

CEGSA NEWS

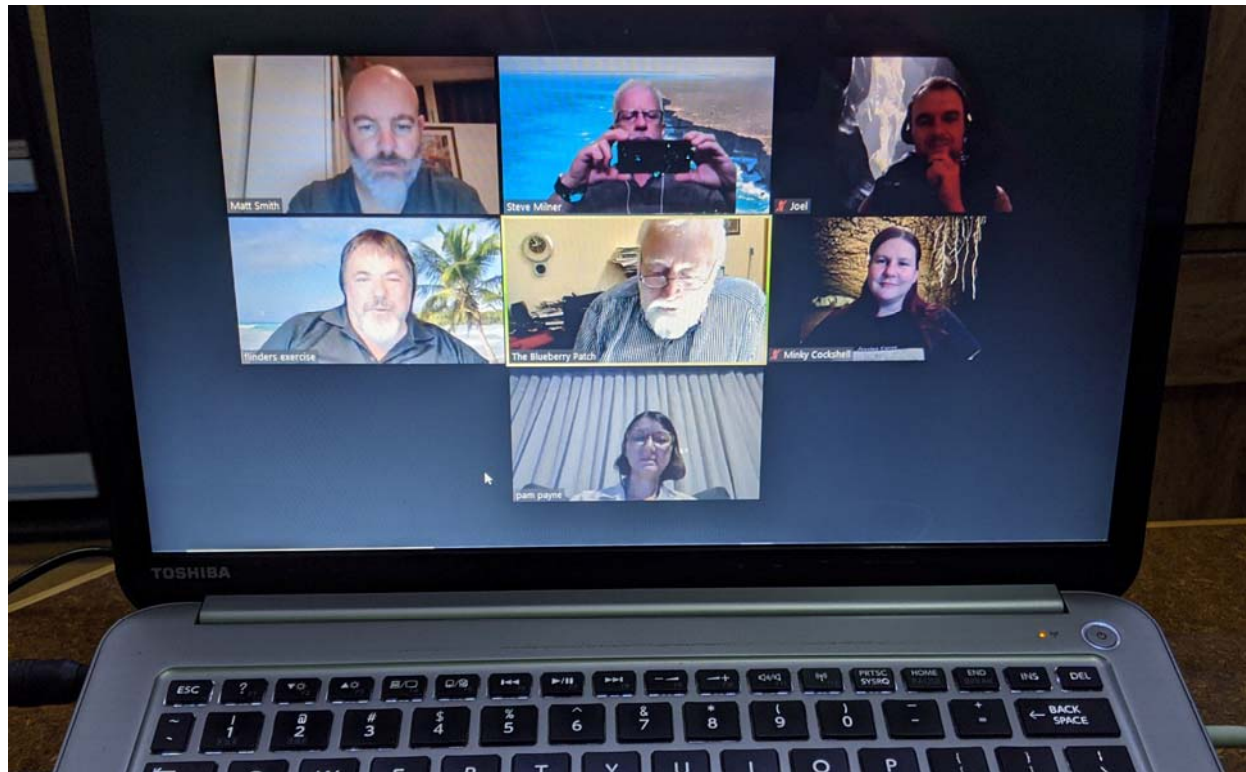


Newsletter of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc.

Volume 65 Number 2

Issue 258

MAY 2020



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.

2020 Committee

President	Ian Lewis	(W) 8463 7649 (M) 0427 284 051 (E) Ian.Lewis2@sa.gov.au
Secretary	Matt Smith	(M) 0419 830 575 (E) matt@speleorovers.org
Committee	Mark Sefton	(H) 8277 9086 (E) seftons@adam.com.au
Committee	Pam Payne	(H) 8280 7958 (M) 0427 103 617 (E) pam.payne@bigpond.com
Committee	Heather Siebert	
Committee	Neville Skinner	(H) 8296 4142 (M) 0411 295 766 (W) 8186-9256 (E) 23nesk01@adam.com.au

Other Office Bearers

Public Officer / Library & Records/ OzKarst admin / Membership.	Graham Pilkington	(M) 0473 254 956 (E) p-c-h@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Mark Corbett	(M) 0439 042 707 (E) macorbett@gmail.com
Publications	Athol Jackson	(H) 8337 8759 (E) atholjax@adam.com.au
Webmaster	Matt Smith	As above
Quartermaster / Key & GPS	Neville Skinner	(H) 8296 4142 (M) 0411 295 766
Search & Rescue Co-ordinator	Harry Harris	(H) 8431 5395 (M) 0417 177 83 (E) drharry@me.com
Safety Officer	Matt Smith	As above
Science Officer	Ian Lewis	As above
Training	Matt Smith	As above
New Member Liaison	Pam Payne	As above
Website Trip Log	All Trip Coordinators	See list p38

Area Coordinators

Eyre Peninsula, Murray Mallee, Gawler Ranges, Torrens, NE of SA, Pitjandjara lands, NW of SA	Records Officer	As above
Upper & Lower S E(dry), Glenelg River	Kevin Mott	(H) 8723 1461 (M) 0447 792 601 (E) jkmott@internode.on.net
Lower South East (wet), Narinna (wet)	Peter Horne	(H) 8295 6031 (E) ppuddles@yahoo.com.au
Adelaide & Kangaroo Is.	Grant Gartrell	(H) 8556 9100 (W) 8556 9100 (E) farm@blueberrypatch.com.au
Nullarbor Plain (SA & WA), Yorke Peninsula	Graham Pilkington	As above
Flinders	Stan Flavel	(M) 0407 600 358 (E) tadarida7@gmail.com

Representatives

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

Cover Photograph: Screen Shots from April Zoom Meeting

CONTENTS

Volume 65 Number 2

Issue 258

MAY 2020

CONTENTS

	AUTHOR	PAGE
Committee and Office Bearers		23
Contents		24
Presidents Spot	Ian Lewis	25

TRIP REPORTS

Stop Press	Graham Pilkington	26
Pearse Resurgence 2020	Richard Harris	26
The New Year's Excursion to Albala Kuroo	Max Meth	32
Delamere Cave For Sale	Grant Gartrell	35
Past Trips (from February Meeting)		36
Past Trips (from April Meeting)		36

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

Membership Fees	Graham Pilkington	37
Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders	Committee	38
Jenolan Caves House Saved From Bushfires		38
New Trail to Link World Heritage Site		40
SA Heritage sites to Benefit from Heritage Grants		40
Bat-borne viruses could kill off Koalas		41
Inaugural EP and KI Landscape Board Members Appointed		42
Ceduna ASF Conference Postponed		43
Calendar of Events	Committee	44

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 3 (Issue 259) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **12th August 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.



