

CEGSA NEWS



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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

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SA Scout Liaison	Matt Smith	As Above

Cover Photograph: Pleasure Dome, Kubla Khan Cave, Mole Creek, Tasmania.

Photo: Matt Smith.

CONTENTS**Volume 64 Number 1****Issue 253****FEBRUARY 2019****CONTENTS**

	AUTHOR	PAGE
Committee and Office Bearers		1
Contents		2
Ex Presidents Spot	Ian Lewis	3
2018 Awards	Ian Lewis	3
Harry's Certificate	Ian Lewis	4

TRIP REPORTS

Punyelroo Cave, 27 th December 2018	Graham Pilkington	5
"My Cave" trip report	Neville Skinner	5
Tasmania ASF conference, January 2019	Matt Smith	8
Search & Rescue Exercise, Corra Lynn Cave	FUSSI Newsletter	11
Past Trips (from November General Meeting)		22
Past Trips (from January General Meeting)		22

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

Membership Fees	Graham Pilkington	23
Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders	Committee	24
Annual General Meeting Report	Athol Jackson	24
Native Australian Microbats in Vinyards	Meagan Dillon (ABC)	25
Naracoorte Caves launch of "Rooftop Loop Walk"		29
FUSSI Program – February to May 2019		31
Calendar of Events	Committee	32

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 2 (Issue 254) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **8th MAY 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.



EX PRESIDENTS SPOT

At the recent CEGSA AGM we had a peaceful regime change which was not expected late last year. I am now writing to you in this issue as a 'Guest Editorial' as I have stood down from the CEGSA President's spot for 2019. As many of you know, I have been toddling along with one of the world's longest PhD theses for a decade or so, which is also partly responsible for the unfinished 'CEGSA 50th History' as I jumped from one magnum opus task to another, completing neither. Well, that's all coming to a halt as I have to finish the PhD thesis this year and as it is all about the Naracoorte Caves, CEGSA fully deserves to see it in writing and diagrams etc, since most of it is drawn from over 60 years of CEGSA trogging, discoveries and mapping at Naracoorte. CEGSA can be proud of our seven Occasional Papers but there is not one focusing on Naracoorte which is therefore most overdue. I had always intended that my thesis could form the material for a CEGSA Occasional Paper on the caves at Naracoorte and their story before settlement and ever since. Much has been learnt since Hilly and Bob Sexton wrote those early reports on the region when far less than half the known caves had yet been discovered or extended by determined CEGSA exploration. It's a good time to pull all that together, so some geological and historical background will provide a good foundation for an Occasional Paper written in Speleo-English rather than obscure Academese, so that all members in CEGSA and other caving organisations can enjoy it!

The South East has benefited from major efforts by CEGSA individuals over those 60 years since Hilly and Bob. Fed Aslin's lifelong diligent scientific recording of cave locations, beasties and all manner of karst observations, Peter Horne's BIG red book on every cavity in the south east that has dared to have water in it, Rod Wells and Grant Gartrell's amazing fossil discoveries, Terry Reardon's bat studies (he knows them all by name now – 40,000 of them) and of course Kevin Mott's fastidious mapping of anything that appears to be limestone, located to within an inch of its life in his voluminous records stored in a certain secret back shed in Mount Gambier (address withheld), have all contributed an enormous amount of knowledge to understanding that Karstfield. Yes, there have been others too, but I'm focusing on CEGSA's combined efforts. I am grateful to the AGM members for 'giving me a year off' to get the job done, and I may not see you all much this year. However, I am prepared to nominate for the Prez position in 2020 and 2021 leading up to the Ceduna Conference... although as Graham pointed out, I may not get voted in! For 2019, I was surprised and grateful that Mark Sefton has become our President for 2019, and I noted his quiet but stern comment of support to me the other night... "Make sure you get it **finished!!**". Maybe after that, the 'CEGSA 75 Years' history book can be commenced!

Cheers to all from Ian Lewis.

%%%%%%%%%

2018 AWARDS

This year the Golden Compass Award is shared three ways by -

Golden Compass (Land surface Division)

To **Frank Hankinson** for finally locating Warraweena Cave but not being able to fit into it!

Golden Compass (Underground Division)

To **Neville Skinner** for finally locating Warraweena Cave and embarrassing everyone else by fitting into it!

Golden Compass (Uncertain Division)

To **George MacLucas** for driving all the way to Haig Cave and then refusing to get into it!

