flinders	Matt Smith
??/09/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
24/09/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. DVD night featuring recent documentaries on Koonalda Cave and Australian Sinkholes	Graham Pilkington
27/09/14	Working Bee?	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
06 – 09/ 10/14	Caving and Social	CEGSA / FUSSI / VSA / SCOUTS Combined For FUSSI 40 th Birthday Celebrations	Mark Sefton
??/10/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
22/10/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Torch and Caving Equipment Show and Tell	Graham Pilkington
25/10/14	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/11/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
12/11/14	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
26/11/14	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. End of year BBQ	Graham Pilkington
29/11/14	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/12/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
24/12/14	NO General Meeting	NO GENERAL MEETING	Graham Pilkington
	Training	Ad Hoc training	Matt Smith
	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.

FUSSI 40th Birthday Registration and Order Form

Registration Details

Person one:					
Person two:					
Address:					
Suburb:		State:		Postcode:	
Email:					
Phone:		Mobile:			
Contact in case of emergency:	name:		phone:		
Club or affiliation:					
Special dietary requirements:					

I will attend Saturday night Dinner/BBQ @ \$20.00/person	Cost /p	No of people	Total
	\$20		
TOTAL A			

Accommodation

We have bulk-booked Wirreanda, the accommodation at Naracoorte caves. Cost is \$15/night/person for basic dormitory-style bunk bed in the Wirreanda house and Bunk House. Or \$7 per person for an unpowered tent site. If required, we can try to allocate families to a private room. Prices are per person per night. Please bring sleeping bag, pillow, towel etc for the rooms in the house/bunk house. BYO own tent etc, if tenting it.

Do you want Accommodation at Wirreanda camp Ground?	Cost pp/pn	No of nights	No of people	Total
Tent site unpowered	\$7.00			
Bunk bed in dorm (sharing with others)	\$15.00			
Family rm. One only available.	\$15.00			
TOTAL B				

Alternative accommodation:

Naracoorte Hotels:

Or B&Bs (See the web). DO IT NOW as October long weekend in SA is busy.

T-Shirts

We will bring ink - BLACK and silk screens. Bring along a plain T-shirt, overalls, kinky knickers, etc, and we will enhance their appearance for free with the FUSSI T-shirt logos. NO pockets on T- shirts please.

Wine Glasses

These are standard stylish red wine glasses embossed with the FUSSI logo (see picture of 2004 edition). Price is \$8 each or \$90/dozen:

Wine Glasses	Cost	No	Cost
Single	\$8.00ea		
Half Dozen	\$46.00		
Dozen	\$90/dz		
TOTAL C			

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (total A + B + C)	\$
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Address

If you do **not** intend to register, but would still like¹ Glasses and/or T-shirts (advise how), please include a mailing address.

Address Line 1	
Address Line 2	
State	Postcode

Payments

EFT.

BSB: 015-210

Account Number: 6150-00795

Account Name: Flinders Uni Speleological Society.

Please put an Identifier such as: J Blogs 40th.

Cheques.

Make cheques payable to: Flinders University Speleological Society Inc.

Cash on the day

Bring legal tender. Selling us your great aunt will not usually do!

Please return this form to: fussi@fussi.org.au with the subject heading FUSSI 40th

By the 4th of September.

¹ If you're not going to attend and would not like goodies: don't tell us.