

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>

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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Website Trip Log	All Trip Coordinators	See list p89

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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: Rescue Stretcher. (see article p83)

Photo: Matt Smith.

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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 64 Number 1 (Issue 253) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **20th FEBRUARY 2019**. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue. The preferred method is via E-MAIL to atholjax@adam.com.au as an attachment or on a memory stick or CD, in Word *.doc(x) or *.rtf files. Of course other forms of communication will still be gratefully accepted. Photographs are preferred to be in colour as separate files and note in the article where to be inserted. (*.jpg format under 500Kb unless for the cover). The views expressed in this publication are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc., its Committee or the Editor.



PRESIDENTS SPOT

Recently the CEGSA Committee held a combined meeting with FUSSI and Scout Caving Group representatives to discuss our possible plans for hosting the 2021 ASF Conference. A suggestion had been floated some months ago that the conference have a Nullarbor focus for its field trips, with a venue heading in that direction on the map. Was this concept feasible?

After much discussion and giving consideration to an Adelaide venue with several convenient aspects of organisation, we decided that indeed a *regional* conference and venue was worth pursuing. CEGSA and FUSSI in the past have hosted very successful regional ASF Conferences in Goolwa, Quorn and Mount Gambier, showing that a regional venue is well worthwhile. The Mount Gambier ASF Conference resulted in the largest attendance ever experienced at an ASF conference! Indeed, CEGSA's first national conference was run in Adelaide 1956/57 where the ASF was inaugurated, triggering a series of major Nullarbor Caves expeditions in the following decade.

Steve Milner now lives in Ceduna and presented a solid case for suggesting that location, also being a springboard for Nullarbor field trips and smaller Eyre Peninsula ones in a region rarely visited. He has already sounded out some members of the Ceduna community and organisations and received quite favourable responses. He pointed out that to plan, prepare and run such a conference at this location would require a 'Project Management approach'! The meeting agreed that Ceduna is the go. Currently much thought is being given to the multiple roles required for a national conference to be organised and successfully implemented, and a call will go out over the summer months for people of the South Australian caving community to offer their particular skills.

As the Nullarbor (and Ceduna) are pretty hot places in early January, our proposal is to run the Ceduna conference and subsequent field trips at and past Easter 2021 when the weather is cooler but pleasant. Some initial thoughts have been given to a Nullarbor speleo-guidebook for the field trips, perhaps all the more relevant as it is 50 years since a major publication on the Nullarbor Caves – John Dunkley and Tom Wigley's 'Caves of the Nullarbor' – was published. Much has been learned since then, including the entire cave diving discoveries and records, the amazing cliff cave discoveries and the *slight* extension of a tiny pothole in the remote regions, Old Homestead Cave! We see also the potential for good scientific observations across the region capitalising on a number of caving groups operating in different regions of the Plain at the same time.

So all is looking very interesting and the hard part of assembling a management team and the forward planning is about to begin after the Tasmanian Conference in 6 weeks' time. What a contrast in conferences – from Tassie (compact, vertical, wet, forested, lots of calcite pretties) to the Nullarbor (vast, horizontal, semi-arid, endless salt bush and bluebush, a fascinating variety of halite pretties)! It is well overdue to put the Nullarbor Plain and Caves on show to the world, and we hope to attract international visitors for that very reason! Please consider offering to help in this exciting undertaking in whatever way that you can feel you can contribute, in small or large measure. Thank you Steve for putting in the preliminary scoping that allowed us to all agree this is an innovative location and conference program!

Cheers to all from Ian (and for Xmas too)

%%%%%%%%%

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date for the Annual General Meeting has been provisionally set for February 9th.

Unfortunately at the time of printing the newsletter the place and time for the AGM had not been finalised. These details will be advised to the members when they are available.

Would all office bearers please have their reports for the Annual Report to the Editor by Saturday January 26th 2019

TRIP REPORTS

Nullarbor Trip to Western Australia

18 Days July 7th – 24th July 2018. Seven Bitumen Days, Eleven Field Days.

CEGSA members-- George & June MacLucas & Peter Hawkes.

Highland Caving Group – Ian Lutherborra. The instigator of this trip, who was out in the field before us and stayed out there after we left & Cathy Brown, her trip was just a little longer than us CEGSA members.

Six N number Caves visited were N55, N79, N322, N329, N1655, N1656.

Thirty Three NX numbers visited NX L18041 To O74, the “L” is for Lutherborra .

Peter and I in our two cars agreed to cancel our plan to go up Madura Pass to Old Coach Road – and instead go up the Wylie Scarp to save 75 Km towards our agreed meeting with Ian Lutherborra near dog fence between Mundrabilla and Madura Station on the Western side of the fence.

This track up the pass is called Moodini Pass. It was night time and Peter led the way. He has no roof rack. I had water above, two spare tyres and a tent. With the bad condition of the track and my car swaying from left to right, thank goodness I never lost traction, because over twenty years ago in north Flinders I had an experience of a loss of traction on the side of a hill. Did not roll but the vehicle slid a bit. Hence it was quite scary. Historically I had my front diff changed to automatic Locking differential, (short nick name dog clutch), so as the vehicle swayed I maintained forward traction. When we got to the top, we camped for the night.



Photo 1 June MacLucas and Peter Hawkes looking down on Moodina Pass Track.
Note At lower edge there is a 30m drop.