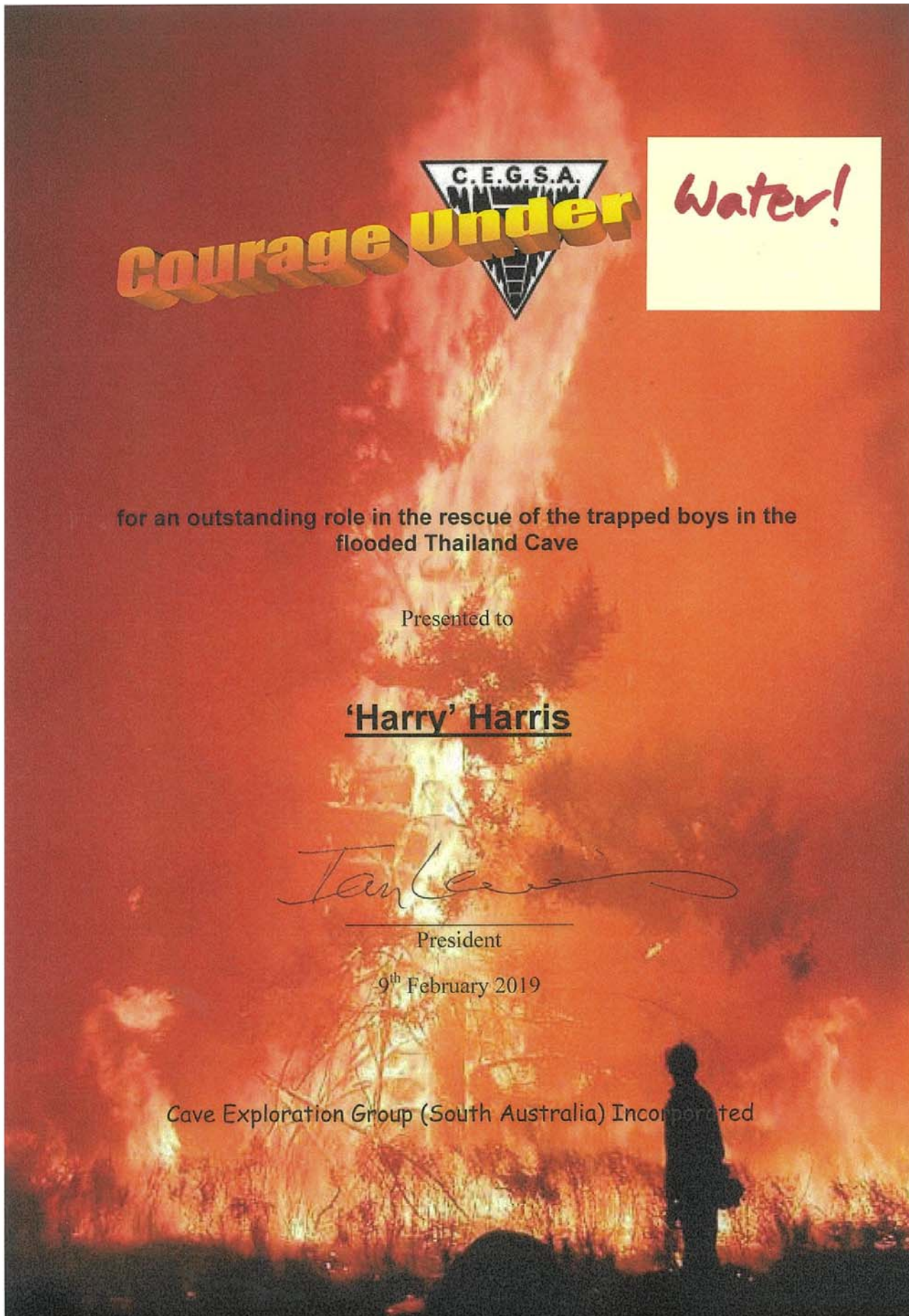
Spirit of Caving

To **Paul Harper**, our unsung silent hero who faithfully manages our secret stash of ancient CEGSA ironmongery.

Courage Under Fire Award

To **'Harry' Harris** for an outstanding role in the rescue of the trapped boys in the flooded Thailand Cave.

Harry received this award some years ago when his trailer of diving gear caught fire on the Nullarbor. However, there was a distinct lack of fire in the submerged Thailand Cave where the amazing rescue was successfully undertaken by Harry and his other international cave diving comrades. Therefore, Harry's Certificate has had to be modified to "Courage Under Water"! **Ian Lewis.**



TRIP REPORTS

Punyelroo Cave, 27th December 2018

Participants: Graham (TL), Charni, Ellie, Damien, Isiah, Anabell, and Rodger Pilkington; Tom Szabo, Jamie Schmidt.

We had planned a trip to Corra Lynn Cave but it was too hot - in the forties - and off limits. Punyelroo was an inviting alternative with the lagoon a few metres from the entrance to relax in and clean up at the end of the trip.

This trip was a relaxed affair, mainly to allow my grandchildren to enjoy caving. A regular feature when they visit from Melbourne. As usual I allowed Jamie to lead us wherever he had the inkling to go, including investigating some extensions that I prefer not to go down! We did visit the pool at the end of a side branch. This was higher than usual which probably accounted for the leader not walking into it before seeing it.

Graham Pilkington

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'MY CAVE' TRIP REPORT By Neville Skinner Photos by Brett Wiltshire (WASG)

Participants: Brett, Hannah, Neville & Allison.

On the last evening of pre-conference caving at Mole Creek, I was given the opportunity to visit "My Cave" cave. This came about because Brett Wiltshire wanted to see it, but was lacking the numbers to do so.

So, Hannah & I agreed to go along despite having just finished cleaning & packing our caving gear ready for our departure to Davenport, where the conference was being held.

We were met shortly after 9am the next morning by Brett in his car and headed off to My Cave, with a third car containing Dennis and his daughter Allison.

It did not take long to get to the cave car-park, located about 5kms south-west of the Mole Creek town-ship, in the same area as Sassafras Cave. Dennis did not cave with us, but instead stayed behind with the cars, while Brett, Hannah, Allison and myself headed off to the cave.

During the 45min walk to the cave we encountered a one metre long Tiger Snake on the path, and waited for it to slowly (that's a good sign that it was relaxed and not bothered) move away before proceeding. Very young Tiger Snakes are dark grey to black without any markings, but this one was old enough to have the distinctive yellow bands that clearly identified it.

After arriving at the cave, we changed into our caving gear and dropped down between two large rocks into the cave entrance. Hannah & Allison located the entrance to the cave and entered first while Brett and myself were looking in a separate area.

Entering the cave meant negotiating a slippery slope some 2-3m that led to a small restriction. After sliding almost uncontrollably down that slope, I called out to Brett to tie a tape off onto a nearby tree root and drop it down, because I was worried we would have trouble getting back out. After Brett did so, we moved through the restriction to meet up with Hannah & Allison at a small stream-way.

The streamway was bounded on both sides by relatively flat dolerite walls, sloping upwards to the ceiling. This was fine at first with very little water in the stream-way, but it did not take long for the water to get progressively deeper. I was concerned that I would get dirty water in the gumboots that I had just cleaned and dried, ready for the trip back to Davenport for the conference.



Hannah attempts to communicate with the 3-fingered hand from the depths

Moving along, we came to a formation that resembled the shape of a hand, albeit it only had three fingers, which appeared to be reaching out to us from the depths.

After this we came to a deeper section of water, which I was able to get around by placing feet against one wall and hands against the other, but it was more luck than anything that allowed me to negotiate this without falling in. Until now I was able to walk on the lower section of wall, astride the stream.

However, it was not long before it got harder and the challenge was really on. I encountered one small section where the water was up to my knees and there was nowhere to go. I struggled to stay on the walls untilsplash! My gumboots were full of muddy water and I was cursing whoever it was who said My Cave was a pretty little cave.