PRESIDENTS SPOT

Greetings to everyone in an extraordinary three months since our last CEGSA NEWS as the world has had to shut down, our streets go quiet and meeting face-to-face was off the cards. Who would have ever thought that people would be faced with such restrictions and caution? The trade-off between care to limit danger and exposure of virus infection to the population as against severely reducing work availability, particularly in the travel and hospitality industries has been a practical and moral dilemma for Australia's medical leadership. As I write this, the beginnings of balance between these serious viewpoints is beginning to swing back - permission for small social gatherings is increasing and partial work returns being encouraged. As I understand, no-one from CEGSA or their families has been impacted by any coronaviral illness which is great to hear. Some time fairly soon we should all have the chance to gather again in the Royal Society rooms for more caving chat, hopefully to plan more actual trips! It has been remarked several times that to cavers, the safest place to be during a virus crisis is happily underground on the Nullarbor or Bullita or the Flinders Range somewhere! It will be great to see those trips being planned again soon.

One major decision influenced by these events is that the ASF has deferred the Easter 2021 Ceduna Conference for a year. While that may seem a strange decision, the Conference organising committee found that it was difficult to continue early planning discussions, contacts and booking commitments with various organisations, councils and businesses during these months of restrictions and reliable forward planning was not achievable. However, the committee is continuing to meet and plan for Ceduna 2022. The Easter holiday weekend date is being reconsidered as it is a helpful time to some speleos travelling from interstate but not so helpful for others so a final decision on dates will be negotiated.

The effects of the bush fires have had drastic effects on the Tourist Cave industry in this country and most welcome news is beginning to filter out as locations such as Buchan, Jenolan and Kelly Hill are beginning to open for business again. Naracoorte Caves have received some major research grants and just this week the local Council has commenced a 'Town to Caves' trail to encourage further visitation from passing traffic. We wish them the very best with this progressive concept. Show Cave closures have affected our cave guiding and site interpreter friends and we wish you all a speedy re-engagement in interpreting the 'Wonderground' for an increasing public visitation again. Also due to the pandemic and shutdown, the reputation of bats has been hammered around the world. It is to be sincerely hoped that bat populations of any kind, anywhere, are not targeted for destruction as a result. I understand that Australian microbats have been assessed as not carrying the coronavirus and perhaps biologically not capable of doing so. However, it is always important to handle bats with care and avoid disturbing them on site so let's care for them and ensure their continued safety and survival.

A most positive development that has just occurred is that our own Steve Milner has just been elected to the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board which places him in a most strategic position to assist and advise us on planning and promoting the 2022 Ceduna ASF Conference as the time approaches. You have a very responsible and significant role in the EP community and the eastern Nullarbor, Steve, and CEGSA offers its congratulations and our full support to you. You have made great strides in raising the profile of speleology since your brave and far-sighted decision to relocate to Denial Bay on that lovely western EP coast.

I received some photos of our recent ZOOM meeting where a number of CEGSA members convened our last General meeting by computer screen – never in its history since 1955 has CEGSA met in such a way! Congratulations to all who took part and particularly to Matt Smith for setting it up successfully. Very impressive that the backdrop of Steve Milner's face was the cliffs of the Nullarbor – was it wallpaper or was he so devoted to those cliffs to sit in a windy deckchair on the very verge to add a limestone influence to the virtual meeting!!?

We all look forward to meeting again soon. I wish you all an increasingly outgoing and productive active second half of the unexpected year of 2020! Now, what will we do with this 40 kilometers of toilet paper??

Cheers to everyone from ***Ian Lewis***.

TRIP REPORTS

STOP PRESS

Thampanna Cave, N-206, is now 11.9 km long and the third longest cave in the Nullarbor. It will surpass Mullamullang's 12.2 km as soon as we can get back in there!

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%

Pearse Resurgence 2020 - The Quest Continues

By Richard Harris. Images Simon Mitchell

Onsite 11-23rd Feb 2020

After a long break, the Wetmules and friends returned to the Pearse to continue the search for the connection to Nettlebed Cave.

Participants

Pearse dive team - Craig Challen, Richard Harris, John Dalla-Zuanna, Luke Nelson, Dave Apperley, Bruce Clulow, Simon Mitchell.

Nettlebed exploration - Dave Bardi, Sandy Varin and Kieran Mackay.

Support – Oz Patterson, Deb Cade, Anthony Honeybone and Phil Cooper



L-R Dave Bardi, Phil Cooper, Sandy Varin (sitting), Luke Nelson, Craig Challen, Simon Mitchell, John Dalla-Zuanna, Bruce Clulow, Richard Harris, Kieran Mackay, Dave Apperley. Absent: Anthony Honeybone.

Some minor changes were made from 2016. The 7m habitat was upgraded to a spacious inflatable like the 16m, rather than the cramped (for 2 people) IBC. New habitat scrubbers (The Mule-o-Matic 5500) were over engineered to ensure CO2 did not become an issue during the 16m and 7m stops. Open mic comms to 16 and 7m complemented the pre-existing buzzer system. The Triton chest mount rebreathers replaced the home-made "ManBags" at 40m and 30m, as well as being used for transfers between the habitats. Finally, Harry and Craig used Seacraft scooters as the long-suffering Sierras were retired from deep diving. And a bonus feature of the Seacraft is its ENC2 electronic logger which replaced Ken Smith's C-Logger.

A change in helicopter providers this year saw the team using Toby Reid of Helicopters Nelson in Wakefield. His AS350 Squirrel takes much heavier loads than Syd's Hughes, so access to the site in dry and dusty conditions took just 7 loads. Water levels were at a record low and Eyles Creek did not flow during the trip. There might be something in this February timing. And good news, the Blue Ducks were numerous, as were the mouse-eating Wekas which made their maiden appearance for us at this site.



Toby Reid our Squirrel pilot gets Craig working on the strops.