Next morning we walked down part of the way of the track (see photo 1) where June and Peter are enjoying view. I took photo and thank goodness it was in the dark last night, as where the photo ends on the right, there is a thirty metre drop.

A farmer friend of mine in Ceduna says the track was built over 100 Years ago and they use to breed horses up on the plain above for the First World War effort.

To get to the track, there is a fence crossing not like any I have seen before. Most ingenious and involved a 90 degree tube with lever lifting the wires to make a clearway.



Photo 2 N79 June with chamber in background.

As we were early for our appointed meeting time, we went looking and found N79. A large chamber 40 meter long and 15 metres width (see photo 2). 30 meter away was a blow hole. June and Peter went down (see photo 3). Peter extended the crawl which was away from the main cave, but have since been told it is part of the main cave because of cap rock. Anyway we filled out a survey sheet.



Photo 3 N79 June in blowhole on wire ladder that is 30 metre from main chamber.



Photo 4- Section of new Dog Fence.

Photo 4 is a section of a new dog fence. Mundrabilla Station on far side, Madura Station on lee side of photo. Later in trip moving over to the west we moved into Kybo Station property, then when we moved above railway line we were on Gunda-Dora Station.

They are winning with the dingo fence and baiting as we did not see any dingoes in our trip. Talking of Canine critters, Ian from NSW brought his Jack Russel (Jessie) who when near a dingo fence had to have a muzzle on, to avoid the risk of perhaps grazing to a Dingo bait, as it is on the fence line that they put out the baits.

On the animal life, there was a large range of different kangaroos, but the big reds are the most majestic. Saw some bustard birds, even an emu that was interested in what June was doing behind a bush. The echidnas we saw were quite large and quills were a rich brown tapered to a light colour. All but one of the stations had cattle. Below the now gone Haig town is Moonera Station and they had sheep.



Photo 5 Ian's Drone.

Ian gave us a demonstration of his Drone which he uses to check a far away check point. (See photo 5).

The information for where to look for the rock caves and depressions where the NX numbers found is from work that Paul Devine (ex member, now deceased) did on Satellite images and passed on information to Ian Lutherborra. Some tight crawl, other nice small restful chambers.

An old cave number N329 was found by Harry Butler who later became a TV commentator on Nature Of Australia. He called it Vincent Cave as Vincent was

manager of the station at that time.

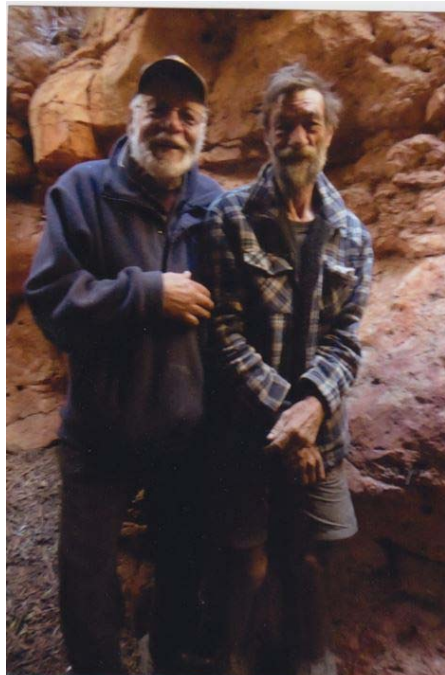


Photo 6 George and Ian in a NX cave.



Photo 7 June, Peter, Cathy at NX water hole with greenery growing. Peter sighted a small fish.

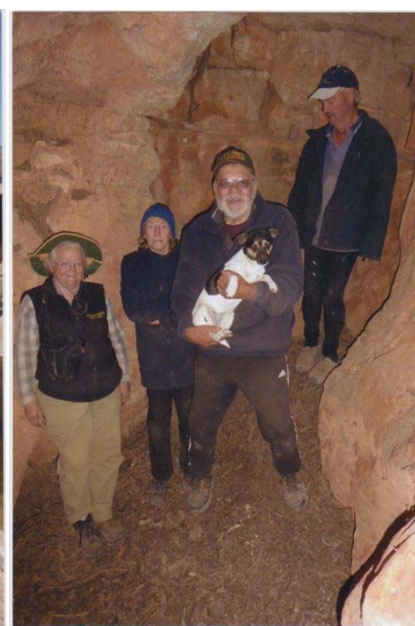


Photo 8- Cathy, June, George (holding Jessie), Peter in a NX cave. (photo by Ian).



Photo 9 George struggling (some holes are smaller than others).

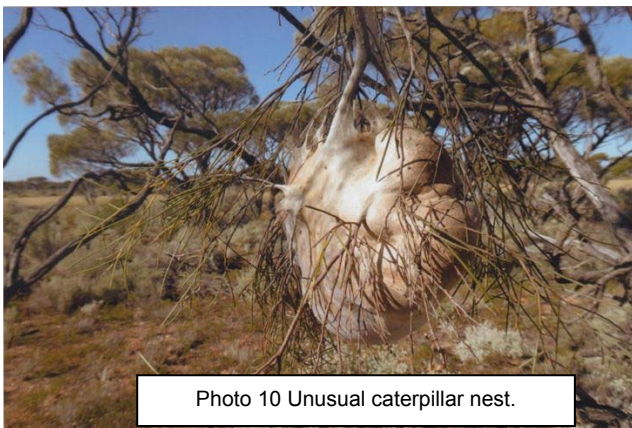


Photo 10 Unusual caterpillar nest.