With the pressure now off, I emptied the water from my boots and we trogged down the stream-way until it appeared the stream-way could be bypassed by a higher section of cave, some 2m above the stream. We followed this for about 100m, when our forward scout reported back that the cave had ended with the stream-way dropping into a sump. Surely not. Brett, who was next in line, went ahead and confirmed this to be the case, so we turned and headed out.

This time I focussed on the higher sections. One such section, consisting of a number of very slippery clay covered rocks, took me up at a steep angle for about 20m before petering out. There was little of interest here, so I carefully retreated back to the others and we moved on until I came to another small section just up and beyond a ledge to my left. This contained a few old stals but nothing to justify calling the others back to look at.



L-R: Hannah, myself & Allison (taken by Brett)

Then we arrived at a somewhat pretty section of stalactites, and also flowstone above the streamway, which we had travelled past on the way in. We stopped here and waited as Brett set up his slave flashes and took a few photos of these while we posed. After that exited the cave, with everyone thankful for the assistance provided by the tape. I was happy to have done the cave at that time, as I had nominated it for one of my post-conference cave trips and that now meant I had gained a day.

Upon leaving we headed for Deloraine, where we had agreed to meet for lunch and coffee/chocolate. When we got there, I realised I did not have my wallet on me and could not remember where I might have lost it. Panic set in and off we went back to the cave to see if it had dropped from my jeans when I geared up/down for caving. It was not there. Brett had kindly offered to help look for my wallet, but upon not finding it at the cave, I thanked him and he left for Davenport where the pre-conference registration and BBQ was due to commence at 6pm.

I then left for the Mole Creek CP with Hannah to see if it had been left in the room. It had not, but this provided the best opportunity to unload everything out of the back of the car and onto a flat clean lawn in the shade, and to search thoroughly and methodically. After 15 minutes I found the wallet in the bottom of my SRT backpack, underneath the SRT gear, and realised I had dropped it there whilst sorting & packing the previous evening.

I was so thankful that I decided not to blame the SRT gear for the inconvenience, on this occasion. With the car repacked, we were on our way again, and arrived at the BBQ shortly after it had started. All was well in the world again.

Neville Skinner.

Tasmania ASF Conference January 2019

Conference.

Devonport, Tasmania was the venue for the 2019 ASF Conference, entitled *The Darkness Beneath*. Five CEGSA members attended the event: *Mark Corbett, Heather Siebert, Steve Milner, Neville Skinner and Matt Smith*.

The conference was extremely well run, and featured a range of presentations from ASF members and guests. The highlights for me included:

- **Dr David Merritt, Bioluminescence in Cave Glowworms** a fascinating talk about the behaviour of cave glowworms, and how they were studied. Featured some excellent photography!
- **Alan Jackson, Seeking the Master Cave** An interesting presentation of the Junee-Florentine system, describing the large "master" cave which is theorised to be connected by many caves in the system.
- **Fraser Johnson, film Push Day** Fraser filmed part of the push into the Junee-Florentine master cave, with some great quality footage he will be using to produce a documentary. Expect to see this at outdoor film festivals in the future.
- **Chris Sharples, Wilderness Wild Karst** The talk highlighted the value of wilderness area caving, and the great discoveries that can come from some very challenging regions. This talk included a description of some infrequently visited karst in Papua New Guinea
- **Andreas Klocker, Huautla, Mexico** Andreas describes the push into one of the largest caves in the world, including how they were stuck in the cave for several days due to flooding.
- **Stefan Eberhard, film, 35 Years Under the Nullarbor** Featuring some great footage of classic Nullarbor cave diving

There were many other great presentations as well - I could have listed many, many more that were well worth seeing!

There were also a range of activities run throughout the conference to which attendees were invited. On Tuesday evening a CEGSA team featuring Matt, Mark, Heather and Steve competed in the Speleo Sports competition. Unfortunately we didn't win, however I believe we set a respectable time! Other activities included Mountain Biking and Kayaking.

Wednesday was the activities day, and many of us elected to visit one of the few canyons in Tasmania - Machinery Creek. The canyon is wide canyoning with 6 abseils along its length. It's not as narrow as the more popular slot canyons in the Blue Mountains, but was still a great deal of fun! One of the best aspects of the canyon is that cars can be left at both ends, saving those participating from a strenuous walk out! This was followed by dinner at the Wings Wildlife Park, and a tour of the Gunns Plains Tourist Cave.

Thursday night saw a screening of the film *Sixteen Legs*, which highlights the Tasmanian Cave Spider *Hickmania troglodytes*. It's a fascinating film, and well worth seeing when it screens in Adelaide (which should hopefully be later this year). In conjunction with this was the launch of the Australian Cave Animal of the Year program, with the *Hickmania troglodytes* being the 2019 winner.

The conference wrapped up with the cavers dinner, which featured a Bedrock City theme. It was a great night of socializing, and also saw CEGSA member *Dr Richard "Harry" Harris* add another accolade to his increasing collection! Congratulations Harry!

Kubla Khan



The Group Photo
Photo: Matt Smith

With the conference part of the trip over, the various ASF attendees headed out to Mole Creek for a range of post-conference field trips. On Saturday morning we started early, as we were heading off to the Kubla Khan cave - one that was on the bucket list for many of us in attendance. The party consisted of five – Mark, Heather, Neville and myself, as well as Catherine who was to serve as our local guide.

Knowing that the trip through the cave could be a long one (for us it was 10.5 hours) we were prepared with food, water, plenty of warm clothing, some emergency equipment and our SRT kits for the numerous abseils in the cave.

After rigging the exit pitch, we made our way around to the entrance. Once through the gate we almost immediately started down one of the half dozen abseils in the cave.

