

CEGSA NEWS



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

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

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

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7.30 PM usually in the Royal Society of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

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Cover Photograph: June at N5804.

Photo: Nick White.

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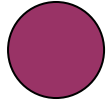
QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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 60 Number 1 (Issue 237) is Wednesday 11th FEBRUARY 2015. 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

Everyone's talking about global warming and how this will affect our society. But how will it affect caves and caving?

The effect on most caves will be superficial in the near future, that is, the change to cave development will be too small for us to measure. However, the increase in sea level will influence sea cave erosion and many, if not all, glacial caves will melt away. South Australian caves do not have rivers flowing into them or through them except for those that capture storm water. The increase in heavy downpours will probably rearrange a few entrances, some being opened up and others filled in. It's often stated that the dark zone of a cave has a nearly constant temperature equal to the mean temperature of the surface – does this mean that cave temperatures will rise by a few degrees? We should start temperature-logging to see what is happening. Will the increase affect bat breeding and hibernation? What about other cave critters? Will our caves dry out even more due to higher temperatures and less yearly rain? (and how do we separate out the effect of human change to surface cover and the removal of river and ground water?)

Caving is a different matter, especially interstate. Increased temperatures, including more extreme and longer highs could eliminate all caving on the Nullarbor and other desert areas from October to April. The fire-risk season has already been extended and will no doubt be extended again and again. The number of Fire Ban days is increasing, and caving is usually forbidden on fire-ban days. More water will need to be carried. Snakes will be active for more of the year and more of the day. Flash-flooding will occur more often and at unexpected times of the year.

It might mean that caving will be restricted to the "winter" months. In many alpine areas of the world, caving is restricted to the winter months because that is when the caves are not full of fast-flowing cold water; increased temperatures, including hot-spells, may put an end to caving in those regions.

We should draw up a plan of action to record environmental changes that are being experienced in our caving activities. This includes what we do now such as taking photos, but should include rarer recordings such as temperature and humidity at "control points" within each cave. CEGSA needs to consider supplying the required instruments to Trip Leaders.

Graham Pilkington

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The executive and committee wish everyone a

VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

**HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**

TRIP REPORTS

NULLARBOR EXPEDITION 2014

14th May – 9th June (27 days)

Our permit this year was for an area North East of Koonalda Homestead, our camp site was some 60km from Koonalda.

The usual restrictions on our permit was 'no cars to leave designated tracks'. Hence walking groups would cover nearest new finds, sometimes their round trips to various sites covered 12km to maximum 22km. Whereas, the motor bike groups could have average 40km to 60km in a round trip.



Group photo.

From left: Darryl, Greg, Ken, Margaret, Nick, John, George, Ian, Henry, Laurie.
In front: Silvana, Dennis, June.

Trip Participants:

CEGSA – George and June MacLucas.

VSA Victoria – Darryl Carr, Margaret James, Nick White,
Greg Leader, Ken Boland, Laurie Hort and Silvana Lanello.

ORANGE NSW - Dennis Marsh and Ian Curtis.

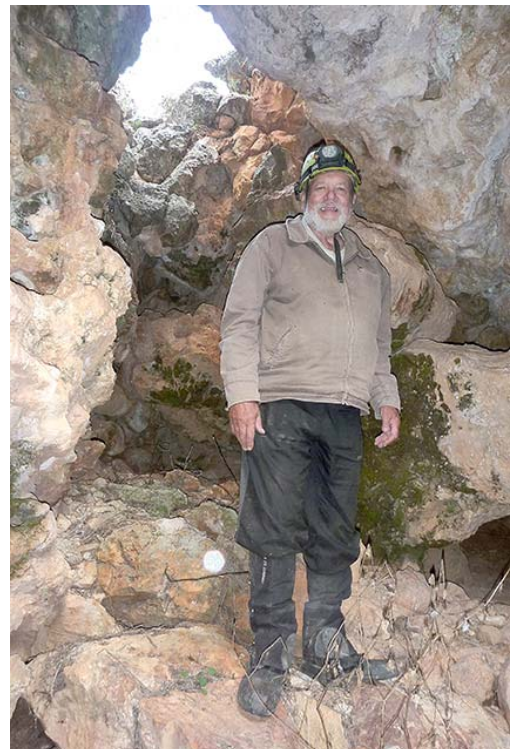
KEMPSEY NSW – John Taylor.

