

CEGSA NEWS



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

Volume 64 Number 4

Issue 256

NOVEMBER 2019



ISSN 2209-1785

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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New Member Liaison	Pam Payne	As above
Website Trip Log	All Trip Coordinators	See list p26

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ASF	Graham Pilkington	As Above
SA Speleological Council	Mark Sefton	As Above
Kanawinka Geotrails Liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above
CDAA Liaison	Ian Lewis	As Above
SA Scout Liaison	Matt Smith	As Above

Cover Photograph: Action at Search and Rescue weekend.

Photo: Matt Smith.

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AUGUST 2019

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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 65 Number 1 (Issue 257) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **12th February 2020**. 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

Of the many excellent discoveries made by speleologists in South Australia, this Sunday celebrates the one I think is the most outstanding – the discovery of the Fossil Chamber in Victoria Cave at Naracoorte 50 years ago this week by Grant Gartrell and Rod Wells. I have said many times in talks and when I worked as a guide there many years ago that of all the speleos to find that extension, there couldn't have been two better chosen by the Great Speleo in the Tunnel. Grant has spent his lifetime chasing airflows in cave passage perimeters to find many new passages and the breeze was blowing '**just right**' on that day when he was in the old Vic tourist cave. Rod had completed a career change from being an engineer in Sydney to train as a palaeontologist here in South Australia and there could not have been a better choice for gazing over a series of sandy-colored lumps in the ground which may have been tromped over by other discoverers who may have not recognised a bonefield until they had walked into it. What a fantastic combination of discoverers and it resonates strongly today with its World Heritage status recognising the chambers as the repository of the world's best-preserved Australian fossil mammals.

And in those 50 years, palaeontology has moved dramatically from the recovery and careful assembly of bones to see the morphology of these creatures (the engineering bit!) to understanding that the sediments themselves contain irreplaceable records of climatic, ecological and species variation over half a million years. From my geological studies and Liz Reed's palaeontological work following on from Rod, we both agree that fossil ages back to one million years will one day be found – the geology and the palaeontology strongly suggest it. There are several articles in this Newsletter about the celebrations to be held this weekend at Naracoorte, and next month is also the 25th anniversary of the World Heritage designation, South Australia's only such site to date. A large number of geologists including myself are currently working toward a nomination of the northern Flinders Ranges for World Heritage based on very early 'Dawn of Life' marine fossils more than 500 million years old. CONGRATULATIONS to Grant and Rod for such an outstanding contribution to caving, to science and to the natural history of South Australia, and indeed the world!

VSA in Victoria through the Rimstone Cooperative have purchased Shades of Death Cave at Buchan and very recently invited the public to inspect it! A copy of the invitation page is contained in this CEGSA News. A combination of fossils in Naracoorte and speleos working with the public like this all contribute to a greater awareness of the significance and importance of caves – this is a good lead-in to the International Year of Karst in 2021 which is also the year that SA hosts the ASF Conference at Easter in Ceduna.

Lastly, several of us received sad news that long-time CEGSA member Joyce Bakker passed away recently. Joyce sent a Christmas Card and a small cash donation to CEGSA every year but in recent years wrote us several letters and donated a set of her caving slides which Graham and I sorted and documented. Joyce enjoyed photography and her early cave shots are of historical interest, including earlier CEGSA members! She took a great interest in the Thai Cave rescue and wrote several letters to us describing how she followed it on TV every day, and her great excitement and congratulations when Harry and the others succeeded in bringing all the young boys out safely. I have collated these letters and cards together with some recollections and will compile a eulogy and detailed article about Joyce for our next CEGSA News. She was CEGSA Member #5801, our fourth longest just after Noel Mollett, Bob Sexton and Athol. Although she preferred to live somewhat as a recluse, we are all glad that she still felt a strong kinship with our CEGSA family which gave her enjoyment and belonging.

Regards to all, Ian Lewis.