Pearse Exploration

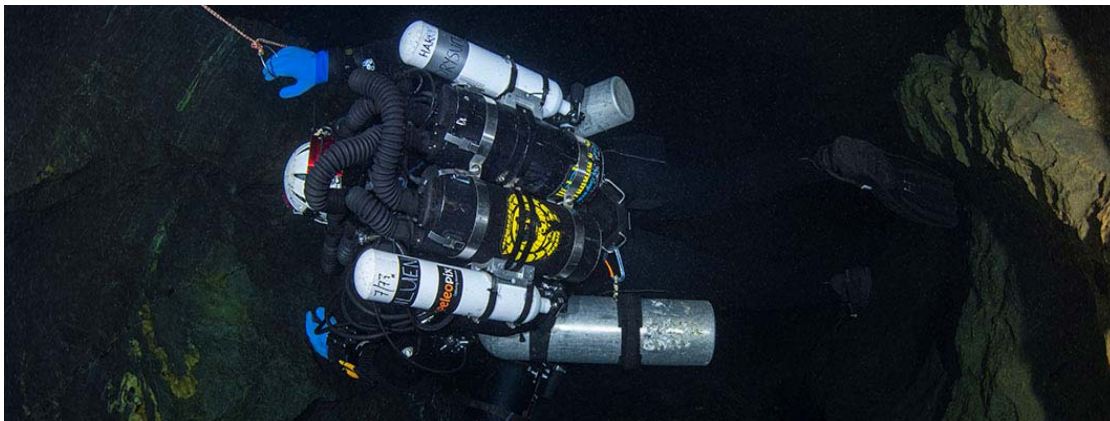
This year's strategy meant some selfishness on the part of Challen and Harris. They started diving the MultiMegs from day 1, getting the dressing procedure streamlined which is a major early source of frustration. Thick undergarments and dry gloves mean movement is restricted and simple tasks are clumsy. Meanwhile, the other divers set up the cave in record time with habitats, comms, buzzers, heating cables and cylinders installed within the five days it took Craig and Harry to ready themselves. This allowed buildup dives to 150m to be performed and multiple minor equipment issues to be worked through. By Monday 17th, all was in readiness.



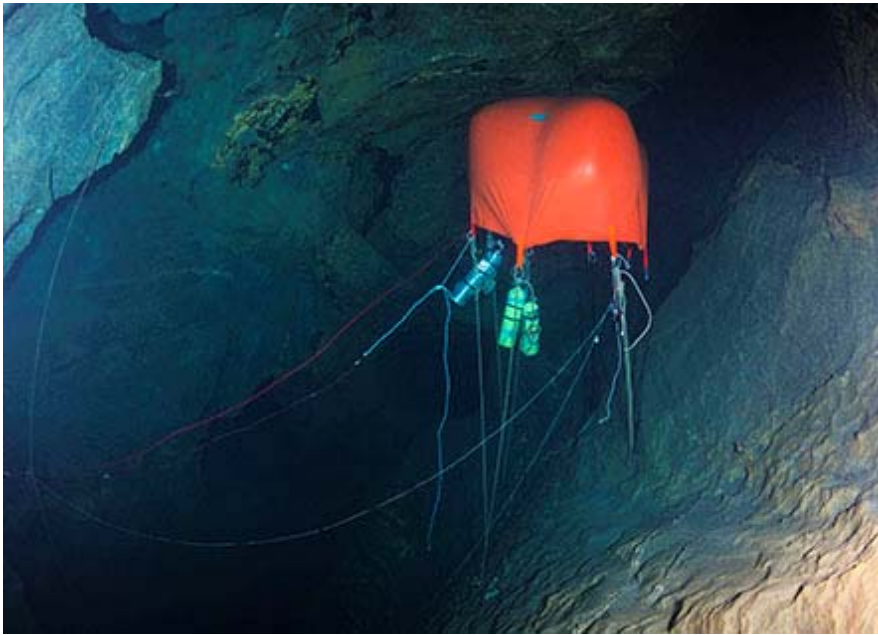


Richard Harris and Craig Challen. Previous page – Luke helps Harry and Craig on the day of the big dive.

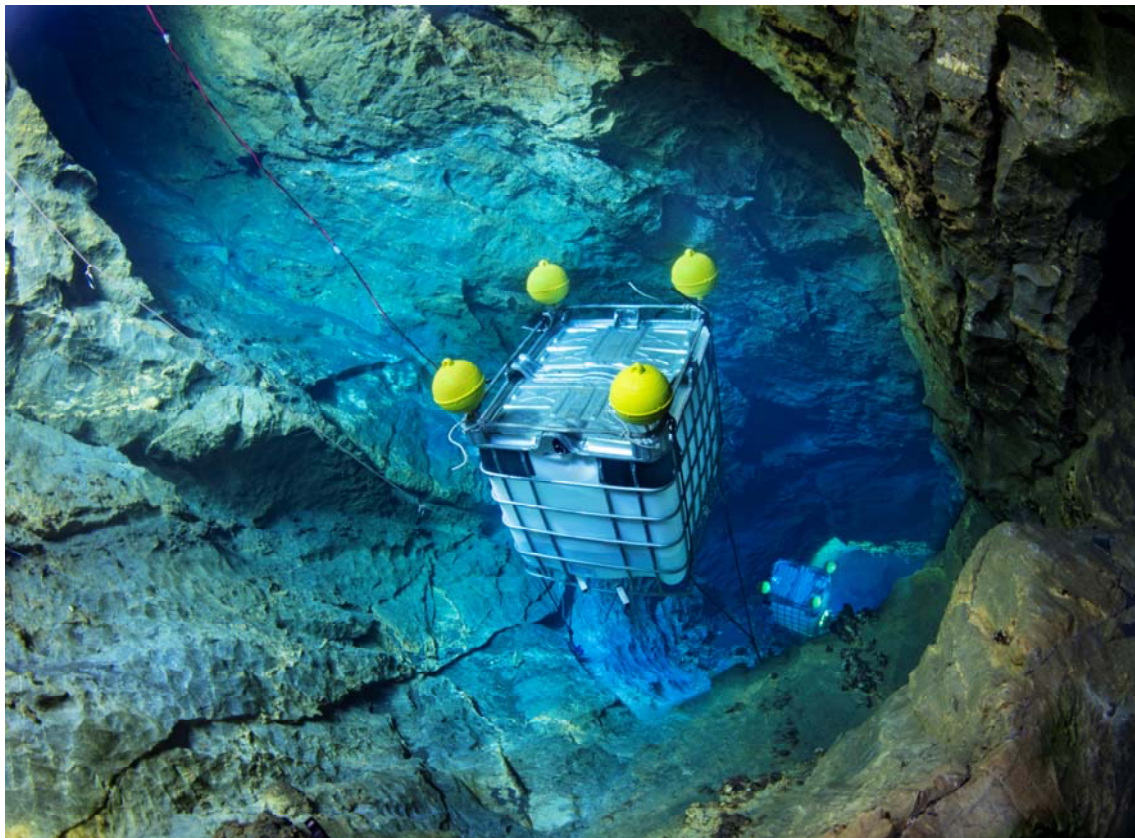
Dr Simon Mitchell took the position of dive controller. Harry and Craig were underwater and underway by 0826 hours. The plan this year was to further explore the original tunnel down Stanton's Hole. Would it connect into the back of Second Breakfast? A straightforward descent as far as the 182m level where loops of old line were noted, but no entanglement hazards. It was here that things started to go awry. Craig, in the lead, scooted towards the smaller lower exit from this room, whilst Harry passed over the top via the larger passage. In that brief moment, Craig looked back over his shoulder to note Harry wasn't there, and Harry moved in front assuming Craig was still behind him. The result; Harry continued down and Craig headed up looking for his buddy! The result was a costly 5-minute separation before they found each other again at about 175m. They recommenced the descent.