NORTHERN CAVERNEERS – Tasmania – Henry Shannon.

Also Ex Ranger Brett Dalzell from Ceduna came to camp for four days.

The early arrivals to the designated meeting point at Koonalda set off with Ken to check out a landing site for the UltraLite Plane. A bonus for a location is if there is a disused Wombat hole nearby to put our drop toilet over for camp use.

Overall the group located 205 new karst features from choked off blow holes to 10m deep blow holes. Some with no chambers, other with passages and chambers of 10m length. Also two water holes, and only one large cave found.



George in Cave N5331

After a few days of motor bike riding, due to rough terrain June had to abort being the pillion passenger and join the walking group as her coccyx area needed a rest. Hence June and I checked out 56 sites between us from motor bike and walking groups.

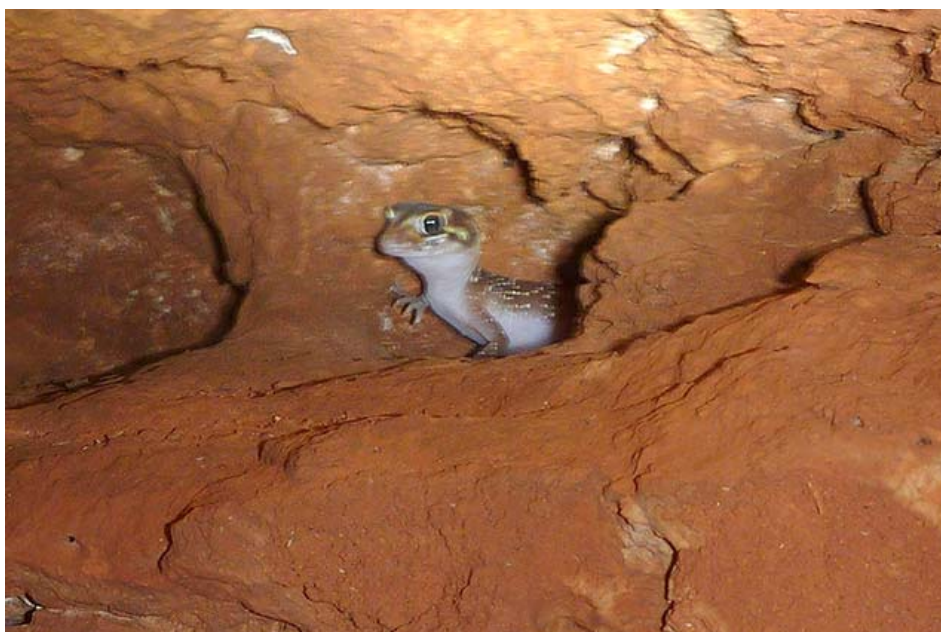
After packing up the usual trip home is via Ceduna, then Port Augusta, but this time we deviated to Hawker in the Flinders to visit my youngest sister there. Then to Riverton to see our daughter and at last home to Adelaide.

Our 56 Karst sites visited.

N5305, N5306, N5307, N5308, N5316, N5317 (photo of gecko in passage), N5318, N5331 (Large cave with saddle chamber 25x20m with 9m ceiling). N5357 (double blow hole) N5361, N5362 (had some old decorations) N5363, N5364, N5365, N5384 (photo with June holding clacker board) N5385, N5386, N5387, N5388, N5389, N5730, N5731, N5732, N5733, N5734, N5752, N5753, N5754, N5755, N5756, N5757, N5758, N5759, N5760, N5761, N5762, N5763, N5764, N5765, N5770, N5771, N5772, N5773, N5774, N5801, N5802, N5803, N5804, N5805, N5806, N5807, N5808, N5810, N5811, N5812, and N5813.



Australian Cockroach



Gecko in passage of N5317

All photo's by June MacLucas.

George MacLucas.