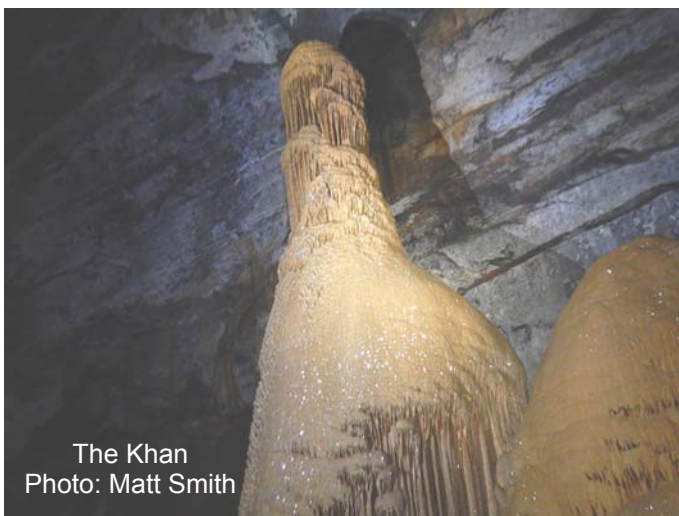


The Opium Den
Photo: Matt Smith



The Silk Shop
Photo: Matt Smith

The cave is a non-stop showcase of huge chambers filled with decorations on the scale we don't really see in South Australia.



The Khan
Photo: Matt Smith



The River Alph
Photo: Matt Smith

Highlights included the Opium Den, the Silk Shop, the Khan and his army as well as the awe inspiring Pleasure Dome. Once we'd seen all the pretty stuff the cave had to offer, we were able to make our way out of the cave via the River Alph. With our wetsuits on, it was a 10 minute trudge through

flowing water, with a couple of small waterfalls to climb. It was cold, but given that we were moving, no one suffered unduly.

The last part of the cave was the exit pitch, which is a roughly 45m SRT out a somewhat muddy slope. It was a bit of a slog at the end of a long day, but not overly technical - by the time the first one started heading up, we were out in about an hour.

Croesus Cave



Croesus Cave Photo: Ola_Löfquist

The next day was a slightly later start, with us dividing and conquering a range of caves in the area. I was lucky enough to head into Croesus Cave for a photographic trip with a range of avid ASF photographers. The cave was a stunning one, being a 1.5km walk via a cold streamway. Wetsuits were required for this cave, as you were almost always standing in the water.

Parts of this cave rivalled Kubla Khan for prettiness, though isn't quite on the same scale. It's many rimpool dams are the highlight of the cave, culminating in the Golden Stairway

near the end of our journey. It was quite an easy cave compared to Kubla, so was a good relatively relaxed day for all the participants

Tailender Cave

The final cave to be visited was Tailender Cave. Somewhat less popular with Tasmanians, as this cave features 300m of crawling - something quite alien to the islanders who are used to huge chambers and multiple pitches. For use South Aussies though, crawling is just part of the experience!



Tailender Cave Photo: Mark Corbett



Tailender Cave Photo: Mark Corbett

That said, it was still hard work, the 300m crawl over a range of loose boulders, awkward constrictions and roofs just quite high enough to stand in. Once past the crawlway, we headed up a 10m SRT into the upper section of the cave, where we viewed a range of great decoration, much of which was a pristine white in contrast to the brown muddy colour of the walls.

Having seen the beauty that the cave offered, it was back through the crawlway and out to the Mersey River for a quick swim and cleanup

Many thanks go to the numerous organizers of the ASF Conference in Tassie - it was an amazing experience, and one I can't recommend more highly to CEGSA members. Make sure you join us when it's our turn to run the next event in 2021.

Matt Smith.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE – Corr Lynn Cave – September 2018

Reprinted from FUSSI Newsletter. Vol. 30. No. 4. 2018

Clare Buswell was in charge of the cave rescue scenarios. Matt Smith was in charge of logistics.

Participants:

Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Thomas Varga, Neville Skinner, Tania Wilson, David Mansueto, Dee Trewartha, Matt Timms, Edwina Virgo, Ian Macleod, Matt Smith, Heather Siebert, Matt Grey, Callum Hue, Joel Dillon.

Present for the Saturday Only: Daniel Heritage, Steve Minuzzo, Mark Corbett, Michael Woodward, Matt Warne.

Present for Sunday morning: Ian Lewis.

Overall aims of the Weekend:

- As a reasonable amount of caving in SA is done in remote locations: Nullarbor, Flinders Ranges
— the aim was to get participants to understand what *they can do* in self-rescue situations, that is without help from outside agencies or whilst waiting for outside agencies to arrive.
- Participants were asked to work with people they did not know, as this is what happens in live cave rescue situations.
- Activities were rotated between small groups so that all members got to play with the equipment used and understand the techniques to be used so that they become familiar with what is involved in caver rescues.

Programme:

The weekend was divided into 4 sessions: Saturday: Small group exercises involving stretchers and communication systems, then an 'in real-time' rescue exercise followed by a debrief session. Start time 10am. Finished all the exercises around 4pm. Debrief held at 5.30pm. Pub meal 7pm.

Sunday: A second scenario, searching for a lost group was prepared in advance. However, this was changed as those involved wanted to play again with the different communications systems available and gain more stretcher carrying experience, both above and below ground. To facilitate the latter, the group set up their own rescue scenario and worked to remove the casualty from the cave. This was followed by a debrief.

SCENARIOS SATURDAY MORNING

To facilitate these aims the Saturday morning was given over to 4 exercises, with the four groups rotating between each one.

1) Communications: Through ground radio system

- "Your group has been asked to establish a communication system using a through ground radio system. This is a system that you have only heard about. You have half an hour to set it up and learn how it works."

2) Communications: Using what you have – Walkie Talkies

- "Your group has been asked to establish a communication system using the walkie talkies you carry with you, so you can talk with others whilst travelling. You have half an hour to set up a communication system with the walkie talkies underground. Your group is required to test it over varying distances to establish its reliability. When you have completed the task, you are to report back to the command post. (Five Uniden 5-watt, walkie talkies are available)."

3) Communications: Michie phones

- “Your group has been asked to establish a communication system using the Michie phone system. It is a system that you have only heard about. You have half an hour to set it up and learn how it works, ABOVE GROUND.”

4) Build a stretcher

- “There has been an accident at Skeleton Crevasse which requires complex medical and logistical rescue processes to be able to set about stabilizing the casualty. Your group has been tasked with providing a stretcher, built from things you have in your car/camp area. You have half an hour to build and test it before it will be deployed.”