Harry doing deco using the TwinMeg



The 16m habitat looking like a large jellyfish.



Looking down at the 28m and 40m habitats.

At the 200m mark, Craig tied on a reel as the old line was becoming very fragmented again. A short scooter to the previous limit of exploration at 221m and they were off into virgin cave. The passage continued in the usual pattern; steep descents interspersed with short flatter rooms. The 200m mark saw the cave take its first turn towards the south, away from beneath the course of the Pearse River at ~060°M. At 210m, the same pattern repeated and thus the cave has shown the first promise of heading back towards Nettlebed Cave (or at least towards the Ellis Basin). The final bearing at the end of the dive was 170° magnetic. At that point (~65m line laid) one tunnel headed steeply down to the left, and a second lead lay straight ahead. A question for next time!

Thus at 38mins began the long trip home. At 4 hours run time they arrived back at the 40m habitat.

Dive statistics

Stop times

40m 90mins

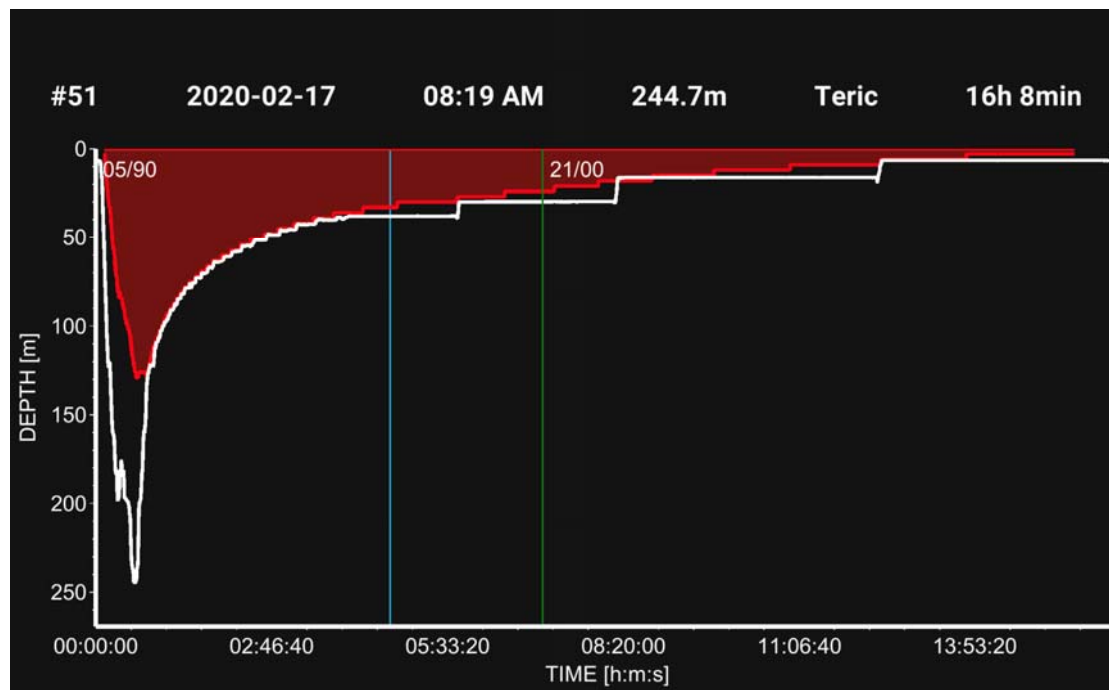
30m 150mins

16m 257mins

7m 210mins

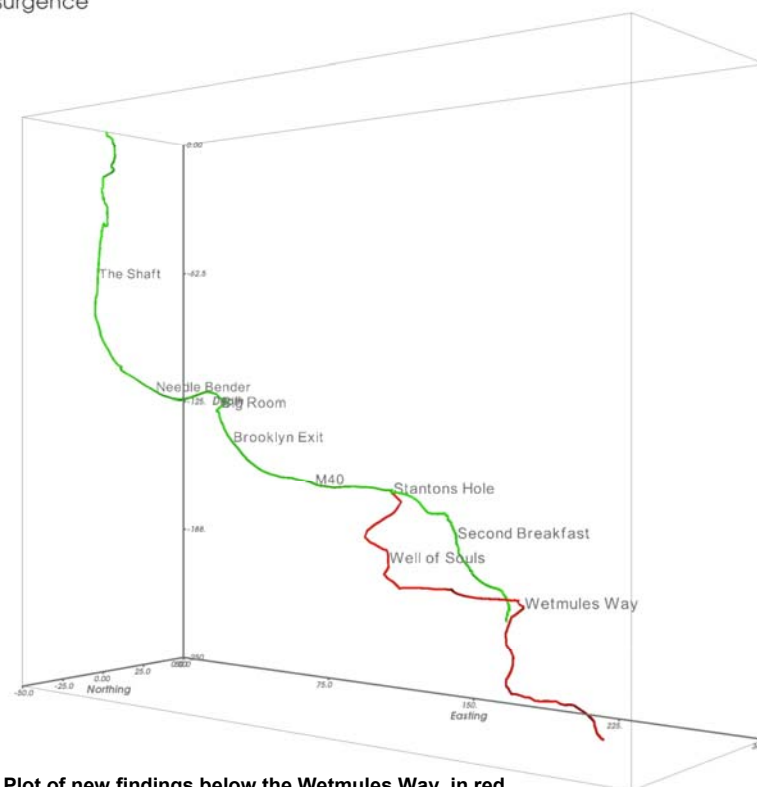
Divers surfaced just over 16 hours after the dive started.

~218m horizontal distance on plan view from entrance pool to EOL, ~538m swimming distance, max depth 245mfw.



Dive profile of the exploration dive to 245m

Pearse Resurgence



Plot of new findings below the Wetmules Way, in red.