Past Trips From General Meetings

PAST TRIPS FROM AUGUST GM

1. **Matt Smith:** Mt Gambier Venturer Weekend. Bats reported in Monbulla Cave (200-300) and Rendelsham Cave (a dozen). Also visited Morgan's Cave on the weekend. Noted that Forestry SA have a new ranger granting permits: Mark Whan. Access was denied to Snake Hill, Mt Burr, Gran Gran and Graveyard Caves due to bat torpor and was advised that these would be closed yearly between June and October.

2. **Graham Pilkington:** Corra-Lynn trip with 40 Mercedes students, 10 CEGSA leaders and 3 Scout Caving Group members. Was an excellent trip and enjoyed by all.

3. **Graham Pilkington:** Visited Punyelroo Cave with family members.

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PAST TRIPS FROM SEPTEMBER GM

1. **Matt Smith:** Lower Flinders Ranges trip featuring Mairs Cave with FUSSI, SCG and CEGSA members for vertical training. 10 attended and spent most of the weekend in the entrance of Mairs cave practising a range of vertical techniques.

2. **Ian Lewis** headed down to Naracoorte Caves to work with staff on promoting the park via the World Heritage system. Delivered a workshop on Palaeontology and Geology.

3. **Ian Lewis** attended a FUSSI Training Workshop at the Norlunga SES. Was very impressed with the facilities – a lot of potential for good training including caving environments.

4. **Neville Skinner** went to the Philippines for 3 weeks with the intent of doing plenty of diving including in the caves there. Didn't have any success getting in touch with local caving groups. By chance he met a fellow cave diver while in the country. However, despite numerous attempts no cave diving could be organised! Did manage to visit a few caving sites though. He had a ball!

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PAST TRIPS FROM OCTOBER GM

1. **Ray Gibbons** went to the Nullarbor in early October with Peter Ackroyd. Visited sites north of Old Homestead. Found over 60 new features, out of those 60 they found 2 new caves (small ones). One has a passage of approximately 15m and the second a depth of 15m and not much at the bottom. The second cave has an interesting entrance into the solution tube, and feature some impressive decoration. The cave is somewhat inaccessible in that it is remote and a long way off the track. The Nullarbor Plain is beautiful at this time of year as it is a sea of colour due to the flowers blooming. It also appears that there has been some significant mine related drilling in the area, seeking a large deposit of gold and other heavy metals.

2. **Neville Skinner** reported that FUSSI had it's 40th Anniversary trip in October. Blackberry (beyond the gate), Fox and Sand Caves were visited, as well as a few smaller kid friendly ones. Plenty of food and were happy with the attendance. Clare Buswell received an honorary doctorate of ladders. Mark Sefton added that the access granted to the various caves in Naracoorte bodes well for future trips. Fox Cave has a brown snake in its entrance.

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TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES become due on January 1st. To ensure continuity of membership and privileges (particularly insurance) please pay before the due date.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2015 YEAR

Full Membership	\$ 45.00
Full Country Membership	39.00
Associate Membership	37.00
Long Term Associate	45.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00
Joining Fee (N/A to 3mth Intro)	12.00
Discount for Country Membership	6.00
Print Form CEGSA News	25.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR 2015 YEAR

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

2015 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$45.00	\$ 68.00	\$113.00
Full Country Membership	39.00	68.00	107.00
Associate Membership	37.00	68.00	105.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00

Variation for Family Membership

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member	\$90.00	\$117.00	\$207.00
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member	\$82.00	\$117.00	\$199.00
1 st Assoc Member + 2 nd Assoc Member	\$74.00	\$117.00	\$191.00

Discount for Country Membership applies for Family Memberships.

The 2014 Membership Mailing List will be issued with the 2015 accounts to all current members as personal membership details are no longer publicised in the Annual Report. Copies of the Annual Report will be available for reading at the Annual General Meeting.

Please make sure your payment of fees includes CEGSA and ASF, if applicable.

Membership Fees can be paid direct into CEGSA Account BSB 105-900 Account No 950661040 and reference with your Name, CEGSA Fees or Membership Number.