Notes and Feedback from these activities by those who participated.

FEEDBACK:

1) COMMUNCAITION SYSTEMS

Group set up COMMs equipment again both inside and outside the cave.

Through-Ground Radio:
(Photo at right)

- Tested coverage from the bottom of the entrance stairs to Grand Central. Grand Central gave OK coverage. The restriction being not able to lay the coil out in a wide circle underground.
- Need to identify surface locations in relation to underground location.
- Subsequent group found system surprisingly tolerant to alignment offset and, moving the surface coil while receiving transmissions, allowed tuning placement to get clearest signal.



Michie phones:

On the phones themselves:

- Have a simple ready-to-go splice-in system.
- Set up an external speaker line and a permanently connectable earthing system.
- Is it possible to put an earth holder on the phone?
- Is it possible to put splice clips, to clip onto the wire mid-way?
- Connect permanent handset for easier use.
- Michie phones were again used in the same area as the previous day's rescue simulation and found to be working very well, due in part to less noise, as only those working on the phones were present. On the Saturday, at the rescue itself, the back chatter between cavers caused the phones to be deemed very hard to hear.

Walkie Talkies: Five, hand held, 5-watt Uniden UHF – CB radio units were used.

- These proved to be the most useful during the actual rescue simulation as we were able to relay communications between the surface and the site of the accident at the bottom of Rope Crevasse.

- CB Radio seemed to work quite well, which combined with the casualty being relatively close to the entrance, made the Michie radio somewhat redundant.
- Really surprised that Walkie Talkies would work underground, not only at all, but so effectively! That is from the bottom of Rope Crevasse to the car parking area above the entrance. This is not line of site!

General Comments on Communication systems.

- Saturday's rescue, using a large rescue group in a relatively confined part of the cave, also made communication difficult - some "Chinese whispers".
- Communications much smoother with less people in the team on the Sunday.
- More practice time needs to be given to each individual to use the communication tools present.
- Good approach with having multiple communication options, however, once in use, one communication system should have been chosen.
- Michie phones too quiet.
- Enjoyed morning round-robin activities, getting to know this equipment.

Stretchers. Build your own. Cavers generally do not take any sort of rescue equipment on their weekend caving trips so this exercise is a DIY job!



Above and at left: just one example of the 'Do it Yourself Stretcher'. Made with materials available from your camping gear or scrounged nearby.

In this example: A cheap trap, a stick, a fence post, a lilo and a short length of rope.

Photos: Nevill Skinner.

At Right: Yet another example of the DIY Stretcher:

Tarp, sticks, one-inch tube tape and 50mm seatbelt tape.

Below: A comfortable stretcher, both for carrying and for the patient. It has good back support for all.

Materials: Tarp, picnic blanket, Pillow, One-inch tube tape for back support.

Photos Neville Skinner



THE IN REAL-TIME RESCUE EXERCISE

The Scenario:

A group had successfully made their way out to Skeleton Crevasse, and then back to the Wombat Runs and out to near Crystal Maze. At this point, in attempting to climb up, one member of the party fell.

It is not known what the injuries are.

Being in the region, you are called upon to find and rescue the missing person.

SCOPE

The exercise will require the participants to:

- Work in teams of 5 people.
- Appoint a controller.
- Ensure the safety and well-being of other participants.
- Obtain and organise the necessary equipment.
- Set up COMMs to assist with the rescue.
- Locate, assess and manage the casualty.
- Extricate the casualty from the cave.
- Accurately record pertinent details that may be required at any subsequent inquest/inquiry.

General Comments on the Exercise by the Participants

- Need for clear role definitions, written descriptions.
- Need for entry control and compliance by all team members. Sign-in sheet was not signed by all.
- Cooperation and communication between groups when switching roles/duties needs to be clear, follow a set protocol.
- Clearly designate a leader of each subgroup.
- Chain of command needs to be respected.
- Leader must lead: control what goes on and direct each group. It is not a free-for-all.
- Need to have the less experienced at the coal face, to give them experience.
- Too many people around the casualty.
- Too many questions about the casualty, too frequently.



Haul crew at work.
Photo: Neville Skinner

The Patient's feedback:

- Be aware that a patient hears everything.
- Other senses are heightened when you are a patient.
- Calls: Make one call and make it only when you are going to execute it. Then execute the call.
- Design of [Petzl Nest] stretcher: vertical haul line pulls on the harness [connected to patient's waist]. No taunt lines until the call to lift or move. And then only slow movements, as fast movements can cause pressure points.
- Be mindful.
- Tell the casualty if you are going to cross over them but do this via the medics.
- Keep all lights away from the patient's eyes.
- Avoid touching the patient, don't lean over them or use them to stabilize yourself.

- Do not use the handles of the stretcher to stabilize yourself.
- Take time to do things as you will then be in control of any haul, lift etc.
- No chatter.
- Patient felt rub points when stretcher hauled over rocks.
- Stretcher rocks and rolls when not holding handles.
- Stretcher was warm to be in.
- Stretcher needs to have a face shield, as distinct from just safety glasses, and helmet for casualty.

Feedback for future exercise planning

These suggestions came through frequently from the feedback sheets provided.

- Appointment of leaders and leadership structure needs to be made clear.
- Purpose of the exercises needs to be made clear: orientation vs rescue.
 - What is realistic: would we or wouldn't we perform an extraction without other agencies calling the shots?
 - Are we improving our self-sufficiency in rescuing ourselves: assessment, support, reduce exposure or are we part of a bigger rescue operation?
- Timelines need to be adhered to by all.
- Incident controller, person on the surface and the underground controller need to communicate.
- More rotation of people between tasks – more experience gained.
- Exercise began to break the ice between the three caving groups. It was a good opportunity to work together.
- Needs to be repeated at least once a year.
- Need to make strong, open and usable contacts and communications between outside agencies: SES, SAPOL Star Force, SAAS Special Operations Team.