Photo 11 N322 Many swallows cave, the pink strap has the reader for temperature and humidity. This is one of three readers in the cave that Ian is monitoring.



Photo 12 N55 Haig Cave Cathy on left, George centre and Peter on right.



Photo 13 N55 Haig Cave George peering down.



Photo 14 At old township where Haig was with train



Photo 15 June on Nullarbor rail line doing her tourist shot.

George MacLucas.

TRIP REPORT LOWER SOUTH EAST

Caves visited L38, L260

Date 25 August 2018

Party CEGSA – Kevin Mott, Fred Aslin, Patrick Fitzgerald
SA Police – Michael Ringshaw, Grant Moyle, Blane Combarngo

Michael manages the Noorla Yo Long camp site at Rendelsham and made enquiries through CEGSA to find out if Rendelsham Caves would be suitable for a caving activity as part of the camps run at Noorla Yo Long. When the camp was first established in 1995 the cave was excluded from camp activities.

During the morning Patrick led the group and a reporter from the Border Watch through the cave. They looked at the entrance chamber and explored the lower levels in the north eastern section. There was an area in that part of the cave that was not fully mapped and the exploratory push showed there was only about 30m of cave left to be surveyed. This section of the cave would be suitable for caving activities by the camp. The group noted that about 70 Southern Bentwing bats were roosting in the main chamber. There was also a guano pile under a roof dome that was now too wet for them.

In the afternoon a survey of the unmapped section was commenced using a disto. Sections through the main chamber were also done. A traverse tying the levels of L38 and L260 together was also surveyed.

From the visit and discussions with the Police it was agreed that portion of L38 not containing bats would be suitable for a caving activity for the camp. The best access would be through the L38 entrance tube leaving the larger window unobstructed for the bats. Further survey work would be done to finalise the mapping the north east section and a new extension found off the main chamber. At this stage L260 would not be used for caving activities by the camp.

A report of the trip with recommendations was submitted to Noorla Yo Long Camp.

Kevin Mott

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Search & Rescue Weekend September 8-9 2018

Attendees

22 cavers attended the weekend, consisting of mostly FUSSI and Scout Caving Group members, as well as a few CEGSA members.

The weekend was held at 5Y1 Corra-Lynn Cave, with the Curramulka Football Club used for accommodation.

Feedback sheet

Saturday AM - short scenarios

Summary: A series of short scenarios mostly based around either setting up a communication device, or constructing a stretcher.





Scenarios included:

- Rigging a stretcher using only what you have in your car or around the cave entrance.
- Setting up number cave radio devices.
- Playing with an actual rescue stretcher.

Saturday PM - full Mock Search & Rescue

Summary: *Casualty lost in the cave somewhere on the way to Crystal Chamber. Team to locate the casualty, set up communications and then extract with the stretcher. Casualty was found at bottom of Rope Crevass, treated and extracted via Ramshorn. Group split into 4 teams - two search teams, one communications team, and one hauling team.*

Feedback:

- Casualty was found quite quickly.
- So quickly that Mitchie communications was hard to setup effectively.
- CB Radio seemed to work quite well too, which combined with the casualty being relatively close to the entrance made the Mitchie radio somewhat redundant.
- Being a large rescue group, in a relatively confined part of the cave also made communication difficult - some "chinese whispers".
- Getting the stretcher up Ramshorn was a challenge, though in the end was a relatively simple exercise. Have a couple of practice lifts up it was very useful.

Sunday PM - partial Mock Search & Rescue - treatment & haul only

Summary: *Casualty was injured near Grand Central having fallen from the stick in The Cauldron, and was required to be treated and extracted from the cave. Communication wasn't required to be setup, nor was a search needed. Group split into two - one team to treat the casualty (made up of members with medical training) and the other team being largely logistics and hauling.*

Feedback:

- Communications much smoother with less people in the team.
- Hauling more difficult to manage with smaller team, with constant need to shuffle team members.
- The path from Grand Central has some interesting challenges in regards to the shape of the tunnels. One section is with quite a low roof, which another the opposite.
- A technique was used where the stretcher was passed over the top of the extraction team who were lying on the ground. It worked, but was much harder than expected! Upon reflection we think we were doing it wrong!

Matt Smith.

%%%%%%%%%

A Long Awaited trip to A5

There we all were at ten on a Sunday morning, Grant, Frank, Sarah, Neville, Thomas, Tania and I standing around with a pile of ladders and ropes at the top of the A5 gated entrance, seriously contemplating a long and further procrastinating coffee down the road, rather than visit what I remember as a dangerous, rock spitting, unstable hole in the hill. Grant showed us the map of the joint, and Frank knew which pitch was what, but that still did not ease my memories of the last time I had visited A5, 20 years ago. It is a narrow, mostly vertical, mostly dug and blasted out cave system, which gives the concept of close encounters with rocks a whole new meaning. Read, rocks that fall on you, sharp, painful ladder pitches and generally nasty stuff. All 70 metres or so of it.



Sarah and Grant and a dead ladder at the top of A5.
Photo : Thomas Varga.



Sarah on the Bottom Pitch. Photo

Ok, so I stood around thinking that it could only get better after all these years. Mmm. Thomas rigged the first ladder pitch which starts after a short 3 metre climb down, after the narrow entrance gate. It has a hand line in place, which is useful on exiting. The ladder needed here was 8m in length, we rigged a rope with the intention of using it as a belay line, but as all of us are SRT skilled we abseiled the pitch, coming out near the top of the next pitch. The first 8m pitch is a narrow, vertical for the first 5 metres and then it becomes a sloping tube affair rather than a nice open, clean walled, vertical, enjoy the view type of event. The pitch is now stable and well-worn given that time and visitation have mellowed it. The ladder came in handy

so one could stand on it about 3m from the top and haul bags of gear up and down it.