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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Nullarbor Blowholes

The Nullarbor contains thousands of blowing holes that lie beneath a 0.5 to 1m thick calcrete and “soil” layer, typically 0.5 to 2m diameter and descending a few metres vertically into the Nullarbor Limestone. Most bottom out in a network of branching holes too small to enter. Blowholes are rarely seen in the claypans but this could simply be because they are filled with clay. Many appear to occur near to the boundary between claypans and bluebush-covered terrain.

For a blowhole to be observed, it must be able to dispose of all the clay, soil and rubble that are washed into it. One possibility is that these blowholes connect with voids in the Abrakurrie Limestone. Such (usually clay-filled) voids are observed in all the deeper caves on the central Nullarbor that the Abrakurrie Limestone is restricted to. This connection would enable the water to wash out the voids instead of having to dissolve the rock – a much quicker process, and one that does not require a ground cover to provide CO₂. If this is true, then blowholes should be more common above the Abrakurrie Limestone than elsewhere.

Graham Pilkington

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South Australian Adventure Activity Standards for Recreational Caving

The draft of a new caving standard has been written by *Recreation South Australia*. Copies can be obtained from Graham Pilkington. It's only a guide but contains many ideas that are worth following. It's also a valuable document for anyone contemplating becoming a Trip Leader as well as a refresher for some of us who need to be jolted out of complacency

The final version should be released in the next few months.

Graham Pilkington

CEGSA Caving Trip Logbook

The Committee has decided to make our website's Calendar our Trip Logbook. This means that trip leaders no longer have to inform Athol as well as enter the trip details into the Calendar. It's imperative that ALL trip leaders put their trips onto the web as soon as they have dates for the trip. If you are unsure of the dates, then enter all the possible dates with annotation that the date is "tentative" or "alternate".

Members – check the Calendar on a regular basis to keep informed of coming trips and events. Remember that some may have been cancelled or have the dates changed.

Graham Pilkington

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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.

WHO WAS LEO HOAD?



The 1894 Graffiti Found Near The Y5 Cave Entrance

Recently I wrote in the Yarrangobilly Trip Report that one of our group (not myself) had discovered a rock with the name of "L. Hoad" scratched on it, and the date "8-1894", inside the entrance to 2Y-5 cave.

So who was "L. Hoad", and what right did he have to mark the cave in such a manner? Was this just an early example of another mindless act of vandalism that we see so much of today? After some research, I discovered "L. Hoad" was Leo Hoad, but to appreciate the full story, one must go back in time ...

Leo's father was Walter Hoad, born in Feb 1856 in Tumut where his parents had settled after immigrating from Sussex, England in c1854.¹ Walter Hoad owned a farm at Yarrangobilly, and was also a well-known prospector in Kiandra.² Leo's mother was Olieve Brownlie, born in Victoria in Jan 1857. Her parents moved to Talbingo where her father, Alexander Brownlie, established the first hotel in 1861. In 1866, the bushrangers, Patrick Lawler and Patrick Gateley, stuck up Lampe's Talbingo Homestead. Alexander Brownlie had used this homestead during the days of the Kiandra gold rush as a hotel.³

Gold had been discovered in Kiandra "by mountain cattlemen, the Pollock brothers, and by March 1860, some 10,000 miners and storekeepers had raced to the scene. Initial returns were very good. A 9 kg nugget was discovered in river deposits under what became known as New Chum Hill. Kiandra post office opened on 1st June 1860 and it is estimated that the area at its peak accommodated around 15,000 people, served by 25 stores, 13 bakers, 16 butchers, 14 pubs, several banks and four blacksmiths. Nevertheless, by 1861, the Sydney Morning Herald was reporting a "mass exodus" and the easy pickings were exhausted."⁴

Leo's father Walter married Olieve Brownlie in Tumut in 1880 and later came to live at Yarrangobilly (Village). In:

¹ http://suzieq.net.au/HTMLFiles/HTMLFiles_39/P2153.html

² Ibid. See also <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/98550624?> & <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138560641?>

³ <http://www.brownlee.com.au/Pages/Charts/Chart%2010142.html>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiandra,_New_South_Wales