MATT TIMMS' REPORT

The search and rescue training weekend began with some warm up exercises to get us in the zone. Members of FUSSI, SCG, CEGSA, with some members having professional medical experience, were mixed into 4 groups. One challenge was to build a stretcher



from items only found within our gear and cars. A diverse range of items and methods were used. My group found seatbelt webbing and tube tape to be an effective net that was wrapped in a tarp with foam mats as support, however it lacked a bit in rigidity. Groups also tested the range of handheld radios in Corra-Lynn cave and how far a chain of them could reach.

Finding the patient and planning on how to transfer patient to the stretcher.

I was surprised by the range, as it wasn't simply line of sight, with some reflection around corners. With 4 or 5 walkie-talkies in a chain we managed to get a fair way towards Rope crevasse. This required effective radio communications, as the message had to be sent to each node. We had two other comms equipment to play with: Michie phones and a through-ground radio which were both simple to set up. The Michie phones were a bit quiet above ground but clearer in the cave, and the through-ground radio had a larger range than I expected. I can see how these technologies could be invaluable in a real situation.

The real-time rescue began after lunch, where I was stationed above ground to keep record of caver movements and

think about in a real situation how to talk to emergency services and deal with the public. Other surface crew members coordinated with search teams into the cave looking for the victim with the stretcher team on standby. This made the situation feel quite realistic, and before long a serious, determined mood fell upon us. It wasn't long before the victim was



Transferring the patient to the stretcher

found, and with no delay the stretcher and Michie phone line were deployed. After the victim was placed on the stretcher, the long process of hauling began, and I went underground to help. The most difficult part was a narrow rift that was incredibly steep. This took rigging (but was not used), lots of haulers, concentration and precision. It was such a precarious haul that it was practiced with bags on the stretcher before using the brave victim in the stretcher.



The hauling begins.
Photo: N. Skinner

A well-coordinated effort resulted in the victim on top of the slope, but with the hardest part done, we were still far from the surface. The stretcher had to be navigated up a shallower slope covered in loose dirt and through a narrow passage. Each move was thought out one at a time, taking a long time to get a short distance. Eventually we got near the entry and had space to stand up and do pass-overs towards and up the stairs, out the door and up the

outside steps. As the passageways were narrow, the chain haulers at the back crawled under the stretcher to get to the front of the chain. Sunlight and fresh air were pleasures on the sweaty, dirty faces, and once the victim was safely at the cars it was time to sit and lay on the ground for a bit.

Sunday began with a yummy BBQ breakfast served by the Scout Caving Group. The second real- time rescue had less people present, as a few had to leave Saturday night, so there was no comms equipment used. After finding the noisy victim, who was obviously in great pain, most of the time was spent together as one hauling team. A smaller group meant more work for each individual and pass-over chains were smaller. Multiple hauling techniques were used including pulling the stretcher up a smooth slope with a rope, and an interesting one that involved haulers laying on their backs in a line head-to-toe very closely packed together. You passed the stretcher from the person that had their head in your crotch to the person whose crotch your head was in. This worked alright until we tried using knees to support the stretcher, and my long legs threw everything off, unevenly lifting the stretcher such that it slid off our hands and knees. Luckily our victim had no spinal injuries



Almost at the top of the rift.
Photo N. Skinner



Passing the patient up the rift.
Photo N. Skinner

asn't too battered by this. A long but well executed haul got the victim the rest of the way out of the cave without too much damage. Another debrief was done, where we discussed what worked and what didn't. We found that pass- overs were done better the second time, most likely because we had more practice by then, and the laying on our backs hauling technique could be viable in some situations but should be done so with caution.

Our victim this time taught us about some good in-cave bedside manners including informing the patient of every movement and touch that was going to happen, to avoid shining lights into their

face and climbing over them (hard to not do sometimes though). We found that the stretcher was susceptible to some flexing when placed on some surfaces, and bumps and rocks were felt through the stretcher. All these things were good to talk about and consider in an actual rescue.

The search and rescue weekend was an amazing experience and great practice for a real SAR operation. I have not had any rescue or emergency training but even just after this weekend I feel somewhat prepared for an incident and am more conscious of preventing one occurring in the first place.

When caving with a small group, it would be very hard to extract a member. I think differently about caving now. I think it would be beneficial to skills and inter-organizational relationships to do this sort of thing regularly.

Photos from the Exercise



Planning and executing the lift up the crevasse. All photo's N Skinner

Almost there.

At right: Coming up the steps near the entrance.

Below: On the surface where our marvellously patient Tania was extracted from Nesty!



SUNDAY'S RESCUE. Site: At the Cauldron, Corra Lynn Cave

Callum was the injured person. Medics were three real medics: Nurse, SA Ambulance Paramedic and SASS Volunteer Ambulance Officer. Edwina was the incident controller. Everybody else acted as the haul crew. We did not set up any communication systems.

The below series of photos tells the story!

Our injured party is found and the Medics have been called. Injuries –make your own list! Hualing included traversing a steep slope and negotiating narrow, low passages.



Past Trips from General Meetings

November 2018

- **Scout Caving Group** visited Cave Park Cave in late October. Cave is large, and we used a map recently prepared by Ian Lewis and students from La Trobe University. Quality of the map was good. Only one bat was found in the cave.
- **Neville Skinner** reported a recent visit to *Warraweena Cave* in the Flinders Ranges. The cave has some nice decoration inside, however has a high CO2 level, so could not be fully explored. There was some discussion about some dogtooth spar type decoration that was found.
- **Ken Smith** visited the Cook Islands with Paul Hosie and others. Looking at previously mapped dry caves. Did a lot more mapping. No cave diving of any note was found. Beautiful caves.
- **Mark Sefton, Ken Smith and Graham Pilkington** visited Bullita in July. Also mapped a range of caves in the Kimberly. Lots of new caves. Very well decorated. Visited 2 main areas in Bullita. Remapping was undertaken, but also found plenty of new stuff. 14km of survey was added. Still plenty of scope for further exploration, new discoveries and linking of caves.
- **Graham Pilkington** visited the Nullarbor October with MSS. Seismic work around various locations. Lots of rain! Very flooded on the surface at *Mullamullang*. Rain was almost horizontal and many of the tents were wet both inside and out. *Thampanna* - checked previous survey which appeared in correct. Discovered new (unmapped) passage. *Old Homestead* was also visited, more survey undertaken in the Spring Series as well as the Vengeance series.