Nettlebed Exploration

The 2016 Nettlebed exploration resulted in the team coming to a halt in the Spillway, peering down a climb at dive line laid in the Sewers Canal in 2014...we must have missed something. Back to the Spillway in 2020 to recheck.

Sandy, supported by Dave and Kieran completed the first dive in the Spillway, approximately 1.2km into the Nettlebed system. No new way on was discovered, so the team moved diving operations to the next obvious place to dive...the Launderette. Several dives were conducted by Sandy connecting the Launderette and Sewers Canal. A continuous path connecting the Spillway, Launderette and Sewers Canal was now complete. Almost. The climb from the Launderette to the Sewers Canal still needed to be checked. Dave, Sandy and Kieran set off from the Midas chambers, right at the entrance to the cave system to bolt climb the missing section. The team dived six upstream sumps via the Passage of Time to reach the spot where Kieran would bolt climb from a sump pool. A dye trace at the Midas chambers was also conducted.



There is no mistaking a positive fluorescein dye test.

The result of the bolt climb discovered a way on via a sump pool back in the Spillway. The dye trace in the Midas Chambers revealed a connection to the Pearse Resurgence as the dye emerged from deep to the entrance. Even in the low flow conditions, the dye came through in 18hours compared with over 30 hours for the Spillway trace in 2016. Another way on discovered but hindered by a restriction that would require work. Two clear ways on now need to be explored in the future.

The usual thanks must be extended to Oz Patterson and Deb Cade for their unlimited generosity and hospitality. I wonder how many vagrant cavers from around the planet they have selflessly hosted and supported?! Thanks also to Shearwater Research, O'Three Drysuits, Seacraft Scooters and the New Zealand Caving community.



Lowering gear down the chimneys to the sump, just inside the main entrance to Nettlebed Cave.



Kieran Mackay prepares to dive a sump at the base of Nettlebed Cave. Sandy and Luke watch on.

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

THE NEW YEAR'S EXCURSION TO ALBALA KURROO.

The Eucla Recorder – Saturday Jan 7 1899 Page 7 & 8

[notes in [square brackets] are by Max Meth]

[Evidently Abrakurrie Cave was known to Eucla locals in 1898 as Albala Kurroo, the two names being somewhat similar. There is an Albala Karoo blowhole in South Australia about 70 km east of the Eucla telegraph station]

(By "Pommax" from notes supplied)

[Don't know who Pommax is, other than he was at Eucla in 1898 and was possibly a Pom named Max. And it might be that the author of the article was the editor of the newspaper using notes supplied by Pommax]

[Saturday 31 Dec 1898]

A number of the young men of Eucla who felt they would enjoy a break in the monotony of life here, made arrangements for an excursion during the New Year holidays to the great cave known as Albala Kurroo. The means of locomotion in the shape of vehicles, camels and horses were supplied by Messrs Lemessurier and Cook, and at half past one on Saturday the last day of '98 a start was made from the operators quarters. Both staffs were well represented, and the party, including the guides and a cyclist, mustered fourteen strong. The drive out was enjoyed by all, but the country passed through was rather monotonous; clumps of mallee scrub alternated with grassy plains, the whole presenting a dull, parched up appearance with no freshness or variety visible anywhere. A few turkeys were seen on the wing afar off, safely out of shooting distance, and at times a kangaroo scurried away into the thick scrub. The road was splendid, and the horses of the South Australians went along at a brisk pace, but the camels responsible for the safe conduct of the Westralians travelled much slower, and the Westerners soon found they would be the last to reach the camping place.

The cyclist, however, with his light trusty steed, easily beat the horses and camels, and when the South Australians arrived at 6.30 pm they were agreeably surprised to find a bright fire burning and a big "wommah" constructed ready for use as a sleeping place.

[implying that the cyclist had been to the cave previously and / or knew its exact location. But later in this article it is evident that none of the current residents of Eucla had ever visited the cave]

A large tent fly was spread between some trees to form an additional covering, and the party attacked the store of provisions. The Westralians reached camp at 9 pm when the victuals suffered from another fierce onslaught, and the time until the New Year dawned was passed in singing and other jollifications. During the night several light showers of rain fell, damping a few of the party, and at length even the liveliest spirits fell victims to the wooing of nature's soft nurse.

[Sunday 1 Jan 1899]

It was evident that a good few had made strong resolutions to rise early during 1899, for everyone was astir by 4 am and no time was lost in setting out to find the great cave which they had come 29 ½ miles to explore.

[And these people approached Abrakurrie without passing Chowilla Doline, camping in the trees about 200 metres east of the cave,]

The weather was delightfully cool, and the prospect of many stirring adventures during the day caused much excitement in the party.

Two hundred yards from the camp there is a great oblong-shaped ravine, fully a quarter of a mile long and 150 yards wide. The sides are strewn with masses of rock and slope towards each other, meeting at the bottom. At both ends a wall of rock rises perpendicularly to a height of 150 feet from the bottom and hidden amongst the huge boulders at the base of the southern wall is the entrance to the great Albala Kurroo cave. [The cliff at the north end is only about 20 feet high]

Some mopokes, owls and other members of the feathered tribe have built their nests on the jutting buttresses of the wall, and one would not imagine he is near a cave until the entrance is nearly reached. The mouth of the cave is 50 feet high and 60 feet wide, and shaped like a large crevice in the great wall of rock. On entering it has the appearance of a huge tunnel, which, for 60 feet dips steeply into the earth and the path leads over masses of rock of all shapes and sizes. Here it is necessary to light the torches, and it is found that the tunnel now opens out and the descent is gradual, whilst the pathway is still covered with boulders, scrambling over which is a hard and dangerous task.

For 300 feet these huge stones impeded progress, and then a hard, level, earthen floor with here and there a few small stones is reached. At this point the tunnel takes a turn at almost right angles towards the north, and 300 feet further on it branches off in two directions, one passage to the left hand and the other to the right. The roof here is higher than in any other part of the cave - its height from the floor is estimated to be quite 150 feet, and the width of the tunnel is 160 feet. After following the passage on the left hand side for 800 feet an enormous cavern is entered. At first sight it has the appearance of being a splendidly executed work of masonry, but on closer inspection the walls are found to be smooth and water worn. The floor is covered with a fine coffee-colored dust, which is delightful to walk on, being as soft as the best Brussels carpet. [coffee-coloured. The same word was used to describe the coffee and cream sand deposits in Mullamullang cave in the 1960s]

A shudder passes through the party when someone discovers footprints - whoever left them there was alone, and it is supposed they were made by Mr Beere some eleven years ago.