"1890 he built a two-roomed hut for his family near the Yarrangobilly River. This hut was replaced in 1898 by [what is now known as] 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 and housed Alexander and Olieve Brownlie until their death."⁵

In total they had 10 children - Leo James Alexander in 1881, Olieve in 1884, Muriel in 1884, Gertrude Isobel in 1885, Eva P. in 1887, Ruth Ashley in 1890, Sylvia H. M. in 1892, Walter in 1895, Florence Gladys in 1897, and Edna in 1899. All were born in Tumut except for Walter (Jnr) who was born at Yarrangobilly.⁶ It is worth noting that, in 1894, at the time Leo scratched his name in the rock, he was just 13 years old, and had 6 sisters - Olieve, Muriel, Gertrude, Eva, Ruth & Sylvia. No wonder he took up caving!

It wasn't until the following year that his one brother, Walter (Jr) arrived. I imagine that



Cotterills Cottage, February 2014
Photo: Clare Buswell

during this time Leo would have done a lot of exploring on his own, since in those days girls were not permitted to dress like 'tomboys' and wander through the bush on their own, especially as there would have been many transient miners wandering through the hills, as well as bushrangers. I read that when Leo was just 10 years old he made his first pair of snow skis, having learnt this skill from a Norwegian friend of his father. Leo became an avid skier and made skis for others to whom he sold the skis to for 10 shillings a pair.⁷

Alexander Brownlie constructed the Telegraph line from Adelong Crossing (now Tumblong) to Tumut and on to Kiandra in 1888-1889. He then went on to become the postmaster at Yarrangobilly until 1904, when he handed the job to his daughter Olieve, so that he could accept the appointment of caretaker of the Yarrangobilly caves. The caretaker position had been put out to tender and Walter Hoad (Snr) had won it from a field of 176 applicants.⁸

⁵ <http://www.brownlee.com.au/Pages/Charts/Chart%2010142.html>

⁶ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=monaropioneers&id=I118237>

⁷ <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138560641?searchTerm=leohoad&searchLimits>

⁸ <http://www.brownlee.com.au/Pages/Charts/Chart%2010142.html> [and](#) <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138560641?searchTerm=leo%20hoad&searchLimits>

Alexander Brownlie died in 1917 (aged 96 years) and his wife Providence died in 1906 (aged 89 years). Both are buried at the Yarrangobilly General Cemetery, which is off to one side of the Glory Hole farm walk and can be seen when taking this walk.

Beyond the Glory Arch, the Castle Walk features dry-stone walls built from hand cut limestone. Work began in 1905 and reached the Harrie Wood Cave in 1911. Anthony Bradley and Walter Hoad, who were guides at the caves at the time, built the track with some help from Kiandra miners. (The Glory Hole farm was an important part of the mountain community and supplied Kiandra miners with fresh meat.) The track was later extended to the Castle Cave.⁹

Leo Hoad now 38 years old, married Alice Hewitt in Sydney in 1919, after meeting her whilst working at Jenolan caves for an extended period. Alice had two sons, Bruce, born at Nurses Crossing, Hurstville Sydney¹⁰ and Colin. By this time Walter Hoad (Snr) would have moved to Murray St., Cootamundra, where he lived the rest of his life until his death in 1943. Leo's siblings were leaving home to be married, so Cotterill's cottage was no longer required by the Hoad's.

In the 1930s, Yarrangobilly village consisted of approximately ten houses and was later a part of the Jounama State Forest. Cotterill's Cottage was used from the 1930's until the 1950's by Forestry. The Sydney Morning Herald in 2009 promoted the Hoad legacy:

"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.

⁹ <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/08448.pdf>

¹⁰ The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) Saturday, 24 February 1923, page 14. Family Notices. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/correction/16058025>. Bruce Hoad was interviewed by Elery Hamilton-Smith Aug 1994, as part of the Caves of Australia Oral History Project. It is a 28 minute long interview. <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/4933841>. Both worked at Yarrangobilly.