After a short scramble, you are soon at the next pitch, which is similar to the first as you are essentially continuing in the same rift. At the top of the second pitch we ditched all the ladders and continued on via abseiling and SRT. Thomas and Sarah rigged, continuing with the same rope from the first pitch. Grant and Frank had told us that lots of digging gear, rotting ladders and buckets remained in the cave and these we found at the start of the second pitch. Previous diggers had carried in bags of quick-set cement to stabilize sections of the dig. They were following breezes that came from further down.

At the top of the third pitch, Neville and I caught up with Sarah and Thomas with the much needed second rope. This third pitch requires a redirection to get the rope off a nasty overhang. The rope is rigged, back onto some boulders about 3 metres from the pitch edge, and a safety line is needed here to reduce the risk of problems on the redirection

over the overhang. The redirection was set

using the rope coming down from the second pitch. After a lot of rope wrangling, lunch and general chatter we continued on. The third pitch is a true pitch, in that it is a clear drop of about 10 metres. It ends with a 3-4 metre scramble down a narrow tube to the top of the last pitch.

This pitch has a ladder bolted into the wall. The top of the ladder, well at the first half a dozen rungs, seem to be in good order but trusting it is open to question. We tied the rope into the bolt, setting a rebelay back up the narrow tube. Rigging here is not easy due to the unknown ages of the bolt and ladders. There is no second bolt here to set a true Y anchor as would be normal practice at pitch head, so tying back is important. Thomas moved on down the last pitch which is a wide but narrow rift. It requires one to think about placement of your body or you will jam. About half way down, are some unstable rocks that block part of the rift. You need to keep right, (as you descend), make sure you don't get stuck and not put your feet on any of these rocks. Thomas got most of the way down, past the rocks and then ran out of rope. This put him about five metres from the floor of

the rift. At this point, the walkie talkies got a workout and we were all able to decide that with the narrowness of the rift, we could chimney down it to reach the floor. By around 4pm we had all reached the bottom of the rift. Neville started disconnecting the bottom ladder that went down a few meters to the end of the dig. This bottom section of the cave is well decorated and moving around here required care. At 4.30 we started back up, with Sarah leading the way. The bottom pitch was just as bad going up as it was going down it. Keeping away from the rocks that partially block the rift means going gently and with caution, once past them you have to make sure you don't jam up your chest ascender as you are hard up against the rock and there is not much space between your back and 'wall' of the rift.

We hauled up the rotting ladder that Neville had disconnected and then at the top of the bottom pitch rolled up the ladder that was in place. We would have taken it out, but had nothing to get the maillons undone that attached it to the bolt. The ladder must be removed as it is rotten at its bottom end.



Clare, about to run out of rope, on the Bottom Pitch.

From then on it was the grunt of derigging and bag hauling. We finally reached the surface at 7pm to find Grant, Frank and Tania waiting for us. They helped us carry gear back to the cars, and after a bit of a debrief and gear sort we all turned for home.

It was a long arduous day, nine hours, of hauling gear, rigging, avoiding bits of cave that like you a bit too much and trying hard not to think about bolts and rust encrusted attachment points. There remains a lot of work to be done and whether you want to take on a couple of months of weekly trips, leaving it rigged, at least the bottom sections, and seriously move stuff is something you may want to ask someone else.

Many thanks to Neville, Frank and Grant for organising the day. Huge thanks to Tania being our on-site safety person and big thanks to all the rest of us for the work out. Not sure that we have managed to delete the memories of some of the worst parts of it yet. Spent many hours digging, cementing, moving rocks and dirt around. As for all those who have when I build my next mud brick house I will keep you all in mind.

Rigging details: 2 x 50m ropes will just do it if you rig sparingly. Better if you have 1 x 50m and another at say 60m. Numerous tapes to set up anchors, and redirections. An 8m ladder for the first pitch is useful to help stand on whilst hauling gear up and down. If you are going to haul out dead gear, rotting ladders and old ropes then you are going to need some extra ropes to haul stuff up pitches. Each gear bag could use a tail rope to help keep it from getting jammed on things. This will make life a bit easier.

Note: this cave is no place for a beginner as real care is needed on body placement, particularly on the bottom pitch. You can't afford to stuff up any SRT, as getting to another on any of the ropes is nigh impossible.

Clare Buswell

Reprinted from FUSSI 30 – 3 - 18

Past Trips from General Meetings

August 2018

- **CEGSA** members took Mercedes College students to Corra-Lynn in August.
- The **Scout Caving Group** visited Corra-Lynn cave in August, having to run a low key search & rescue when one of the groups got lost.
- **Chris Blok** visited caves in the Torrens region. Found a small cave 9m deep and 12m long. Also found a sand filled sinkhole. Another hole was found near Stuarts Creek. Some excavation will be needed on these caves.
- **Neville Skinner** reported that FUSSE visited A5 cave at Sellicks Hill. It was a very long day, and some of the old ladders were removed from the cave.

