

CEGSA NEWS



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

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AUGUST 2017



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.

2017 Committee

President	Ian Lewis	(H) 8295 6582 (M) 0427 284 051 (E) Ian.Lewis2@sa.gov.au
Secretary	Mark Sefton	(H) 8277 9086 (W) 8313 0096 (E) seftons@adam.com.au
Public Officer / Library & Records/ OzKarst admin.	Graham Pilkington	(H) 8258 8877 (W) 8258 8877 (E) p-c-h@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer / Membership Committee	Graham Pilkington Ken Smith	as above (W) 8375 1946 (M) 0407 603 118 (E) kendiver@gmail.com
Committee	Matt Smith	(M) 0419 830 575 (E) matt@speleorovers.org
Committee	Steve Milner	(H) 8370 6570 (M) 0402 884 121
Committee	Mark Corbett	(M) 0439 042 707 (E) macorbett@gmail.com
Museum Representative	Neville Pledge	C/- SA Museum

Other Office Bearers

Publications	Athol Jackson	(H) 8337 8759 (E) atholjax@adam.com.au
Webmasters	Graham Pilkington and Matt Smith	As Above As Above
Land manager Liaison (records) Quartermaster / Key & GPS Holder	Garry Woodcock Paul Harper	(H) 8380 5154 (E) gary.woodcock@sa.gov.au (H) 8297 8878 (W) 8222 5615 (E) paul.harper@health.sa.gov.au
Search & Rescue Co-ordinator	Harry Harris	(H) 8431 5395 (W) 8273 5666 (E) divedoc@adam.com.au
Safety Officer	Matt Smith	As Above
Science Officer	Ian Lewis	As Above
Training	Ian Lewis and Matt Smith	As Above As Above
Website Trip Log	All Trip Coordinators	See list p42

Area Coordinators

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

Representatives

ASF	Graham Pilkington	As Above
SA Speleological Council	Ian Lewis	As Above
Kanawinka Geopark Liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above
CDAA liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above
SA Scout Liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above

Cover Photograph: Tufa Waterfall, Black Hill Conservation Park.

Photo: Eddie Rubessa.

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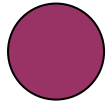
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QUARTERMASTERS NOTE.

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

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 62 Number 4 (Issue 248) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **8th NOVEMBER 2017**. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue. The preferred method is via E-MAIL to atholjax@adam.com.au as an attachment or on a memory stick or CD, in Word *.doc(x) or *.rtf files. Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted. Photos are preferred to be in colour as separate files and a note placed in the article where to be inserted. (*.jpg format under 500Kb unless for the cover). The views expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc., its Committee or the Editor.



PRESIDENTS SPOT

This is a thank you to a number of significant people as we navigate speleology and cave exploration into the middle of the 21st century. With the reactivating of the South Australian Speleo Council, considerable discussion has occurred between CEGSA, FUSSI (Flinders University Speleo Society) and SCG (Scout Caving Group). As I reflect over (erk!) 50 years of caving experience, the biggest change is that the three member groups of the SAS Council now represent three different levels of engagement in our sport and science in South Australia.

Scouts are training new leaders with a caving speciality and vertical ropework skills, as well as running trips for younger scouts and guides to experience the thrill of cave exploring for the first time. The leaders provide time, skills and enthusiasm to introduce young people to the world of speleology. Matt Smith, Mark Corbett and Matt Brinkley provide excellent organised leadership.

FUSSI has a dual membership - a good number of long-term committed cavers who run trips all over the State and Interstate, keeping up great variety, interest and fun. FUSSI also is a recruiting organisation which encourages introductory experiences for undergraduates joining the University each year which is its lifeblood. It is a very social group, with relaxed meetings, trips punctuated by multiple roadside coffee stops, etc. FUSSI also run scientific trips such as the two recent Nullarbor expeditions and have high safety and training standards. Clare Buswell's energy is legendary.