TRIP REPORTS

Flinders SAR Exercise

Mairs Cave

Sept 14-15 2019

Program overview:

Started with some anchor and hauling demonstrations outside the homestead by Al Warlid. A few items of note:

- Tri-anchor system with (somewhat) self adjusting rig. Interesting note - use of overhand knot to form a loop in a rope sling - just fine according to the AI
- Demo of counterbalance was pretty straight forward. Body goes up, body goes down. Make sure you have a decent size pulley. Rock Exotica ones with swivels are quite handy, but by no means obligatory
- Fusion knot - somewhat similar to a double figure-8/bunny ears: <http://www.peakinstruction.com/blog/knots/how-to-tie-a-fusion-knot/>
- Went through the basics of connecting the Petzl Nest stretcher

After the theory we moved to a nearby windmill for some practise:

- Counterbalance system was rigged. A third person stayed at the pulley to act as the "controller". Some skepticism as to how much control this person would have, but in practise it turned out to be quite a bit.
- Much closer personal contact during these exercises!
- Tyrolean traverse rigged between two trees. Petzl stop used on one anchor (the end to be tightened). A munter on crab used on the other. General rule of thumb - no more than two people to tighten the rig - more than that can overload the system

After lunch we moved into Mairs cave for a typical caving session. Some stayed at the entrance to play with some hauling.

Sunday morning was a mock exercise. A casualty with pelvic injuries was found in the main chamber of the cave, and had to be extracted.

- Three teams: medical team to find and stabilise the casualty, an in cave hauling rigging team, and the main pitch hauling team
- Casualty was to be extracted via the gate with the ladder
- Casualty was stabilised and moved into stretcher
- Walkie talkies worked well into the main chamber of the cave from the surface. More advanced cave radio techniques not required.
- The in-cave hauling team rigged a traverse (in impressively quick time) and moved the casualty to the entrance
- The main pitch hauling team set up two counterbalance pulleys. One attached to an i-beam of the cave cage. The other to a boulder above the open gate
- Tania acted as a live redirection on the lower ledge of the main pitch. Thomas Varga as the counterbalance for the main pitch. Matt Smith was the counter balance for the upper pulley. Jim directed the up/down/stop calls and movements. Minky controlled the pulley on the main pitch. Nugget acted as controller for the upper pulley
- The counterbalance system worked well and pretty smoothly. Thomas and Tania noted that it was hard work in their positions inside the main pitch. Those on the upper pulley team didn't have such a hard time
- The changeover between the main pitch pulley and the upper one was pretty seamless. Note we added a small cow's tail to the litter when removing the main pitch pulley. Was recommended we always have one available as they can be quite useful.

This was followed by a debriefing. General notes:

- Overall it felt like the rescue went quite smoothly.
- Participants should be mindful of unnecessary chatter, as it can be disruptive whichever team is currently active.
- William (the casualty) had some discomfort whilst vertical in the litter. The harness wasn't tightened for max comfort - ankle straps were used? While these items weren't used as the casualty was assessed to have a pelvic injury, I think in a practice situation such as this the comfort of the mock patient should probably demand we make them as comfortable as possible.

Matt Smith.



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Past Trips from General Meetings

Aug 2019

- Two trips to Corra-Lynn with Mercedes College. 20 students and 15. A good time was had by all!
- Kimberly Trip attended by *Graham Pilkington* and *Mark Sefton*. Report in recent Caves Australia. Windjana River dry, not much water. Mimbi 2-3 new caves found. Plenty of surveying still to do, distracted by other discoveries! New area found full of canyons and caves. Visited Bullita on the way home. 15km of passages mapped.
- The Scout Caving Group visited Naracoorte, visiting Blackberry, Wet, Little Vic and Appledore caves on the 3rd and 4th of August
- Cave Radio Training Day was held at Flinders University on the 11th of August. Report can be found in the latest CEGSA news

Sep 2019

- Neville Skinner, Frank Hankinson, Grant Gartrell, Thomas Varga (FUSI) visited Narrina to check out numerous cave locations. Caught up with land owner. Visited Deep Hole (about 40m deep). Anniversary Cave. Drafted a sketch survey of each cave. Sunday located Valley Cave - had a quick look in the entrance. Found entrance to another cave - narrow solution tube.
- Members of CEGSA, FUSI and the Scout Caving Group attended a Cave Rescue Workshop held at Mairs Cave in the Flinders Ranges. Training was run by Al Warlid and Brian Evans from NSW Cave Rescue, and Phil Maynard also attended.
- ACRC National Rescue Workshop was held at the Glenelg Adventurous Activities Centre. Attended by members of all SA groups, with representatives from all around Australia and New Zealand. Was an excellent and informative discussion about preparedness for cave rescue. Participants from SA will convene in the coming month to discuss planning for our region.