September 2018

- **Frank Hankinson** spoke about a recent trip to Warraweena, however no caves were found.
- **Matt Smith** talked about a Search & Rescue weekend held at Corra-Lynn cave with 20 people made up of members from FUSSE, CEGSA and the Scout Caving Group. The weekend was a great success, and a educational experience for all those who attended. A similar weekend is being planned for the 25th and 26th of August in 2019.

October 2018

- **Mike Snow** mentioned that Peter Bridge discovered in Petrogale Cave a lot of material with acid phosphates inside. One mineral was identified - a Magnesium Phosphate Oxylate. Very few examples of these types of minerals.
- **Graham Pilkington** visited the Nullarbor, mainly reflection/refraction seismic surveys with Kathy from MSS. Also more surveys were conducted in Old Homestead and Thampana Cave.
- **Neville Skinner** visited China and was fortunate enough to meet up with and have lunch with a group of the local cavers in Nanning. Visited several caves in the Bama, Sanmenhai & Fengshan areas and noted that the caves were huge, and have potential to be some of the biggest in the world. Also checked out one of the largest sinkholes in the world - the Dashiwei Tiankeng. Neville happy to present to the group next year.
- **Chris Blok** visited *Stuarts Creek* near Andamooka. Trip was largely unsuccessful, cave that was thought to be filled with sand is further filled with dirt and rock. A second cave visited was also filled with rocks. Will return in the future to do some further excavation.

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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 March 31st.

Joining fee applies after March 31st.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2019 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 2019 YEAR

Single	\$ 63.00
Family	114.00
3 Month Introductory	20.00
Journal Subscription	25.00

2019 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	+ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$45.00	\$ 63.00	\$108.00
Full Country Membership	39.00	63.00	102.00
Associate Membership	37.00	63.00	100.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00

Variation for Family Membership

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member	\$90.00	\$114.00	\$204.00
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member	\$82.00	\$114.00	\$196.00
1 st Assoc Member + 2 nd Assoc Member	\$74.00	\$114.00	\$187.00

Discount for Country Membership applies for Family Memberships.

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.

Graham Pilkington. Membership Officer.

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

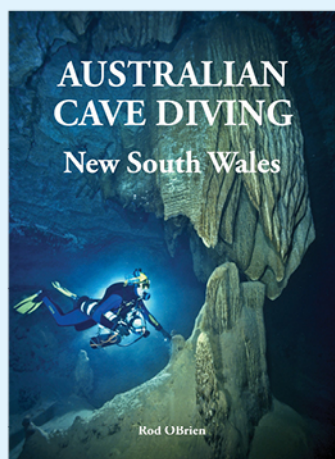
Name	Caving Leader level
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Co-ordinator
Paul Harper	Horizontal and Laddering
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Kraehenbuehl	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Ian Lewis	Horizontal and Laddering
George MacLucas	Horizontal, 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
Neville Skinner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Matt Smith	Horizontal and Laddering
Tom Szabo	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. Trip Leaders are expected to maintain their First Aid training.

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AUSTRALIAN CAVE DIVING: New South Wales

By Rod O'Brien

Published August 2018, Paperback

This 288 page book describes cave diving and its history in New South Wales, Australia. It is full colour throughout with 254 photos including 58 historical photos from the 1950s, and 51 maps. Chapters include Cave Diver Training, Cave Diving Equipment and detailed descriptions of cave diving at 15 caving areas in New South Wales.

\$60

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UPCOMING EVENT

Sunday 30th December 2018 – Friday 4th January 2019

31st ASF Conference

Devonport, Tasmania



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Beneath
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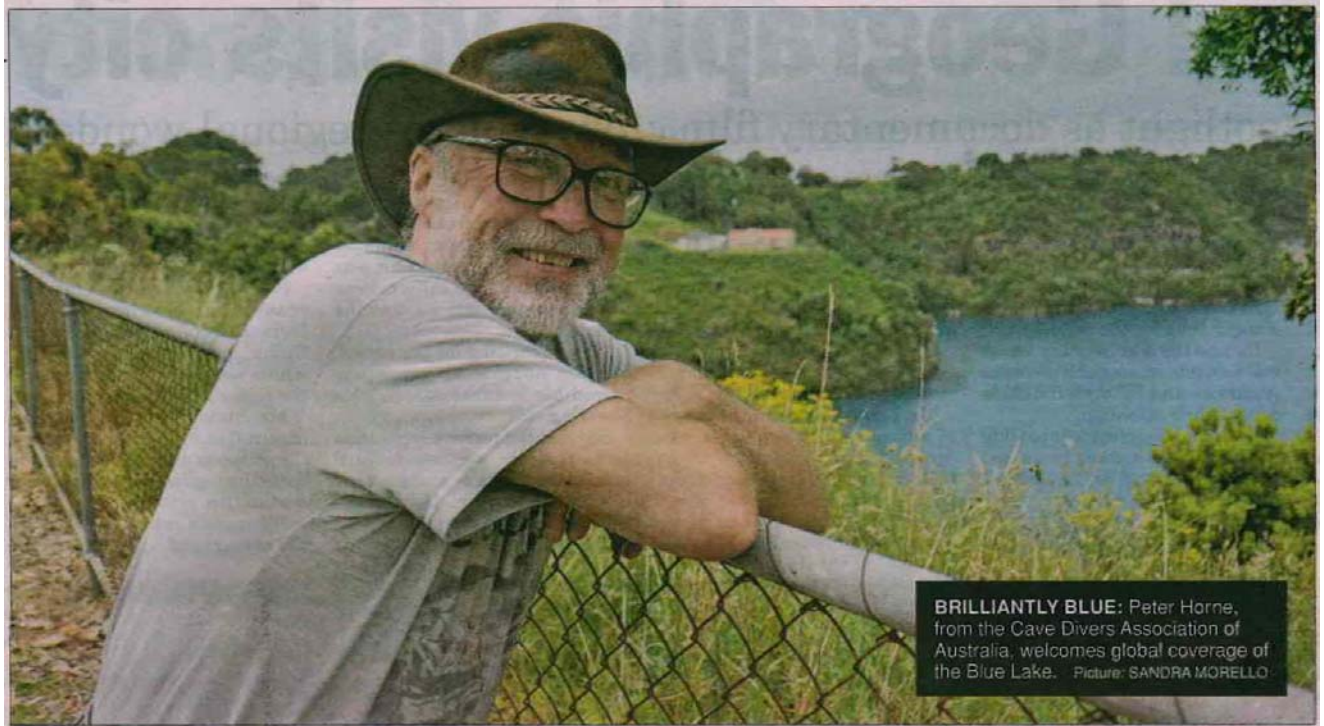