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."¹¹

On the 18th Nov 1947, The Tumut and Adelong Times newspaper carried a column:

Mr, Leo Hoad, chief guide and caretaker of Yarrangobilly Caves, has returned home from Sydney after receiving the Imperial Service Medal. The award has been made in recognition of Mr. Hoad's faithful service in connection with the conduct of Yarrangobilly Caves for many years. He is the only person associated with tourist activities in New South Wales to receive the medal. The official certificate and citation accompanying the award reads as follows: "Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St. James' Palace, S.W.I, 20th December, 1946. Sir, - I am commanded to forward the Imperial Service Medal which His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to award to you in recognition of the meritorious services you have rendered. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, JOE La BERE, Brigadier, Registrar of the Imperial Service Order." It was reported that Leo was "the only person associated with tourist activities in New South Wales to receive the medal".¹²

This was the first time in our history that a public servant had ever been offered such an esteemed award.

On the 16th May 1952, the Cootamundra Herald credited Leo Hoad as saying "he is mildly shocked by people who tell him that caves are like circuses, and adopt a see-one-see-the-lot attitude. Caves, he tells such people, are like women. They all have the same basic structure, but Hoad's advice is that they are all different".¹³ With typical enthusiasm, he (Leo) finally tracked down the meaning of Yarrangobilly. After considerable research he decided it was a 'corruption of the aboriginal Jarrangobilly, meaning shifting'¹⁴.

In those days before his marriage, Hoad used to go exploring every Sunday. Hoad has been responsible for the opening and development of all the caves, most of it single-handed. Preparing one cave for visitors, Hoad and his helper worked solidly for nine months.

¹¹ Sydney Morning Herald Jan 1st. 2009. <http://www.smh.com.au/travel/travel-factsheet/yarrangobilly-caves-20081113-5yni.html>

¹² Tumut and Adelong Times. 18. November 1947. p. 4. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/139314909?>

¹³ Ibid. p. 2.

¹⁴ Ibid. p. 2



Yarrangobilly Caves House: Photo is from:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/parksAccommodation.aspx?id=N0018

All excavation work was done by hand with heavy picks. Hoad worked eight hours a day for £2/2- a week.¹⁵ His exploring activities gave Hoad more than a sufficient knowledge to take over as a guide in 1911 at Sh11/6p a day.¹⁶ A few years later he was sent to Jenolan Caves for eight months to assist with improvements and found that Jenolan could offer at least one attraction that Yarrangobilly lacked. So he married her and took her back to Yarrangobilly when he became caretaker in 1919.

The Herald went on to explain how Leo explains on one of his Sunday walks, pushed his staff down a hole on the ground to see where it went, and that, that was how he discovered Jillabenan cave.¹⁷ It took him another eight weeks of chipping the rock away to make the entrance so the public could access it. The name Jillabenan, Leo explains, "was provided by an official whose knowledge of the aboriginal language was little enough to be dangerous" and was chosen because it was a pretty and phonetic name.¹⁸ "However, to the aboriginals it has a somewhat bawdy second meaning."¹⁹

The aboriginal name Yarrangobilly, is 'apparently a combination of the Wiradjuri words: "yirra" meaning teeth with "bila" meaning river. The teeth is obviously a reference to the stalactites and stalagmites in the caves and the bila refers to the rivers and creeks in the area."

¹⁵ The Cootamundra Herald. 16. May 1952. p. 2. 'Yarrangobilly Caveman Retires'
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138560641?>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Ibid.

Perhaps the reference to “the rivers” refers to those rivers that formed the caves and actually ran out of the caves.’²⁰

Leo Hoad died in 1974, aged 93 years, and his wife Alice survived until 1999.²¹



Cotterill's Cottage
November 2011, after a storm blew off the roof, destroyed the garage and surrounding trees. The building has since been re-roofed, but the interior has been extensively damaged.

Photo: Regina Roach. Reprinted with permission from 'The Very Latest,' the Journal of the Canberra Speleological Society.

Leo Hoad had devoted 50 years of his life to work associated with Yarrangobilly Caves as a well known resident and cave guide who had discovered as many caves, and I believe it more likely that the day that Leo placed his mark on the rock inside the Y5 entrance was the day that he discovered Y5. This was not an act of vandalism, but a priceless piece of history.