Oct 2019

- *Graham Pilkington* visited Corra-lynn with Mercedes College students - two trips in two weeks, 20 students on each.
- *Neville Skinner*, *Thomas Varga* and *Frank Hankinson* visited Valley Cave. Beautiful but delicate crystals found. Land owners have made it clear they want cave access to be restricted.
- Scout Caving Group visited Byaduk and Mt Eccles in October.
- *Graham Pilkington* now has data on 20 years worth of trips from *Ian Luthenborough*. He has entered this data into OzKarst. Added about 2000 entries, focused on the areas north of the railway which is infrequently visited.

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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
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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CEGSA 2020 Annual General Meeting

The CEGSA Annual General Meeting for the presentation of the Annual Report and the election of office bearers for the coming year will be held on Saturday 15th February 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Pam and Tim Payne's place at 143 Tyeka Drive, One Tree Hill. Members are invited to turn up from 5:00 p.m. onwards for drinks and BBQ beforehand. Please bring everything including a chair.

Pam can be contacted beforehand on 0427103617.

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2021 ASF CONFERENCE

Many of you will know that it's South Australia's turn to organise the next ASF Conference, and we've determined this will be at Ceduna over Easter in 2021. We've got about 18 months to plan for the event, which we'll be doing with members from FUSSI, CEGSA and the Scout Caving Group.

We have a long list of roles for various people to take on, some of them easy, some of them hard. All of them need to be filled! If you're keen to help out, please come along to the dinner, have a chat with the organising committee and nominate yourself to help out.

The dinner will be on Tuesday the 3rd of December and held at the Hilton Hotel on the corner of South Road and Sir Donald Bradman Drive (not the fancy one in town). It kicks off at 7pm.

There is a Facebook event you can RSVP to below, or feel free to do that to me via email:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2673718232872853/>

See you there!
Matt Smith
CEGSA Secretary



TRAIL RUN

7.30 am	Mega Fauna Run – 22km
8.00 am	Stoney Point Run – 14km
8.30 am	The Dippy Run – 5km
10.00am	Fossil Dash – 1km (start at the Fossil Hunters Playground)

BIG FUN at the Mega Stage

10.10 am	Welcome to Country and official opening
10.30am	Trail Run Presentations
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Matt James – Australian Country Music
3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Alex Keser Quartet

Mega Fest - Naracoorte World Heritage Festival and Run

I's all about the mega bones!!!! Come to the Naracoorte Caves National Park for the Naracoorte World Heritage Festival and Run to celebrate 50 years since the discovery of our World-famous fossil beds and 25 years since the Naracoorte Caves were inscribed on the World Heritage list.....but first shake awake your lazy bones by joining or supporting those in the Naracoorte World Heritage Trail Run.

BIG STORIES - Blanche Cave

There are 40 steps into and out of the cave. The cave is not accessible for wheel chairs or prams. The performances can be heard from the viewing platform on the Rooftop Loop Walk.

10.40am and 11.30am	Professor Flint, the Singing Palaeontologist performs "Dancing with Diprotodons" - A journey of discovery to the place Prof Flint first experienced these amazing animals that once dwelt in and around Naracoorte. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Book and pay at the Wonambi Fossil Centre, 08 8760 1210.
12.30pm	Naracoorte Singers perform "This is Naracoorte... This is who we are"
12.45pm	Naracoorte Caves Music Ensemble premieres Ivan Skawronski's composition "Adventure To The Limestone Caves"
1.45pm	"A trip back in time" – fossils, cave exploring and World Heritage with Professor Rod Wells and Grant Gartrell the men responsible for finding the immense amount of megafauna remains in the Victoria Fossil Cave 50 years and Brian Clark, former District Ranger at Naracoorte Caves who was instrumental in developing the site for tourism.
3.15pm	Picnic Ground to World Heritage – a special tour with vertebrate palaeontologist Dr Liz Reed. Book and pay at the Wonambi Fossil Centre, 08 8760 1210