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Photo Credits: David Wools-Cobb



City in Spotlight

National Geographic explores Mount Gambier wonder as coverage expected to catapult tourism opportunities

The Mount Gambier district's spectacular network of natural wonders is driving an upswing in global tourism, which is throwing the Blue Lake city onto the international map. The region's burgeoning tourism sector is evident with the arrival of the world renowned film crew from National Geographic in the city yesterday.

Its coverage is expected to catapult Mount Gambier into the spotlight given its reach as a global storyteller amid what appears to be a growing interest in the region's patchwork of unique sinkholes and volcanoes. It is understood the documentary featuring the Blue Lake and Kilsby's Sinkhole will be potentially aired to millions of people across the world. Some of Australia's most renowned cave divers and hydrogeology experts were among identities who took part in yesterday's filming at our city's iconic lake.

Figures show the Limestone Coast visitor economy is worth \$324m, with around 600,000 tourists flowing into the region last financial year. Around 46,000 of these visitors were international tourists.

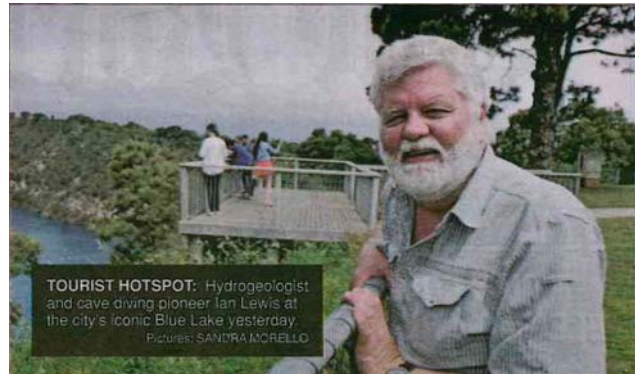
Cave diving pioneer and hydrogeologist Ian Lewis - who is considered a trailblazer in the cave diving fraternity said the arrival of National Geographic was a major coup for the region. He said the documentary series was focusing on amazing places in Australia and Kilsby's Sinkhole caught their attention. "National Geographic is looking at things that are really unique in Australia and doing a small number of documentaries," Mr Lewis said. He understood National Geographic had not been to Mount Gambier since the 1980s, when it showcased Piccaninnie Ponds in its magazine. "While that was for a print article, this is now for television - this means the Blue Lake will go global Mr Lewis said. He revealed the film crew was "goggle-eyed" by the breathtaking view of the Blue Lake. Mr Lewis said the network of sinkholes in the region was "unique" across the world. He suggested the Blue Lake could be promoted more given some of the film crew had never heard of the natural asset before taking the assignment.

Limestone Coast Local Government Association tourism industry development manager Biddie Shearing said she was thrilled such a high calibre documentary maker was visiting the region. "This is exciting for the region, but not surprising given our incredible natural assets," Ms Shearing said. She said the region's reputation across the globe as an

international tourist destination was growing thanks to a multi-platform strategy flowing from the region. The tourism industry leader said the councils across the region were working to promote the Limestone Coast internationally, which was now the most visited region outside of Adelaide. She revealed the region was recording an upswing in visitors from Europe, United States, China, India and New Zealand, which was fuelling an upturn in the region's visitor economy.

Ms Shearing said Tourism Mount Gambier and SA Tourism Commission were also working to build the region as a major tourist destination.

"There is a real team effort in the background," she added.



Sandra Morello (Border Watch)

Reprinted with permission from "The Border Watch" Wednesday Nov 14 2018

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Guano Mining in the Flinders Ranges

Neville Skinner sent me the second article on Guano mines of the Flinders. After more searching of old newspapers I discovered the first article. (ed)

GUANO CAVES NEAR BLINMAN.

BLINMAN June 17. Captain F. W. Montague, the discoverer of the Carrieton guano caves, has been prospecting in the north and north-east for the Nitrogen Fertiliser Company. He has visited a large tract of country, and has discovered a series of guano caves four miles south-west from Blinman and 24 miles from Parachilna, on the Great Northern line. He describes the caves as equal to any yet discovered. Samples taken by him gave 79 per cent, phosphate, 5.55 per cent, nitrogen, 9.20 per cent, potash. He has penetrated the caves in a southerly direction for 400 ft. It is 22 years since Captain Montague was last here dismantling the old original mining plant for the Clara St. Dora' Mining Company. It is 50 years since he first came to the Blinman. A number of old Blinman people met Mr. Montague, and a pleasant evening was spent. Work will commence at the caves as soon as the necessary plant can be procured. Rain is badly needed in this district.