Having sat on the verandah of Cotterill's Cottage to eat our meals, and having hung our clothes over the railings to dry out now means much more to me, when I think of the many stories I have read in writing this article, such as the one where on the 22nd Feb 1914 a man looking for his wife ran into the kitchen of the cottage brandishing a loaded rifle. He was tackled by Leo's sister, Olive, with the subsequent assistance of Walter Hoad and Mr Adams, the schoolteacher. No one was shot that day but only because a defective trigger on the rifle had broken off!²²

²⁰ <http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/yarrangobilly-caves-nsw>. This is disputed, see Hueneke K., *People of the High Country*. Tabletop Press. Palmerston. 1994. p. 280.

²¹ In 1970, Leo Hoad was interviewed by Greg Middleton, now a Tasmanian based caver. A full transcript of the interview was published in the *Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society* in 1985 29(8):145.

²² Adelong and Tumut Express and the Tumbarumba Post. 1914. February 24th.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10761612>.

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Neville Skinner.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Fifty Ninth Annual General Meeting of the CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SA inc. will be held at Chris and Ray Gibbons home, 9 Cuthbert Ave, Gulfview Heights, on the 14th February 2015 at 7.00pm.

The Annual Report will be presented to the meeting and will be followed by the election of the Committee for the 2015 year.

Could all office bearers please have their reports for the Annual Report to the editor before 1st February, 2015 (preferably earlier).

BBQ is from 4pm - bring your own food and drink.

Committee.

Jack Little – a Follow up

In CEGSA newsletter 43:2 (May 1998), I penned a tribute to Jack Little.

In that article I mentioned he was buried in the rural setting of the Strathdownie Cemetery in far western Victoria.

Recently we paid a visit there, and whilst no rabbits or birds were seen hopping around at this time (it was lightly raining), we had been blessed with a large family of Blue Wrens just down the road. I still maintain - Jack would approve of this resting place.



Fred Aslin.

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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.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 30 th Nov | FUSSI fund raiser.
Snag cooking at Bunnings.
8.30am-4.30pm.
<u>Lots of Help needed.</u> |
| 5-8 Dec. | Mole Creek, Tasmania. Fly-in fly-out.
Croesus, Lynds, and others.
RSVP AUG 20 th if not before!
Limited numbers. Clare coordinating. |

For the first few months of 2015.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 7-15th Feb 2015 | Buchan Vic. |
| 22 nd Feb Orientation week | Flinders Uni. Sell caving to the world.
FUSSI Stall. Helpers needed. |
| 7-9 th March long weekend | Semester starts 2nd March 2015
Woollana. 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
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
29 – 30/ 11/14	Caving	Joint Clubs Mt Gambier area (SCG, CEGSA, FUSSI)	Matt Smith
05 – 08/ 12/14	Caving	Tasmania Mole Creek FUSSI trip Flyin-Flyout CEGSA members welcome	Mark Sefton or Neville Skinner
??/12/14	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
24/12/14	NO General Meeting	NO GENERAL MEETING	Graham Pilkington
??/01/15	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
28/01/15	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Members Photo Night.	Graham Pilkington
31/01/15	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
01/02/15	Annual Report	Submissions Due	Athol Jackson
07 – 15/ 02/15	Caving	Buchan, Vic FUSSI trip CEGSA members welcome	Mark Sefton or Neville Skinner
??/02/15	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
11/02/15	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
14/02/15	AGM	9 Cuthbert Ave Gulfview Heights 7.00pm BBQ from 4.00pm	Graham Pilkington
25/02/15	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Caving in Southern Africa	Mark Sefton
28/02/15	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
07 – 09/ 03/15	Caving	Wooltana (SRT competent only) FUSSI trip CEGSA members welcome	Mark Sefton or Neville Skinner
??/03/15	Committee Meeting	TBA	Graham Pilkington
21 – 22/ 03/15	Caving	Mt Gambier Wet and Wild FUSSI trip CEGSA members welcome	Mark Sefton or Neville Skinner
25/03/15	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Mysteries of the Nullarbor	Ian Lewis
28/03/15	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
22/04/15	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. European Caves	Ken Smith
	Training	Ad Hoc training	Matt Smith
	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.

Notes