ALL DAY FUN – 10.00am to 4.00pm

Fossil laboratory	Find out about the latest fossil and caves research.
Fossil Hunters Discovery Trail	Discover the Wonambi Fossil Centre, uncover a fossil in the Fossil Hunters Playground, visit the Bat Observation Centre and Fossil Laboratory - you never know what else you'll discover on the trail. Finish at the Caves Cafe with a bat biscuit. All for \$10 from the Wonambi Fossil Centre.
Special Cave Tours	Contact the Wonambi Fossil Centre for tour times and cost on 08 8760 1210.
Meet a palaeontologist	University of Adelaide Palaeontologists fun filled activities including fossil displays and demonstrations at the Fossil Lab and fossil dig sand pit.
Wrattonbully Wines	Locally produced wine available to taste or purchase a glass to enjoy with lunch or while listening to the live music.

Mega Fest - Naracoorte World Heritage Festival and Run

It's all about the mega bones!!!! Come to the Naracoorte Caves National Park for the Naracoorte World Heritage Festival and Run to celebrate 50 years since the discovery of our World-famous fossil beds and 25 years since the Naracoorte Caves were inscribed on the World Heritage list.....but first shake awake your lazy bones by joining or supporting those in the Naracoorte World Heritage Trail Run.

Mega Face painting	Look like a Zygomaturus, Wonambi, Thylacoleo or Diprotodon.
Naracoorte National Trust pop up display	Take a step back in time – view photos and tourist information from the past. Bring along any historical items you have that relate to the Caves.
Red Tailed Black Cockatoo	The Naracoorte Caves provides important habitat for the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo – find out more about these magnificent birds.
Naracoorte Caves Walking Trails	Explore the above-ground world and learn more about the World Heritage features of the park on the Roof Top Loop Walk or the World Heritage and Stoney Point Hikes.
Food and market stalls	

06 November 2019

Naracoorte Caves Loop Walk wins Walking SA Award



The Naracoorte Caves **Roof Top Loop Walk** was recognised in the annual **Walking SA Awards** late last month, winning the Special Recognition Award – Group Organisation.

DEW's Iconic Tourism Sites Program Manager Gary Joyce at the Walking SA Awards with the Hon Matt Cowdrey MP and Walking SA Chair Tuesday Udell

Officially launched at the start of the year, the 850-metre walk provides universal access for people of all ages and abilities, giving those in wheelchairs as well as people with prams access to the fascinating world of the Naracoorte Caves.

As the state's only **World Heritage Listed site**, the caves are **a key destination for regional tourism in SA.**

More than 50,000 people visited the site in 2018, with recent upgrades meaning even more tourists are expected to visit during the next 12 months.

Accessible trails and tourism are becoming increasingly popular in SA, allowing more people to more easily enjoy nature and exercise.

According to Parks and Wildlife Manager Nick McIntyre, the Roof Top Loop Walk adds a new dimension to the experience at Naracoorte Caves.

'As well as being fully accessible for wheelchairs and prams, we also understand that not everyone likes the idea of being underground in a cave,' he said.

'We're delighted Walking SA has chosen to recognise and honour the Roof Top Loop Walk, and we look forward to many more visitors experiencing the caves in the future.'

The Walking SA Awards are held annually and recognise sustained and outstanding contributions to walking at all levels throughout the state.

Caves Loop Walk claims special award

NARACOORTE CAVES

THE Naracoorte Caves Loop Walk has been recognised in the annual Walking SA Awards, receiving the 2019 Special Recognition Award.

Many volunteers have contributed to the Naracoorte Caves Loop Walk, and the Awards, which are in its fourth year, was a night to recognise the sustained and outstanding contributions to walking at all levels throughout the state.