December 2018

No Meeting

January 2019

- Scout Caving Group went to Gloop in December, no changes of any significance were noted in the cave.
- Punyelroo was visited by Graham Pilkington and a group of others - it was very hot!
- ASF conference in Tasmania during early January. CEGSA members included Matt Smith, Steve Milner, Neville Skinner, Mark Corbett and Heather Siebert. Caves visited included Kubla Khan, Croesus, Lynds, Tailender, Gunns Plains and Marakoopa tourist caves.
- November Steve Milner visited the Nullarbor (SA side) with VSA and Liz Reed. Found lots of mummified creatures, thylacine. One cave was a 25m entrance pit. Cat5 cable was used to create a IP camera inside the cave, so those who couldn't enter the cave could view the cave. Next attempt may look at using Wifi to generate a small network.
- Steve Milner also visited the Nullarbor in October evaluating various caves with Clem Lorrie. 4-5 caves that are regularly visited.
- Caving in Mindanau (Philippines) and a long deep cave in Belize.

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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 to renewal 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
Marie Choi	Horizontal and Laddering
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
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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Annual General Meeting Report

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Hope Valley Scout Hall on Saturday 9th Feb. 2019.

There were Five awards presented for 2018.

The Annual Report was presented and accepted, followed by the election of officers and committee. The results of the election were as follows:

President: Mark Sefton.

Secretary: Matt Smith.

Committee Members: Steve Milner, Neville Skinner, Mark Corbett, Pam Payne and Heather Siebert.

The meeting was preceded by a social gathering and BBQ meal.

Athol Jackson.

Native Australian microbats could be a natural pest solution for vineyardsBy [Meagan Dillon](#)

Updated Sat at 8:49am Sat 9 Feb 2019, 8:49am From ABC internet



Photo: The mammals are part of a new initiative in South Australia. (Supplied: Terry Reardon)

Microbats cannot be seen or heard at night, but the tiny native mammal could become a new weapon in protecting grape crops.

Key points:

- Microbats can eat up to 1,000 insects a night
- About 12 wineries in McLaren Vale have microbat roosting boxes
- They are as native to Australia as kangaroos and koalas

Wineries throughout the McLaren Vale region, south of Adelaide, have thrown their support behind a project to find out whether the bats — which can weigh as little as 3 grams — could naturally protect grapes from hungry insects.

Ecologist Elisa Sparrow, who works for the Adelaide Hills and Mount Lofty Natural Resources Management Board (NRM) in the Willunga Basin, was one of the creators of the project.

She said the project, called Wildlife4Wine, was about supporting South Australian grape growers in "balancing wildlife, soil health and the practice of viticulture".

"Microbats provide an ecosystem service — they eat insects," she said.

"They can eat half their body weight in insects a night so they're pretty good at munching down on those insects and certain insects can be a problem in the vineyards so that's what we're planning to look at."

She said 12 wineries had installed roosting boxes on the fringe of their vineyards to see if any of the mammals were living in the area.

They are also using acoustic recording technology — which picks up the echolocation calls of the bats — to determine if any microbats were flying around.

"At the moment, we're just looking at what microbats will be around and then eventually we'd like to see what microbats eat — so to see if they eat some of those insects that cause damage to the grapes," Dr Sparrow said.

"It's really early stages of the project, we don't know a lot about what microbat species are in McLaren Vale so this is the start phase where we [are] trying to learn what is here."



Photo: A microbat was found in a guitar at Bent Creek Vineyards, McLaren Vale. (Supplied)

Rescue bats shown to growers as part of program

On Tuesday night, the NRM ran a fully-booked workshop at Wirra Wirra winery to a group of McLaren Vale grape growers, viticulturalists and winery owners to explain how microbats could benefit the area.

The group was introduced to Barbie and Lily — two rescue microbats which have been living in captivity with carer Carmen Boehnle.

She said the two bats had very different personalities.

"Barbie is the oldest one and she's been in captivity for about nine years now — she's very shy. Lily is the outgoing one," she said.

"When I'm ready to feed them, Lily can hear me and all the noise in the background and all of a sudden, her head will pop out from under a log and she's ready to eat ... and she's ravenous.

"She will eat one after the other, as fast as she possibly can.

"Whereas Barbie is, 'hmm not sure if I like that one, maybe another one'. They love mealworms and they like the juicy part of the mealworm at the end."

Ms Boehnle said Barbie and Lily had their "squabbles" every now and then but they tended to sort it out quite quickly.

"Barbie can never be released because they have what is called a scoop and as they fly along, they'll catch all the mosquitoes and insects underneath their wing, and she has a hole in that," she said.

"Lily came into captivity but they bonded very well so they've formed a nice partnership now and they'll be together for life."

Ms Boehnle said she inherited the bats from Adelaide Bat Care founder Mary Crichton, who passed away in November, so their history was a bit of a mystery.

She said microbats — which can live to 20 years — could hold an important place for the biodiversity of vineyards.

"They'll eat 1,000 insects a night, which is phenomenal for a little animal which weighs 15 grams, so I think it's fantastic that people, especially the wine owners, are listening to all of this and doing something about it," she said.

Bat expert Terry Reardon said there were about eight species of microbats in the Adelaide region.

They range in size with the smallest species having a wing span the size of a little finger.

However, he said it meant they had different dietary requirements.



[Photo: Bat expert Terry "Bat Man" Reardon said he was interested in finding out which bats lived in the area. \(ABC: Chris Lockyer\)](#)

"Often the larger bats will chase larger insects, like flying beetles and the tiny little bats will be chasing things like mosquitoes," he said.

"There has been very little research done in Australia about the relationship between vineyard pests and bats.

"But there has been some interesting developments both in the US and Europe where they're putting up bat boxes to attract bats to come to vineyards ... and they're finding that they actually feed on some of the key pest insects of vineyards so we're hoping that's what we'll find here.

"What we're really keen on is building what we call bat hotels or bat condominiums, so we're now upscaling from these shoe-size boxes up to really large structures because some of the bats that typically go into the smaller boxes aren't the ones necessarily feeding on the moths out in the vineyards."