CEGSA is the oldest group in terms of age and frankly does not go caving much any more except some individual events which are very valuable. CEGSA is the State's repository for cave records, maps and OZKarst through Graham Pilkington's unstinting efforts. It has strong links with the Cave Divers Association of Australia. CEGSA is becoming more of a 'Society' which is first point of reference for caving enquiries.

I see these three groups and their levels of activity as extremely valuable for caves and caving in South Australia. It is terrific that three groups intermingle, cooperate and exchange information regularly. Plenty of countries have small caving groups who keep to their patch and don't interact as we do here. A modern trend of cave surveyors claiming copyright ownership of cave maps has not occurred here where all maps by CEGSA members are contributed and entrusted to CEGSA, which in turn is making these more available to FUSSI and SCG as they both undertake the active caving.

One viewpoint of an ageing CEGSA membership could be negative, but I feel that our role and relationship to the other two South Australian groups is positive, supportive and realistic. Compared to 50 years ago when I started caving in this State, I see the evolution of CEGSA and its cooperative 'senior' role as a major reason why our membership is one of Australia's largest and we continue to operate successfully.

Cheers to all from Ian

TRIP REPORTS

Black Hill Conservation Park

18th June 2017

Adelaide Hills

A friend and I arranged to go for a walk on the Sunday afternoon, the track we chose was the Amber Gully's Track and we come up to the waterfall which is usually dry and only flows during a decent rain. The waterfall is quite a large tufa deposition approximately 15 metres high (see cover photo) with some attractive limestone formations below in a little "cave". I haven't visited this site for about 20 years and the incumbent CEGSA committee at the time showed less than subdued interest; however this formation is prominent in its own right to be recognised as a karst feature.



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Past Trips from General Meetings

May 2017

1. **Neville Skinner** attended a FUSSI-run trip to the Flinders ranges. They visited Clara St Dora, Mairs and Mt Simms caves. New graffiti was noted in Clara St Dora beyond the gate.
2. **Eddie Rubessa** ran a trip to the northern Flinders Ranges, visiting Burrwell Cave where they collected samples for analysis by Mike Snow.
3. **Ian Lewis** attended a recent cave diving workshop on rebreather technology.
4. **Michael Woodward** described a Scout Cavers trip to the Nullarbor during which they visited Koonalda Cave, Boonabie Blowhole, Mullamullang, Witches, Thampanna, Kelly, Snake Pit and Webbs Caves among others. The 'Plughole' in Thampanna was blocked by water at the time of their visit.
5. **Matt Smith** and others visited Beekeepers and S102 caves in Naracoorte.

June 2017

1. **Eddie Rubessa** talked about an interesting tufa cave on the Amber's Trail in the Black Hill Conservation Park.
Quote from the website - The trail leads up past an interesting 'frozen waterfall' – formed by the presence of high concentrations of calcium in the rock. Up close you can see inside a small cave in the side of the waterfall and view the amazing sculpted formations inside.
2. **Grant Gartrell and Joel Dillon** described a recent Sellicks Hill Cave trip where cave breathing was (again) noticed. Lots of rocks to be lifted and removed.
3. **Ian Lewis and Neville Skinner** mentioned a FUSSI Nullarbor expedition to Koonalda and Warbla Caves at Easter. This will be a short presentation at the July meeting.

July 2017

1. **Matt Smith** and a small group of Rovers visited 5-M18 Gloop Cave on the June Long Weekend. The cave has returned to normal after the flood during summer. A small group of bats (approximately 6) still live in the cave - these were also reported in December
2. **Matt Smith** visited Blanche Cave at Naracoorte as part of the Bat Tour. Part of the tour was a viewing of the bats, but inspecting them at reasonable close range inside the cave, instead of the tour via the Bat Centre as usually happens during summer. It seemed as though a large number of bats were currently roosting in Blanche Cave.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The ASF has introduced an Introductory Family membership.

To join CEGSA as a 3-month introductory family Associate, the fee will be \$45.

To join CEGSA as a 3-month introductory Associate, the fee remains as \$25.