The Awards were held on October 23 and 12 organisations and individuals were celebrated for their brilliance.

The 850m walk, which was officially launched at the start of this year, provides universal access for people of all ages and abilities.

It gives all wheelchairs and people with prams access to experience the fascinating world of the Naracoorte Caves.

As the state's only World Heritage Listed site, the caves are a key destination for regional tourism in South Australia.

More than 50,000 people visited the Naracoorte Caves in 2018.

The upgrades will mean previous and new tourists are likely to return.

Accessible trails and tourism are an increasing focus for state governments as they allow more people to easily enjoy nature and exercise.

According to Naracoorte Caves manager Nick McIntyre, the walk adds a new dimension to the experience at the caves.

"As well as being fully accessible for wheelchairs and prams, we also understand that not all visitors wish to go underground in a cave," Mr McIntyre said.

"We're delighted Walking SA has chosen to recognise and honour the Roof Top Loop Walk.

"We look forward to many more visitors experiencing the caves in the future."

Walking SA has initiated these awards to recognise the outstanding contributions people make to walking in the state.

Many volunteers and others have contributed to South Australia's great walking trails, clubs and walking promotion and opportunities for health, well-being, recreation and tourism.



LOOP: An aerial view of the award-winning Naracoorte Caves Loop Walk.

SA Department for Environment and Water News 30 October 2019

Naracoorte Caves' Mega Fest celebrates its prehistoric past

Naracoorte and Tantanoola Caves Senior Guide Decima McTernan grew up playing at the caves, never thinking it would one day be listed as a World Heritage site, or that she would end up working there.



Naracoorte and Tantanoola Caves Senior Guide Decima McTernan

Next month the Naracoorte Caves is hosting Mega Fest to celebrate 25 years of the caves being inscribed on the World Heritage list and 50 years since the discovery of the main fossil chamber in Victoria Fossil Cave.

Decima says World Heritage status has changed the life of the caves in many ways.

'The site's higher profile has resulted in higher visitation and consequently more funding opportunities,' she said.

'This has resulted in positive flow-on effects to the local and state economy as the caves attract visitors from all over the world.

'World Heritage status comes with obligations to monitor, protect and present the site to maintain its values.

'As the caves are recognised for the fossils' scientific value, the caves must be protected, and hence access needs to be carefully managed.

'Visitors and researchers are able to visit and study at the site, but must follow management guidelines to ensure the caves remain well protected.

'So much has happened since 1969, (when I was 12 years old), when the Fossil Chamber was discovered in the Victoria Cave.

'Before that time I never thought that the park I considered my playground would end up on the world stage.

'As a child I played and picnicked in a section of Blanche Cave, as most locals did. My older sisters went to parties in a couple of caves and enjoyed open access.

'My playground among the pine trees above the caves was not quite up to the standard of the Fossil Hunter's Nature Playground that local children can enjoy there today.

'The site was a magical place nonetheless. In those days guided tours were more focused on entertainment than education and research.

'I was employed at the caves in 1994, the year it gained World Heritage listing. It was an exciting time although I probably did not quite realise the enormity of the listing or the incredible changes that were to follow.

'My role these days is as the senior guide at the site. I often tell visitors that my underground office doesn't seem that unusual as caves have always been a part of who I am and what I've done.'

Mega Fest will be held on Sunday 24 November at the Naracoorte Caves. There will be a range of activities for visitors to enjoy, including the inaugural Naracoorte World Heritage Trail Run, science talks, specially tailored heritage tours, a farmers market, food, wine and entertainment.

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Environment SA News

31 October 2019

Naracoorte Caves celebrates World Heritage status

This month Naracoorte Caves in the state's south east is celebrating its discovery as one of the world's greatest fossil sites.



Blanche Cave, Naracoorte

Photo courtesy Steve Bourne

On Sunday 24 November a number of fun social activities and cultural events are planned during Mega Fest at the caves. Naracoorte Caves National Park will host **Mega Fest**, a festival celebrating 25 years of the caves being inscribed on the World Heritage list and 50 years since the discovery of the main fossil chamber in Victoria Fossil Cave.

