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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

PO Box 144, Rundle Mall, South Australia, 5000. <http://www.cegsa.org.au> Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7.30 PM usually in the Royal Society of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

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Cover Photograph: Ray Gibbons ascending pitch in "Bridge Cascade" (N-5934).

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 5 Oct 2014.

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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 4 (Issue 260) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **11th November 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

In this world of 24/7 disaster media reports, at least two good things have happened since my last Prez Spot – CEGSA has had two face-to-face meetings! We've been moved to the upstairs Armoury Room while the Museum uses the Royal Society rooms for overflow office space to maintain suitable social distancing. The June meeting was great – 10 of us chatted in various small groups for an hour looking at all sorts of cave maps spread out on the other trestles in that room. It occurred to me that having maps spread out is a great source of discussion, comparison, trip memories etc. For 2020, the Armoury room is home so let's use it that way while we can? The location itself is historical for CEGSA – the small lawn in front of it was CEGSA's original home in the temporary WW2 portable building that stood there for decades, home to CEGSA, Adelaide Bushwalkers and other groups of the 50's, 60' and 70's. Hey, I'm into CEGSA history so I think it's important - indulge me!

Two of CEGSA's special people have been in the media recently and inside this issue we have the evidence. Dr 'Harry' Harris and Dr Steve Milner have been newsworthy for very different reasons – Harry had his portrait painted and was interviewed by artist Anh Do on the ABC explaining about his strong motivation to encourage kids to take on activities with a degree of challenge and risk and learn coping skills for both. Steve is working with the Mirning people of the Nullarbor on a project to explore indigenous and pioneer culture at Koonalda Cave, the cliffs and related important natural sites in the eastern Nullarbor. Both gentlemen are achieving great things and caving is the underlying foundation which is great, isn't it!? Time was when cavers and cave divers were thought to be suicide jockeys and going into places where people should not be. 50 years later, caves are now recognised as amazing libraries of past climate, landscape evolution, fossil heritage in the sediments, ancient human occupation and as places of beauty and adventure. Caves make an important contribution to the world's knowledge and to the collective human spirit. Harry and Steve exemplify this by sending their excellent messages out to the non-caving world. Everyone benefits – caves are more appreciated and respected and the experiences of people enhanced. Well done, gentlemen!

Judy Murdoch's article on Henschkes Quarry at Naracoorte is very welcome indeed. She wrote the book 'Light on Dark' on the history of the caves with assistance from Rod Wells following the World Heritage fossil discoveries. I am privileged to know her as we are both in a group known as Kanawinka Writers, consisting of keen local historians for the South East and Western Victorian regions. They have produced a series of local histories on a wide range of themes over 30 years and more books are coming. (I am drafting a short history of the Mount Gambier sinkholes with their stone ramps hand-picked out of the limestone to give stock access in the 1800's to the fresh water and for woolwashing.) The Henschke family have for over 60 years been very supportive of cave mapping, research, fossil excavations and recovery from successive caves that have been uncovered in the Naracoorte limestone of their quarry near the town. From the early 1950's discoveries there of Wonambi python skeletons to recent ones of Thylacoleo carnifex, their support of these activities gave a ray of light to the amazing potential of fossil accumulations around Naracoorte. Judy, thanks for writing that article - it is a tribute to a quarrying family who have encouraged science to flourish at Naracoorte.

Cheers to all and stay safe,

Ian Lewis

TRIP REPORTS

A Bit Of Bluff

originally published in newspaper "The Eucla Recorder" of 15 October 1898

An exploring party consisting of Messrs Clarke, Jackson, Juncken & Wilson journeyed to the "Bluff" on Saturday Last.

[We are speaking of Wilson Bluff – named by surveyor E A Delisser in 1866 after Professor Wilson a climatologist of Melbourne. The 4 explorers being employed at the Eucla Telegraph Station.]

After an uneventful drive out, the party reached their destination about 10.30 am.

[The town of Eucla in 1898 was situated on the Roe Plain where the ruins of the telegraph station are located. The "drive out" would have involved ascending the escarpment, either at the present day location of Eucla, or 4km east where the telegraph line ascends, then following the cliff top track to the Bluff.]