For persons applying for a 3-month Associate membership after having been a 3-month introductory Associate, the fees, including the ASF levy, are as follows:

3-month Associate	\$38.00
student or retired 3-month Associate	\$32.00
2-parent family 3-month Associate	\$64.00
1-parent family 3-month Associate	\$55.00

Persons applying for CEGSA membership should contact the Treasurer or a member of Committee to obtain the membership fee applicable. Except for 3-month Associates, membership becomes renewable on the first of January each year. For persons joining during the calendar year, a joining fee of \$12 plus a pro rata fee is applied.

A \$12 re-joining fee is added to membership fees paid after March to make up for all the paperwork that the member has forced the Membership Officer to do. A membership application form may also be requested – this makes sure that our records do not contain obsolete information such as who to contact in an emergency or your new address that resulted in the renewal notice going astray.

Typical fee for the year, including the ASF levy, is:

\$113 for Full membership or Associate membership after 2 years (\$45 + \$68 ASF)

\$105 for Associate membership for the first 2 years (\$37 + \$68 ASF)

\$90 for Full membership, retired (\$45 + \$45 ASF)

\$82 for Associate membership, student (\$37 + \$45 ASF)

\$209 for dual Full family membership (2x\$45 + \$119 ASF)

\$193 for dual Associate family membership (2x\$37 + \$119 ASF)

Add \$25 for a printed copy of the NEWS and Annual Report

Subtract \$6 for persons living more than 80km from the Adelaide GPO (\$12 for dual families)

Membership fees can be paid direct into CEGSA account BSB 105-900 # 950661040. Make sure that you reference your name if you want to get accredited!

Graham Pilkington

Treasurer/Membership Officer

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

Name	Caving Leader level
Marie Choi	Horizontal and Laddering
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Co-ordinator
Paul Harper	Horizontal and Laddering
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 Coordinators.

Members may query the classification of any Trip Leader at any time with the committee.

It is a requirement that each trip be organised by an approved Trip Coordinator to be classed as an official CEGSA trip. It is also a requirement that dependent party trips be led by an approved Trip Leader at the appropriate skill level for the cave being entered.

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To P or not to P, That is the Question

At the beginning of this year I was looking forward to a caving trip to Tasmania. This trip, in February, was organised by the Flinders University Speleological Society (FUSSI). As well as anticipating the trip I was giving considerable thought to an issue that had been on my mind in recent years. We were planning a Kubla Khan through trip, which would take at least eight hours. To be quite frank, eight hours is a long time and I doubted my ability to "hang on".

As a cave diver I am used to using a device called a P-Valve. A small contribution to the water is of no consequence and even your closest dive buddy does not realise what you are doing. A dry cave is a different story of course. An empty plastic bottle can be taken, but this takes up space in your pack and you have the risk of the bottle breaking or leaking.

The internet has a wonderful ability to read your mind. Much of the spam I receive these days is related to incontinence products. Nappies and other devices seem to have uncanny ability to absorb liquid. But none of these devices seem appropriate to use when caving. However, the use of an absorbent material to safely immobilise liquid seemed like a good idea to me.

I consulted my friendly local chemical supply company for advice on gelling agents, carefully avoiding telling them what I was doing. They recommended methyl cellulose. This compound is a white powder but it has a strong ability to absorb water to form a gel. It is also added to some foods. For example, gluten free bread often contains methyl cellulose to prevent it crumbling.