Department for Environment National Parks and Wildlife Manager in the Limestone Coast, Nick McIntyre, said Mega Fest will recognise the importance of the Naracoorte Caves in understanding history, and also the significant contribution the park makes to the state and local economy.

“Naracoorte Caves attracts around 55,000 visitors annually and the popularity of our cave tours continues to grow,” Mr McIntyre said. “People are fascinated to learn that the caves originally acted as pitfall traps and became the final resting place of different vertebrate species that roamed the area 500,000 years ago. “The caves preserve the most complete fossil record we have for this period of time, spanning several ice ages, the arrival of humans in the area and the extinction of Australia’s iconic Megafauna roughly 50,000 years ago. “People can learn more about palaeontology at Naracoorte Caves by joining a **World Heritage tour** or taking a walk along the **Roof Top Loop trail**.”

Professor Rod Wells and Grant Gartrell, (who discovered the Fossil Chamber), will be joined by former Cave Manager Brian Clark in Blanche Cave to talk about the discovery, its significance and the journey to World Heritage Listing.

Throughout the day staff from the University of Adelaide will run fossil displays and demonstrations at the Fossil Lab and fossil dig sand pit.

Visitors can take part in a variety of different fun runs on the day, ranging from the 22km Mega Fauna Run to the 1km Fossil Dash, be able to indulge in regional food and wine and enjoy a farmers’ market, along with other social and cultural activities between 10am and 4pm.

There will also be live entertainment by the Naracoorte Singers, Limestone Coast Symphony Orchestra, local musician Matt James and the James Morrison Jazz Academy.

Caves staff have worked with the Naracoorte Lucindale Council, and the Naracoorte Lucindale Business and Tourism Association to develop Mega Fest, which is partly funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Building Better Regions Fund.

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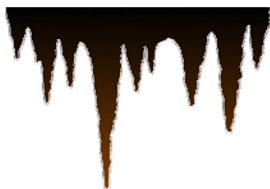


Open invitation to the Buchan community

The Directors of
Rimstone Co-operative Ltd
cordially invite you to our...



Shades of Death Cave Open Day, Launch and evening BBQ



Saturday 2nd November

Come and have a look, and share in our experiences

Rimstone Co-operative is proud to have been able to purchase the M3 Shades of Death cave and property from the cavers who developed the cave over many years.

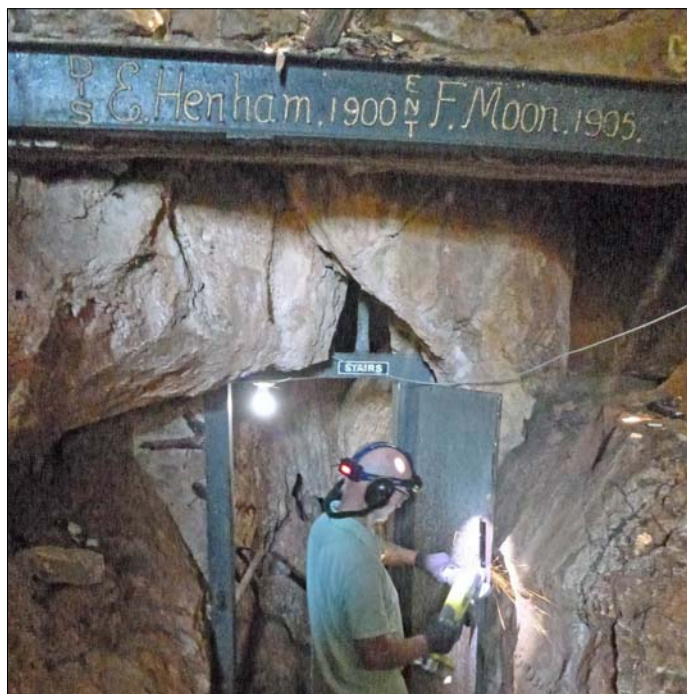
The team has spent a lot of time in recent months on maintenance and upgrade activities, and now it's time to share the progress with the local community.