He said the hope was to attract the Chocolate Wattled Bat, which is a "moth specialist".

"I think that would be very good for orchards and perhaps for vineyards as well," he said.

Microbats are as native as kangaroos

Mr Reardon said bats were actually as native to Australia as kangaroos and koalas, but most people didn't think of them as being a native animal.

"I think most people don't really understand what bats are — we have over 80 species of bats in Australia," he said.

"They're specialised because they're the only mammals capable of sustained flight with echolocation.

"They have amazing wings, they're incredibly manoeuvrable."

He said microbats use echolocation — emitting call outs and listening to echoes or vibrations off objects near them — to avoid obstacles at night and to find insects.

Wirra Wirra winery viticulturalist Anton Groffen said he backed the project even before he knew much about it.

"The way we look after our vineyards, we're involved with sustainable winemaking programs and organic certification and we have an interest in increasing and managing our biodiversity on site," he said.

"So when Elisa from the NRM approached us about this project, we were all in without knowing anything about it.

"We're learning along the way, we don't know a hell of a lot about bats, but this project is about everyone learning a little bit more about bats and what the benefits are around vineyards."



[Photo: McLaren Vale wineries are looking for other solutions to keep pests away. \(ABC: Natalie Oliveri\)](#)

He said the winery strived to have the smallest footprint possible, so if a native mammal could become a natural pesticide, allowing them to "knock another spray out", then it would be a big win.

"It's really surprising we're finding these bats and seeing them on the recorders because people are like, 'what do you mean we've got bats around here' because you can't see them, you can't hear them," he said.

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Join us at the launch of the Roof Top Loop Walk



Naracoorte Caves invites you to join us in

Celebrating the launch of the Roof Top Loop Walk

Tuesday 22 January 2019

10:30am - 12:00pm

Please meet at the Naracoorte Caves Cafe

Morning tea and refreshments provided

Official opening by Minister for Environment and Water, David Speirs

Please RSVP to NaracoorteCavesEvents@sa.gov.au by Wednesday 16 January.



**National
Parks
South
Australia**





REGIONAL TOURISM: Tourism Minister David Ridgway, Member for Barker Tony Pasin, Naracoorte Lucindale Mayor Erika Vickery, Environment Minister David Speirs and MacKillop MP Nick McBride officially launch the Rooftop Loop Walk at the Naracoorte Caves. State and Federal Governments are hopeful the \$1.9m upgrade will encourage further visitation to the South East.

Tourism icon unveils upgrade

State politicians launch \$1.9m Naracoorte Caves revamp

TWO State Ministers visited the Limestone Coast this week to officially launch a \$1.9m revamp of the world heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves, which includes an award-winning accessible rooftop walk.

Environment Minister David Speirs and Tourism Minister David Ridgway were joined by Member for Barker Tony Pasin, MacKillop MP Nick McBride and Naracoorte Lucindale Mayor Erika Vickery in launching the new site.

The revamp also includes a new observation platform to view the caves, renovations to the fossil centre foyer, enhanced lighting, infrared camera upgrades

and new signage.

Mr Speirs said the upgrades would enhance the existing guest experiences and make it easier for more people to enjoy the caves.

"The caves are home to one of the world's most important fossil sites and one of our state's great nature-based attractions, with its spectacular limestone formations, rich fossil record and colony of endangered southern bent-wing bats," he said.

"The new 850m-long Rooftop Loop Walk provides universal access for people of all ages and abilities, giving all wheelchairs and people with prams access to experience the fascinat-

ing underground world of Naracoorte Caves."

Mr Ridgway said it was hoped the rooftop walk would attract more visitors to the South East.

"Nature-based tourism is a key focus for the Marshall Government and the Naracoorte Caves are a fantastic example of this," he said.

"The State Government wants to preserve our natural environment while allowing as many

people as possible to experience its beauty.

"More than 50,000 people visited the Naracoorte Caves in the past financial year with

those numbers expected to grow as result of the revamp."

The staged project was funded by State and Federal Governments, with the Morrison Government contributing \$600,000 to the project.

"The Naracoorte Caves precinct is a key tourism attraction in the Limestone Coast region and helps drive economic growth for Naracoorte and the wider community," Mr Pasin said.

"It's wonderful that we can continue to invest in upgrading and improving popular tourist attractions to ensure they remain sustainable and profitable into the future for the benefit of the whole region."

From Border Watch 23 January 2019.

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FUSSI PROGRAMME Feb 2019 - 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.

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 – 29th Feb 2019

Tue Feb 26 and Wed 27	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 3 rd		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 7	One day Trip	Yorke Peninsula. Dee Coordinating.
April 19-22 Easter		To be determined. See below on long term trips.
May 11-12		Flinders Ranges Trip. Great trip suitable for all.
Thurs 16 th May	AGM	Win the lottery and add some impressive roles to your CV.

For the long term.

Nullarbor, WA side, Easter or Uni Hols 2019. Tentative at this stage.

July 2019. Bullita, NT by invitation only, from the organizers.

ASF run South Australian Caver Rescue training weekend to be held Mid Sept, Mairs Cave. 2019. It may well cover, bolting, hauling, tyroleans, stretcher lifts, maybe self-rescues from a rope and eating chocolate.

All cavers from all SA Clubs welcome.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
27/02/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Caving in China	Neville Skinner
??/03/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
09-11/ 03/19	Adelaide Cup W/E		
10-? / 03/19	Caving	Nullarbor for 3 weeks,	Graham Pilkington
27/03/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Bullita Update	Mark Sefton
??/04/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
19/04-22 /04/19	Easter W/E		
24/04/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Caving on the Cook Islands	Ken Smith
25/04/19	ANZAC Day		
??/05/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
08/05/19	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
22/05/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Geophysical methods to find and map caves	Dr. Ian Moffat
28/05/19	Caving	Bunda Cliffs -- Nullarbor	Graham Pilkington
??/06/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
08-10/ 06/19	Queens Birthday W/E		
26/06/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Ian Lewis
		Grant Gartrell will run a Kelly Hill Caves trip in 2019, hopefully around June.	Grant Gartrell
14-15/ 09/19	Training	National SAR Workshop	
	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.