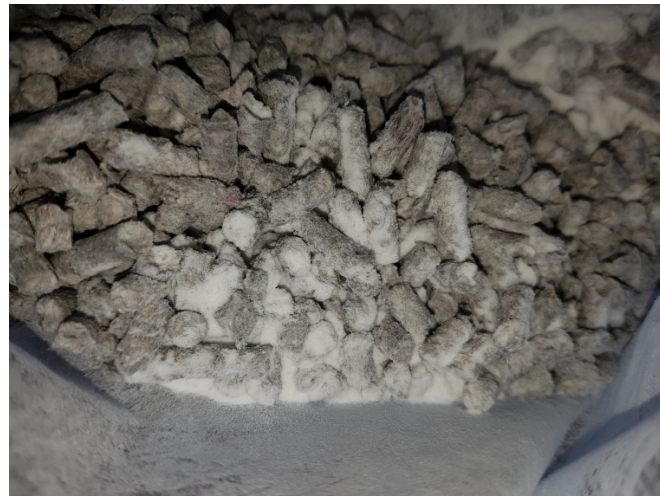
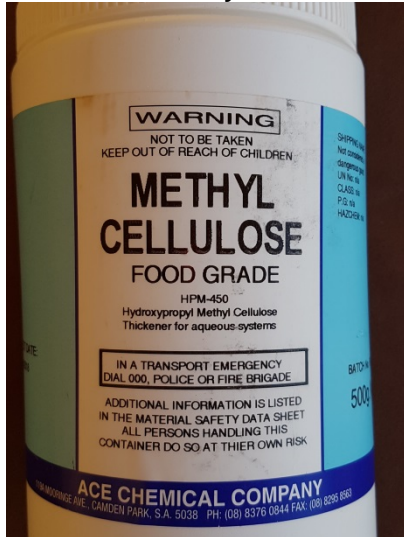
I spent significant effort, and significant pennies, in testing various mixtures containing methyl cellulose. My research finally came up with the following;

The Cave P-Bag

Ingredients:

- 10 grams (2 heaped teaspoons) of methyl cellulose.
- 50 grams (2 heaped soup spoons) of paper based cat litter.
- 2 ziplock plastic sandwich bags.

The ingredients are double bagged in the ziplock bags. The bag weight is only about 60 grams so several can easily be carried into the cave.



Using a P-Bag

Before use the bag is shaken to mix the ingredients. During use the bag should be gently squeezed to ensure that the contents and liquid are mixed. After use carefully squeeze out the air and seal both ziplock bags. If liquid is visible a few more squeezes should ensure good mixing and absorption. Used bags can be placed in another large Ziplock bag to give more security.

I found that one bag was ability to stabilise up to about 400 ml, larger than the average P in my view. However, I would recommend using more than one bag if an extreme situation makes it necessary. Remember, bags are small and light, so carrying several into the cave is not a problem.

Happy and comfortable caving.

Ken Smith.

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CEGSA/Scout Caving Group's Mark Corbett modelling a newly-designed Curramulka tee-shirt featuring famous Yorke Peninsula locations only known to cavers.

Great to see a very creative and different depiction of those twisty knobbly dusty but loveable locations throughout Corra-Lynn Cave at Curramulka!

The names of these places within the cave started with the Adelaide Bushwalkers in the 1950's and have been added to ever since as we roamed the vast imponderables.

Ian Lewis.

Cavers visit local site

BY ANDREW LODIONG

Naracoorte Herald, Naracoorte SA 10 Aug 2017

INTERNATIONAL cavers converged on the Naracoorte Caves on Wednesday to get a closer look at what the national park has to offer. A mixed group of about seven foreign and Australian-based cavers who have a geology background made the journey to town for a palaeontology field trip. The group decided to visit the world-heritage listed site off the back of hearing expert researchers speak at an international caving congress in Sydney.

Douglas Irvin, who made the trip from the NSW capital as part of the tour group, couldn't pass up the chance to see the caves in Naracoorte. "The Naracoorte Caves are the premier palaeontology site in a cave in Australia, it's just massive," Mr Irvin said. "There's a huge amount of material here." He along with the others got the chance to see some deep caves and observe dig sites during their stay. Mr Irvin said the rest of the group members who included representatives from Brazil, Italy, Germany and New Zealand enjoyed their experience. "They were impressed," he said. "All their caves are different from the European ones."

Members were guided by Naracoorte Lucindale Council's Steve Bourne (a former caves manager) and vertebrate palaeontologist Dr Liz Reed throughout their visit. Mr Irvin said he would return with useful information to a cave located in North Queensland where he helps palaeontologists to unearth and study bones in the site. "I'll go back with new knowledge and things to look for and do our best to help scientists," he said. "It's the same for everyone, we just wanted to see how things were different here."