THE GUANO CAVES.

VISIT OF INSPECTION.

AN INTERESTING JOURNEY.

(By a Special Correspondent.)

Much interesting information was given in 'The Chronicle' recently concerning the discovery of several large caves containing guano deposits near Carrieton. The owners, Nitrogen Ltd., are now marketing this high-grade fertiliser for intense culture of all kinds including horticultural purposes. Those who have studied the possibilities of the new industry are optimistic concerning the benefit that will accrue to the State. Mr. A. R. G. Fearby, managing director of Nitrogen Ltd., extended an invitation to Mr. F. L. Parsons, managing director of Parsons and Robertson, Ltd., to inspect the Buckalowie cave in the vicinity named. Mr. Parsons boarded the East-West train on Sunday, July 9, and Carrieton was reached the same evening. They were met by the manager of the caves (Mr. Giles), and spent the night at Carrieton. The means of transit between the caves and Carrieton is by a half-ton Ford truck, which is used for light haulage as well as for transport.

An early start was made on Monday morning a call being made on Mr. J. W. Hardy, of Pamatta station, who is a director of the company. Buckalowie is about 30 miles from Carrieton, and it was reached about 11 o'clock. The tunnel or drive to the cave is about 90 ft long, and a belt conveyor, capable of handling 18 tons of guano per hour is being installed. At the end of the conveyor is an elevator which transfers the guano from that part of the cave to the conveyor. The conveyor belt will deposit the guano into a substantial shed situated in an elevated position, so that the bagging can be done by gravitation. From the floor of this shed the bags can be dispatched by means of a chute to the waggons for cartage to the Carrieton railway-station. The work done has been of a most substantial nature, and high-class labour-saving machinery is employed. Buckalowie comprises a group of caves. No. 2 entrance is about half a mile from the drive. All the caves inspected contain an enormous amount of guano. Near the No. 2 entrance, if one is inclined to take a plunge and swim a few yards, beautiful stalactites may be seen. As the weather was extremely cold the opportunity was allowed to pass.

Monday night was spent at Pamatta station. Mr. Parsons intended to return to the city, but having found Buckalowie so interesting, he accepted Mr. Fearby's invitation to go to Blinman and see the new cave there. A start was made in the morning, with Mr. J. W. Hardy, for Hawker, about 30 miles away. The car was put on a truck, and the journey from Hawker to Parachilna was made by train. Mr. Middleton, superintendent of the extreme northern section of the railways, joined the party, having been instructed to inspect the new cave at Blinman to report on the quantity of material likely to be transported on the railway. As the car was only capable of taking four on the front seat, another seat had to be placed on the luggage. A 20-mile run from Parachilna through a most beautiful gorge, rising about 1,403 ft. brought the party to a position overlooking Blinman, which is celebrated for its goats. There are old and deserted copper mines at Blinman. The party picked up Mr. Allan Sinclair, chairman of directors of Nitrogen, Ltd., and the night was spent in the town. Wednesday morning was very frosty, but an early start was made as almost impassable country had to be negotiated for a distance of about four miles to reach the cave. A boy who assisted in the inspection of the caves was taken on the car, so that the party consisted of seven persons, or about half a ton of human freight, and seven or eight cwt. of luggage. Breakfast was taken in true bush fashion. The chops cooked on an improvised fence wire grid were greatly appreciated. The subsequent inspection of the cave was full of interest, and the value of this new industry was very apparent. It was necessary to scramble down vertically about 16 ft., and after going about 20 ft. one had to twist and wriggle to reach the large portion of the cave. A guide line was provided, and after proceeding about 60 ft. a small opening had to be entered. One had to go backwards and make full use of the hands to squeeze through for a distance of 12 ft. Needless to say the biggest member of the party had what sympathy could be spared by the other members.

From this opening the cave ran in 100 ft., and without doubt in future other openings will be discovered leading into further caves. The deposit here differed somewhat from that of Buckalowie, and to the layman appeared to be exceedingly rich. After spending some time in the cave, Mr. Fearby, with his manager, being desirous of making an examination of the surrounding country, Mr. Parsons undertook to drive Mr. Sinclair back to Blinman, taking Mr. Middleton on the way to Parachilna. The Parachilna gorge, if possible, looked more beautiful than when driving out. Wednesday night was spent in Blinman, the party now consisting of Messrs. Fearby, Hardy, Giles and Parsons. The intention was to return to the Arcoota caves, owned by the same company, twenty miles north of Buckalowie. The route was in an easterly direction, the object being to strike Wirrealpa station. During this run an interesting character was encountered in the person of a dogger, the owner of three camels. A few minutes conversation quite convinced the party that he had a full grip of the unprintable vernacular peculiar to some outbacks. The opportunity was taken to photograph the camel train, and, being asked for copies if they turned out good, the dogger was asked his name. He said, 'Risky by name. Risky by nature.'

Further enquiry showed that his name was Reschke.