[making it ~1887 when Mr Beere is supposed to have visited the cave]

The cavern is shaped like an amphitheatre, and in the centre there is a huge heap of soft limestone which has fallen from the roof, leaving a place overhead with the appearance of an immense dome. On measurement this amphitheatre is found to be 600 feet long by 210 feet wide and the roof is estimated to be 130 feet high, while, if it could be made use of as a public hall, 6,000 people could be seated within its walls. Returning to the main tunnel it is found that the right-hand passage leads over boulders and rocks for a distance of 120 feet, where it widens into a chamber similar to the amphitheatre, but much smaller, its dimensions being 240 feet long by 120 feet wide, and the roof 100 feet high. There is no door in this cavern, but the floor is carpeted with the same fine dust and the walls are water worn. No opening into the outer world can be found in either chamber, but the air in the larger one was beautifully cool, whilst that in the smaller one was oppressive.

After many expressions of wonderment and admiration, the members of the exploring party, being satisfied that there was nothing left undiscovered, started the return journey to the camp. As they neared the entrance they witnessed a beautiful sight. The sun was shining brightly outside and the rays glistened and glinted off the huge boulders with a strange phosphorescent light, looking as though they were bathed in rich moonlight. The camp was soon reached, and everybody did full justice to the breakfast.

The rest of the day passed merrily; some of the party went off with rifles and guns to play havoc with any unoffending kangaroos or other game which might cross their path, and in the afternoon an exploring party visited an immense ravine a mile and a half from the camp. [This is Chowilla Landslip] It was similar to the other in shape but much larger, and at one end the entrance to a subterranean passage was discovered. [Chowilla is circular not elongated, and it is smaller than Abrakurrie, and there is no subterranean passage at the bottom] Just within the entrance, however, a wall of rock went straight down for about 12 feet and by the light of the torches the surroundings looked so uncanny that no one would venture further. [because perchance there was no possibility of going any further]

After clambering about the steep sides for some time a small cave was found in which the explorers decided to rest for a while. [There is a small cave at the base of the eastern wall] In this cave the ashes of an ancient fire were discovered, and after writing their names on a piece of paper which they committed to the care of a crack in the rock, the adventurers returned to camp.

[Monday 2 Jan 1899]

Next morning another visit was paid to Albala Kurroo, and at 9 o'clock a start was made for Eucla. After going about a mile and a half on the homeward track, the guides showed the party a great funnel-shaped hole known as the "landslip"

[this being the second visit to Chowilla Landslip in this trip report].

The sides are steep and covered with great masses of jagged rock. A little time was spent exploring the surroundings, and then a start was made for Weebabbie – supposed to be a cave of much greater dimensions than Albala Kurroo. [thus in 1898, Weebubbie cave, Abrakurrie Cave and Chowilla Landlip were all known.] Its position was not accurately known and as the entrance is small and hardly noticeable from the road the party went past without seeing it.

[So the "guides" did not know Weebubbie's location, Its entrance is huge, similar in size to Chowilla Landslip and it is not located on the Old Coach Road, but about 6 km south.]

The large rock-hole known as Wadella was the camping place for dinner.

[Woodella Rockhole is on the Old Coach Road near the junction of the road south to Eucla]

It is about 12 miles from Eucla and the largest of the many peculiar rock-holes which abound in this locality. When rain falls they are filled with water and the capacity of Wadella is about a thousand gallons. It is shaped like a well and is 14 feet deep. After a good dinner the party made another start and reached Eucla at 5 pm. everybody expressed themselves greatly pleased with the outing, and no doubt another excursion will be made next holidays.

[The Eucla Recorder newspaper was ...]

Printed and Published by the Combined Telegraph Staffs at the office of the Eucla Recorder, Stanley Street, Eucla WA.

[features visited / mentioned Abrakurrie Cave 6N3, Chowilla Landslip 6N17, Weebubbie Cave 6N2, Woodella Rockhole 6N982]

Max Meth & Pommax

April 2020

%%%%%%%%%

Gartrell and Associates

Delamere Cave for Sale

Set in the amazing rolling green hills of the Fleurieu Peninsula is a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase your very own cave. This wonderful karst feature is presented in exceptional Early Cambrian style. A marble fit out installed towards the end of the Delamerian Orogeny ensures stunning finishes and textures throughout.

This cave is predicted to be the deepest in South Australia; possibly deeper than current Tasmanian record holder Growling Swallet - Niggly Cave (395m). There'll be no need to drive for hours on end to get to Wooltana blowhole now, this beauty is only 1 hour and 20 minutes from the Adelaide CBD. Featuring several vertical access points set in a charming collapsed doline, the cave is fed by an existing winter creek system ensuring its ongoing development for years to come. This fine grotto has huge potential for ocean views with predicted resurgence below Backstairs passage.

After 526 – 515 million years since the Fork Tree limestone foundations were laid, some renovations may be required. A residual quantity of the famed fertile *terra rossa* soil of the Southern Fleurieu is to be found in the entrance doline currently blocking access to the expected fissure and eventual master cave below. In recent visits to the area, the agent "Gartrell and Associates", provided some *pro bono* labour resulting in a widening and deepening of the recently installed second entrance by at least two extra metres. Removal of blackberries at both entrances was also performed at no extra cost.

The entrance is set in 58.68 hectares of surrounding countryside. Above ground there are plentiful water supplies from tanks, dams and a spring to wash off any cave mud and guano. Onsite accommodation and kitchen facilities will ensure you can cater to your teams of diggers, surveyors, explorers and maybe even divers. The site is close to the Delamere general store where a range of pretty good pies and cakes can be obtained. If you like cattle there's plenty of those on site as well.

Sale of this property is actually not a joke, so if you really do want to own a cave, visit the following website and make an offer (requested price \$650, 000). You'll be the envy of every speleologist and hydrogeologist in the country:

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property-mixed+farming-sa-delamere-7913186>

You may see additional photographs of the Gartrell & Associates team (Grant Gartrell, Mark Corbett, Frank Hankinson and guests Colin & Jarred) here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/T4RpFdkPsEN39omJ6>





%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

Past Trips from General Meetings

February 2020

- Ian Lewis visited the South East and visited Noel & Cynthia Mollet. Have a large collection of slides which they viewed together. Ian has a USB of the slides, and will present them at a future general meeting.
- Ken Smith on behalf of Harry - depth 245m in Pearse Resurgence. 16 hour dive. Ken to see if Harry can present.
- Mark Corbett visited Corra-Lynn Cave with Scout Caving Group members in February. The entrance to Bandicoots bypass is now blocked with Calcrete.
- Scout Caving Group members Matthias Frasier discovered that the tunnel to the lake chamber in Punyelroo cave has been blocked with a rock wall.