When: Saturday 2nd November

11am – Official opening ceremony on site (arrive from 10am for a cuppa)

Where: At Shades of Death Cave, Murrindal

(15 km north of Buchan on Buchan-Gelantipy Road)



11am, Saturday 2nd November:

Official opening, and tours of the cave with special souvenir Rimstone Newsletter including a history of the cave.

Gold coin entry for visitors and members and local community warmly welcome.

2nd November evening:

Celebratory BBQ at Homeleigh.

RSVP: To RSVP or register to receive a copy of the Special Souvenir Rimstone Newsletter (no junk mail), email to:

info@Rimstone.org.au

Shades of Death Cave

Photo shows recent maintenance work on the cave entrance door.

1900 – Discovered, Ernie Henham; 1905 – Entered and explored, Frank Moon.

Environment SA News

Heat expected to affect flying foxes

20 November 2019



Hot weather is likely to impact on the grey-headed flying fox colony in Adelaide's Botanic Park.

Picture credit: Craig Greer.

National Parks and Wildlife Service South Australia ecologist Jason van Weenen says, there has been a clear trend, as the colony has grown over recent years, of increasing numbers of young grey-headed flying foxes succumbing to heat stress.

"Earlier this year, during the January heatwave temperatures reached 46C which resulted in the deaths of around 3000 bats from the colony, with now numbers around 20,000 bats," Mr van Weenen said.

"With temperatures predicted to hit 42C today, Wednesday 20 November, it's quite possible we'll see further casualties, and if very hot conditions persist through summer, we could expect significant numbers of pups die."

The Department for Health and Wellbeing's Executive Director of Health Protection and Licensing Services Dr Chris Lease said, any contact with a bat can be very dangerous and the animals must only be handled by appropriately trained and vaccinated bat handlers.

"Bats can carry a range of serious diseases that can be transmitted to humans if they are bitten or scratched by an infected bat, including Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV), which causes rabies," Dr Lease said.

"While less than one per cent of Australian bats carry ABLV and no human cases have been recorded in South Australia, there have been three reported cases of rabies from ABLV in Australia since 1996, all of which were fatal. The last case involved a child and occurred in Queensland in 2013.

"In 2018 there were nine bat exposures in South Australia that required precautionary treatment, including rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine.

“Like most wild animals, healthy bats are naturally shy and will not approach humans or allow themselves to be handled. However, during summer it’s more common to see bats, particularly young flying foxes, on the ground as they’re sensitive to the heat, resulting in some bats falling from trees.”

If you see a large or small bat on the ground - living or dead - do not touch it under any circumstances. Instead contact the Fauna Rescue’s 24-hour bat helpline on 0475 132 093.

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FUSSI PROGRAMME Dec 2019- March 2020

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

YEAR BREAK 25 Nov – 22 Feb 2020

Dec 7 th – 8 th		Mt Gambier trip. Sarah Coordinating
		Dates TBC
Sun Jan 12 th	11am onwards	New Years get together. Venue to be decided
Jan 18 th – 26 th . 2020		Buchan Caves Vic. Vertical experience would be useful. Sil and Clare Coordinating <i>Dates to be Confirmed.</i>
Feb 24-28 th		O’Week, Stalls. Help needed.
March 1 st		Murray River Beginners Trip. Thomas Coordinating

March 2 - 2020 SEMESTER STARTS

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
27/11/19	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. End of year BBQ	Mark Sefton
??/12/19	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
03/12/19	Dinner/meeting	Dinner and meeting re ASF Conference Hilton Hotel corner of South Road and Sir Donald Bradman Drive	Matt Smith
25/12/19	No General Meeting	No General Meeting	Mark Sefton
??/01/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
22/01/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. TBA	Mark Sefton
01/02/20	Annual Report	Office Bearers reports due.	Athol Jackson
??/02/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Mark Sefton
12/02/20	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
15/02/20	AGM	Annual General Meeting. 143 Tyeka Drive, One Tree Hill.	Pam Payne
26/02/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
??/03/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	
25/03/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel.	
Easter21	ASF Conference	Conference / field trips, Ceduna, Nullarbor	Speleo Council.
	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.

Notes.