From Wirrealpa a run of 30 miles brought the party to the limestone boundary hut, whence the track was followed to the station buildings, known as Martin's Well, and about 1 o'clock a bush lunch was partaken. A mire track had been followed and when the trader asked for directions for the next stage to Wilpena, he was told there was no road, but that a buggy had passed through a few days previously and we could follow the track of the wheels through the open country to the mail track. Another guide was the valley between the hills, 30 miles away. The Ford truck now had an exceedingly rough passage to negotiate, but it carried out the task in an excellent way. There was an anxious time in passing over a dry creek. Before going ahead an examination was made, and it was

found easy to get down to the bed of the creek from one side, but there was no outlet on the other side except at an acute angle of about 35 degrees. The depth of the creek was about 8 ft. However, the party got over safely after about half an hour's manoeuvring, the car being assisted by all hands with the exception of the driver. Hundreds of kangaroos were seen, presenting some magnificent shots, but there was no time for such sport.

Wilpena was reached, and an inspection of Arcoota caves ended the trip at 6 o'clock. The night was spent in an iron hut, the usual bush fire helping towards comfort. The operations here are indicative of the great energy displayed by the company. The drive had been put in for about 191 feet, through solid rock, and the levels had been so carefully taken that the cave was struck at a position which will enable the guano to be placed by shutes in small trucks running on a permanent way through the drive. The drive has been constructed so as to allow a slight grade, and very little power as required to move loaded trucks.

The trucks will discharge into bins, whence the guano will be taken by shutes into conveyances for transportation to the railway-station at Wilson. The drive is on the hillside, and the operation of getting the guano from the caves to the conveyances is by gravitation. The conveyances need not come more than a few feet from the level at the foot of the hill. The Arcoota caves are most extensive, and one may traverse them for many hundreds of feet with ample head room. There was ample evidence of the great depth of guano under feet. Borings have been taken and guano has been tested down to 14 and 15 ft.

The party left Arcoota about midday, and a stop was made at Mattawarrangala for lunch. The station buildings are now in ruins. Photographs were taken of an old vine, estimated to be 60 years of age.

One could imagine this, as well as that no pruning has been attempted for years. The butt of the vine is quite 15 in. in diameter. On the journey back to Buckalowie a novel race was run between the Ford and an emu. The emu was on one side of the fence, and the car on the other.

The race continued for about three miles and demonstrated that emus are capable of covering 85 miles an hour. Owing to the rough track encountered, the emu won. After another inspection of Buckalowie Cave the party made for Mr. Hardy's home for tea. Messrs Fearby, Giles, and Parsons then left for Carrieton, arriving at midnight after passing through torrential rains. On Saturday Messrs. Fearby and Parsons returned to Adelaide by train. Mr. Parsons stated that the trip throughout was very interesting. The country beyond Hawker and Parachilna is very spectacular. The scenery through the Parachilna Gorge is quite as beautiful as that in the Mount Lofty Ranges. Great credit is due to the Nitrogen Company for the extensive development work already carried out at such a distance, from the city in such a short period. A trip to the site soon convinces one of the great difficulties overcome by energy and enthusiasm. While at Buckalowie Mr. Parsons advised concerning the most efficient way to electrify the caves to give the necessary lighting. A Delco Light machine has already been dispatched and will be operating at an early date.

Article courtesy of: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/87433769>

*** A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE ***



FUSSI PROGRAMME Dec 2018- May 2019

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

30 Dec- Jan 6th Australian Speleological Federation Conference. Devonport, Tassie.

Jan 27th Sunday 11am-6pm New Year's gathering, FUSSI T-Shirt making.
Discussion of world take-over plans etc.

Feb 9/10 Wet and Wild trip. Mt Gambier Area.
Thomas coordinating

Thurs Feb 14 General Meeting, 6pm, Morialta Cliffs, at the second climbing area,
followed by a beer in the Scenic Hotel.

O Week 25th – 29 Feb 2019

Mon Feb 25 and Tue 26 Fair Days FUSSI Stalls on campus. Help is needed. Put
your hand up and help your club get new
members. Contact: David via:
fussi@fussi.org.au

FIRST SEMESTER STARTS

Sunday March 3rd Murray River trip. A trip for everyone.
Thomas coordinating

March 16/17 Naracoorte. RSVP by 14 Feb. Permits have to
be submitted a month in advance.
Clare coordinating

Thurs 21 March: Social Meeting How to use a map and compass. In the
Uni Forest. 6pm sharp. Tania Coordinating

April 8 One day Trip Yorke Peninsula. Dee Coordinating.

April 19-22 Easter To be determined. See below note on long
term trips

May 11th -12 Flinders Ranges Trip. Great trip suitable
for all.

Thurs 16th May AGM Win the lottery and add some impressive

For the long term.
Nullarbor, WA side, Easter 2019 or Oct 2019. Both tentative at this stage.
July 2019. Bullita, NT by invitation only, from the organizers.

ASF National Rescue training weekend to be held in SA. Mid Oct 2019.

CEGSA members are welcome to attend. Contact Mark Sefton or Neville Skinner.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
28/11/18	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. EOY BBQ	Ian Lewis
??/12/18	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
26/12/18	NO General Meeting	NO GENERAL MEETING	Ian Lewis
30/12/18 04/01/19	ASF Conference Tasmania	Devenport, Tasmania	
??/01/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
23/01/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Ian Lewis
26/01/19	Annual Reports	Reports for Annual Report Due	Athol Jackson
??/02/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	
9/02/19	AGM	Annual General Meeting	Ian Lewis
13/02/19	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
27/02/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
??/02/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	
27/03/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
		Xmas / New Year Trips	
	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 and editor in a timely manner.