March 2020

- No Meeting

April 2020

- *Grant Gartrell, Mark Corbett* and others undertook a short visit to Delamere, where there is now a slightly larger hole/cave. Current landowner is looking to sell, so now is the time to prove the value of the caves on site.

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP FEES

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES become due on January 1st.

Joining fee applies to renewal after March 31st.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2020 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 2020 YEAR

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	119.00
3 Month Introductory	20.00

2020 YEAR FEES

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

Variation for Family Membership

1 st Full Member + 2 nd Full Member	\$90.00	\$119.00	\$209.00
1 st Full Member + 2 nd Associate Member	\$82.00	\$119.00	\$201.00
1 st Assoc Member + 2 nd Assoc Member	\$74.00	\$119.00	\$192.00

Discount for Country Membership applies for Family Memberships.

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

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

Graham Pilkington. Membership Officer.

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

Name	Caving Leader level
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Co-ordinator
Paul Harper	Horizontal and Laddering
Richard Harris	Horizontal
Peter Horne	Horizontal and Laddering
Peter Kraehenbuehl	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Ian Lewis	Horizontal and Laddering
George MacLucas	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
June MacLucas	Horizontal
Steve Milner	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Tim Payne	Horizontal, Laddering and Vertical
Graham Pilkington	Horizontal and Laddering
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.

%%%%%%%%%

Jenolan Caves House saved from bushfires but tourism takes a hit

ABC Central West By [Luke Wong](#)



Photo: The Green Wattle Creek bushfire has burned more than 277,000 hectares of land. (ABC Central West: Luke Wong)

Firefighting crews battled for weeks to save the heritage-listed Jenolan Caves House but now the long clean-up begins to bring visitors back to the area.

"It's very rewarding when you are able to protect something ... especially a building as special as [Jenolan] Caves House," Mr Richard said.

"It's very important to us all, particularly us who live and work here."

Mr Richard, who is also a tour guide and operator of nearby cabin accommodation, said the summer holiday period was normally the busiest time for the tourist destination in central-western New South Wales.

But the Christmas decorations left untouched throughout the grand dining room of the Jenolan Caves House are a telling sign of the disruption caused by the bushfires.

Since mid-December the tourist site has been off-limits to the public due to the creeping Green Wattle Creek fire which burned within hundreds of metres of the main building over the new-year period.

The neighbouring Kanangra-Boyd National Park has been closed since November.

The few people on site include work crews with chainsaws and heavy machinery who are busy clearing fallen trees and unstable rocks to allow safe access to the area.



FS SHED AND BUILDINGS LOST

Photo: Barry Richard has been involved in firefighting for four decades. (ABC Central West: Luke Wong)

The Jenolan Caves RFS shed and three unoccupied staff cottage buildings were lost in the blaze.

Mr Richard said his private collection of model fire engines, including rare pieces amassed since the 1970s, were completely burnt inside the shed.

The destruction was an emotional blow for Mr Richard who has been involved in the brigade since its beginnings four decades ago.

"There's a lot of memories in there, 40 years of building the Jenolan brigade to what it is today, it has a very special place in my heart," he said.

"We've just got to start again and build the brigade up again in terms of equipment and whatever else we need."

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

New trail to link World Heritage site

Construction of a path linking the Naracoorte Caves to the Naracoorte township and a shelter will start in August following a \$60,000 State Government contribution. The funding will accompany \$63,000 from the Naracoorte Lucindale Council as part of stage three of the 17km Naracoorte Caves Trail project.

A shelter will be established at the midpoint of the trail and will be solar powered to provide charging stations for phones. The project aims to increase the offering for Naracoorte Caves' visitors to retain them in the region for longer and increase economic benefits. Member for MacKillop Nick McBride said the trail will create jobs and support businesses during construction as well as encourage more people to the town.

"The Naracoorte Caves are the state's only World Heritage Listed site," he said. "We need to capitalise on this truly spectacular and important location. By linking the town of Naracoorte to the Caves in this way, we provide another exciting way for tourists to enjoy our region."

Stage three of the linear trail construction is expected to be complete by October 2020.



TRAIL ACTIVATED: Member for MacKillop Nick McBride and Naracoorte Lucindale mayor Erika Vickery at the Naracoorte Caves Trail.

The Border Watch, Mount Gambier 14 May 2020

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

SA heritage fossil sites to benefit from heritage grants



Two South Australian nationally-listed heritage fossil sites will benefit from the 2019/20 round of the Australian Heritage Grants Program.

An Australian Heritage Grant will help bring the megafauna fossils in the Victoria Fossil Cave at Naracoorte to life through a new immersive audio-visual experience. Australian Heritage Grants fund projects that improve

recognition, conservation and preservation of National Heritage List values, access to National Heritage List places, and enrich heritage values through better engaging the community.

A grant of \$290,000 has been provided to improve heritage appreciation and accessibility at the Victoria Fossil Cave within the Naracoorte Caves precinct; and a grant of \$160,000 has been provided to protect the Ediacara Fossil Site at Nilpena. Both projects will also receive a co-contribution from the South Australian Government. National Parks and Wildlife Service SA Executive Director Mike Williams said the two projects will support the South Australian Government's Heritage Tourism Strategy and election commitment towards heritage tourism.

"These grants will really benefit heritage tourism in South Australia," Mr Williams said. "With these funds we will be able to improve security for the fossils on Nilpena Station as the fossil site transitions from a private pastoral lease to a public conservation park.

"The funds will allow us to prepare for controlled visitor access to the fossils on Nilpena Station by building an entrance gate at the main road with fencing, an automated gate, cameras and signage.

"We'll also be able to install cameras and signage at important areas throughout the fossil site and develop information online about the fossils.

"The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will contribute \$125,000 to the project with an additional funding coming from project partners - the Flinders Ranges Ediacara Foundation and Nilpena Station.

"In addition the grant of \$290,000 for the Victoria Fossil Cave within the Naracoorte Caves complex will enable us to develop an immersive audio visual experience to complement the guided cave tour – and DEW will contribute an additional \$90,000 towards this project. "We're planning to develop animated visual sequences and soundscapes which will bring the megafauna fossils out of the protected fossil beds and into the visitor areas through the use of cutting edge technology – this will really bring our unique Australian megafauna to life.

"It will also help us improve cave access for people with disabilities and to improve the whole experience for culturally and linguistically diverse visitors."