The group will continue their tour of the South East this week and will travel to Mount Gambier today before a few members go to Cairns. "Anyone coming from Europe, it's a long way to come and they have to see as much as they can" Mr Irvin said. People can now book and pay for selected guided tours online. Visitors who prefer to make decisions on the day can still purchase tours and book campsites in person.



Cave visitors: Roberto Conti (left), Olga Lucherini (Italy) and Stephan Kempe (Germany) inspect Victoria Fossil Cave fossil deposit.

(Reprinted with permission from The Naracoorte Herald)

FUSSI PROGRAMME

Note: FUSSI holds a general get together/meeting on the Third Thursday of each month except where notified. Programme subject to change.

MID-YEAR BREAK: July 3rd – 24th

Thu 13th -16th July:	Flinders Ranges trip	Expect lots of walking, caving and other fun stuff. Suitable for all. BYO Hot water bottle. Clare Coordinating.
Thu 27th July:	7pm Workshop	Using Nesty and Other Methods of Self Rescue. Noel Stockdale Room, Flinders Uni Library. 6:30pm Executive Meeting.
Sun 30th Jul:	SRT Training	9-4pm Clare & Heiko's shed. Pulleys and Pickoffs, Cheese and Coffee.
Thu 17th Aug:	General meeting	7pm - Clean up the Library & the Pizzas. On campus; at the Club Store, under the Union Hub. A social activity of a sort. 6:30pm Executive Meeting.
Sat 19th - 20th Aug:	Search and Rescue Practice	Flinders Ranges. A hands-on weekend. Putting the Theory into practice. Weekend Coordinators: Dee, Tania, Clare
Sun 27th Aug:	Stretcher lifts and pickoffs	10-4pm Car Crash Corner, Old Belair Road. TBC. Clare, Dee, and Tania Coordinating
Sun 10th Sep:	Yorke Peninsula	Explore Corra Lynn cave. BYO lunch and knee pads for a fun day. Suitable for all. Thomas Coordinating
Thu 21st Sep:	General meeting	7pm Guest Speaker/Presentation. Nullarbor, exploration, flint and other rocks. Speaker to be confirmed. Noel Stockdale Rm Main Library. Flinders Uni. 7pm
Sat 30th Sep:	Bunnings BBQ	8:15am – 4:30pm Fund Raiser. Setup starts at 8:15am, selling starts at 9am. At 4pm we are free to stop selling; we start the clean up. From 9am until 2:30pm we will need your help.

MID-SEMESTER BREAK: Sept 18th – Oct 3rd

Thu 19th Oct:	Library and pizza night	7pm - Clean up the Library & the Pizzas. On campus; at the Club Store, under the Union Hub. A social activity of a sort. 6:30pm Executive Meeting.
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Looking ahead...

Sat 3rd - 11th Feb:	Buchan or Yagby trip	TBC by the FUSSI committee.
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CEGSA members are welcome to attend. Contact Mark Sefton or Neville Skinner.

CEGSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
23/08/17	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Ian Lewis
26/08/17	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/09/17	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
27/09/17	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Ian Lewis
30/09/17	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
30/08-02/09/17		Labour Day long weekend	
??/10/17	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
25/10/17	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Ian Lewis
28/10/17	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/11/17	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
08/11/17	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
22/11/17	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. End of year BBQ	Ian Lewis
25/11/17	Working Bee	Library and Records	Graham Pilkington
??/12/17	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
27/12/17	NO General Meeting	NO GENERAL MEETING	Ian Lewis
	Caving	Ongoing Vic Fossil survey	Gary Woodcock
	Caving	Continuing Fleurieu Peninsula Exploration	Grant Gartrell

****Extra trips will be notified in the Calendar on the Website or at General Meetings****

To be covered by insurance it is mandatory that caving trips involving club members must be registered as CEGSA Trips. To do this, the nature and timing of the trip must be entered in the Calendar of events in CEGSA NEWS, minuted at a General Meeting of Members or entered in the Website Calendar. 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.