Other Australian Heritage Grants of note for the state include a grant of \$291,000 to South Australian Native Title Services to upgrade the existing interpretive material along the Irrwanyere and Idnjundura Kingfisher Springs trails at Dalhousie Springs in Witjira National Park. A dusk display of digitally projected story, song, sound and illumination will showcase the oldest continuous culture on earth using the newest technology to create an immersive cultural experience for visitors.

In addition the National Trust of South Australia will receive \$37,600 for replacing the roof of the Moonta Mines Museum. The building is a significant part of the story of Cornish Miners' settlement in Australia.

%%%%%%%%%

Bat-borne viruses could kill off koalas

The Australian, Australia by John Ferguson

21 Apr 2020

General News - Page 3 - 513 words - ID 1264156297 - Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 217.00cm²

ANIMALS

Bats carrying viruses that trigger an AIDS-like disease are threatening the future of Australia's vulnerable koala population. Scientists have discovered that bats are acting as flying carriers for a family of deadly viruses that can trigger the disease in koalas. Burnet Institute and CSIRO scientists also identified the first infectious retrovirus found in bats, amid findings showing Australian and Asian species of the mammals carry multiple viruses closely linked to the koala retrovirus.

While Australian bats can carry coronaviruses, they are not like COVID-19, instead considered distant relatives of the same virus family, Burnet Institute research officer Joshua Hayward said. Dr Hayward said the discovery linking the koala threat to bats in northeast Australia highlighted a potentially greater challenge to the marsupial than bushfire, which wiped out hundreds of colonies over the summer. "It's a very significant threat," he said. Findings of the joint study, whose co-lead author was CSIRO senior scientist Mary Tachedjian, were published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The koala retrovirus is called KoRV and exposes the marsupials to cancer and chlamydia, a leading cause of infertility, blindness and kidney failure. Dr Hayward said retroviruses such as HIV were known for being transmitted between different species and the presence of KoRV-linked viruses in bats raised concerns for other Australian animals. "This could explain how KoRV-related viruses originally got to Australia from South-East Asia in the first place," he said. "And it highlights the role of bats as really important reservoirs of viruses that can be transmitted to other animal species.

"Our nation is trying to conserve koala populations decimated by the fires, but how can they be protected from viruses?

The existence and spread of KoRV and other infectious threats is something likely to concern conservation scientists."

Bats represent 20 per cent of all mammalian species and are an important reservoir of viruses that

infect humans and other mammals, according to the PNAS report, which named the Australian black flying fox as the bat in the study. Retroviruses are a type of virus that use a special enzyme to translate its genetic information into DNA and that DNA can then integrate into the host cell's DNA. HIV is a retrovirus.

Dr Hayward said bats were able to host but remain unaffected by viruses deadly to other mammals including Ebola, Hendra and coronaviruses, transmitting viruses by droppings and body fluids. The new retrovirus has been named Hervey pteropid gammaretrovirus and was found to be capable of replicating in human and bat cells.

"These viruses cause some nasty diseases - leukaemia, lymphomas and immunodeficiency," Dr Hayward said.

"And while this particular one can infect human cells in the laboratory, whether it can establish infection and cause disease in humans is unknown and would be surprising, given current knowledge of this class of retrovirus."

Thousands of koalas perished in recent bushfires and the animal has been under growing threat in recent decades because of disease and deforestation.

Scientists believe it is likely that the COVID-19 virus came from bats but first passed through an intermediary animal.

%%%%%%%%%

Inaugural EP and KI Landscape Board members appointed



Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Members*

The inaugural Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board members have been appointed, joining Chair Mark Whitfield in leading a back-to-basics approach on managing natural resources in the region. The new board members all live locally and provide a diverse range of skills and expertise. The six new board members include:

Dr Steven Milner

Steve is a resident of Denial Bay, near Ceduna, and is passionate about researching caves, palaeontology, and anthropology of the Nullarbor. He has a PhD and MBA from the University of

Adelaide and is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Project Management. Steve is an expert in management, leadership, strategy and governance in a broad range of sectors and industries and has a proven track record in the delivery of complex and large projects, stakeholder engagement, and organisational development. Steve lectures on leadership and stakeholder engagement at the University of Adelaide. Steve values the natural environment of the Eyre Peninsula and Far West and has broad networks in the region.

Environment and Water Minister David Speirs said the new Landscape boards will be partnering with community groups, local government and industry to ensure our state's regional landscapes and farming industries are thriving, resilient and sustainable. 'We promised a stronger, back-to-basics system with an emphasis on effective water management, pest plant and animal control and soil and land management,' Minister Speirs said.

'The successful passing of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* means we can get on with delivering this, and the creation of new landscape regions are crucial to giving local communities a greater say in natural resources management and in particular how levies are spent.'

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board Chair Mark Whitfield said he was excited to work with the new board members. 'We were extremely happy with the range and calibre of applications that we received from the community, which made the selection process more challenging than ever,' Mark said. 'I would like to thank all of those that applied, and congratulate the successful applicants. 'With the knowledge and skills that these new board members bring with them, I think we are well-placed to provide the leadership needed to manage our regional landscape, which we will do in close collaboration with our many partners.'

The two boards are part of nine new regional landscape boards, which from 1 July will administer the new *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, including a new metropolitan landscape board, Green Adelaide. Initially all board members will be appointed by the Minister, but from 2022 three out of seven members will be elected by the community (except for the specialist board Green Adelaide and the Alinytjara Wilurara board, which is already represented by select regional leaders).

%%%%%%%%%

CEDUNA ASF Conference Postponed

Hi Club Contacts

Please pass this on to your Club members.

The next ASF Conference to be held in Ceduna SA has been postponed until April 2022 (new dates to be confirmed).

The ASF Executive supports the organising committee's recommendation to postpone due to the Covid-19 situation. Even though we are beginning to transition back to normal, there are still too many unknowns regarding future disruptions to travel and restrictions to group gatherings until a vaccination can be developed. This is of especial consideration for the at-risk Indigenous community in Ceduna.

We apologise for any disruption to your travel plans that this may cause and look forward to seeing you all safely in 2022.

All the best

Sarah

ASF General Secretary

%%%%%%%%%

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Type of Event	Description	Contact
27/05/20	General Meeting	ON LINE Meeting 7:30pm	
??/06/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
24/06/20	General Meeting	ON LINE Meeting 7:30pm	
??/07/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
22/07/20	General Meeting	ON LINE Meeting 7:30pm	
??/08/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
12/08/20	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
26/08/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Or ON LINE Meeting 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
??/09/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
23/09/20	General Meeting	Royal Society Room, SA Museum, Adel. Or ON LINE Meeting 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
	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.