The billy was quickly boiled & ample justice done to the good things provided.

[which seems to have been a prime reason for the journey.]

The explorers then made their way to the cliffs in search of fossils etc, but were rather disappointed at not finding any. They descended the cliffs to the sea-shore & spent a couple of hours exploring the beautiful caves.

[The caves are hardly beautiful being mostly places where the sea has excavated the base of the cliff to form an overhang with an arch shape. The beauty, if any, arises from dodging incoming breakers to reach the "caves" and in returning to a place where climbing the cliff is possible.]

They then ascended the cliffs and "billy" was again boiled. After a hearty repast they turned homeward arriving at sunset all well satisfied with the days outing.

by Max Meth and anon

[anon being presumably one of the four mentioned in the first paragraph]

A couple of photos taken 94 years after the trip.



14 Dec 1992 Ken Boland in N625 @300. Note ledge 4m above Ken's head, and sea weed.



14 Dec 1992 Ken Boland in N626 @300. Note arch shape typical of these caves. And note sea to west through which we had to wade.

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The Bloomin' Nullarbor, Again — 2014

by Peter Ackroyd

Trip dates: 20 September – 10 October 2014

Party: Peter Ackroyd and Ray Gibbons.

Introduction

This was my 25th Nullarbor trip and Ray's 28th. Were we planning to do anything different? Hell no, just being out there was enough. The plan was to travel the back roads of the Nullarbor, camping each night wherever we found ourselves, and try to locate all those hard-to-find, pesky, temporarily numbered features that had been logged, with varying degrees of accuracy, over the years. Anything else we came across was a bonus.

Ray's Rodeo ute was loaded up with solar panel, extra 12-volt batteries, 180 litres of water, spare fuel, spare tyres and of course the fridge for the beer and perishables and, we even squeezed in a bit of caving gear.

We set off from Adelaide on Saturday, 20 September 2014, staying the night at Ceduna and reaching Eucla in Western Australia mid-afternoon Sunday to pick up our pre-ordered fresh fruit and vegetables, which came 1,500 kilometres from Perth to comply with WA's quarantine laws. We found some of the produce had been originally grown in South Australia — go figure. Heading west and driving up the scarp, after meeting with the owners of Mundrabilla Station, we spent our first night on the plain a few kilometres north of the station boundary.

Heading north the next day (Monday, 22 September), we checked out a recently used drillers' camp a little to the east of the Mundrabilla-Forrest Road. Companies are still searching for minerals out in

the Nullarbor apparently. They had left quite a mess, including a lot of camp rubbish. Driving further north we saw some threatening weather. We decided we would not risk getting bogged out in the open and headed to the Old Homestead Cave Hut. On the way we saw plenty of birdlife.

The rain came with a vengeance that Monday night so we were going nowhere as the track was awash. However, the next day was not spent idly. We drank lots of wine and did some bird watching. Our count was 12 Bustards, 7 Kestrels (2 adults and 5 young on the tank stand at the rear of the outdoor toilet), a pair of Black-breasted Kites, many Richards Pipits, heaps of Welcome Swallows, several Stubble Quail and a Cuckoo Shrike.

While waiting for the track to dry out we prepped the vehicle for the rigours of the Nullarbor. Ray fashioned a grass-seed screen for the radiator. We repacked the vehicle for rougher travel and mounted the bush wheels. These had pre-loved tyres on them that allowed us to save the road set



Typical Nullarbor camp.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 29 Sep 2014.

for the trip back to Adelaide in three weeks' time. We also spent a bit of time thoroughly cleaning the hut and the toilet. Midday Wednesday marked the start of the real work when we drove north for about ten kilometres then turned onto old rabbits' tracks to the west to search for a batch of temporarily numbered NXK features. We were able to locate them from the GPS coordinates, which were usually accurate to within 150 metres or so. We also found extras, usually blowholes. At sunset we set up camp, had a beer and entered the day's data onto the computer while listening to Bustards calling to each other, using their distinctive, low-frequency "hooo".

Travelling further west on Thursday, 25 September, we started looking for NX-160, a rockhole that had been noted by Max Meth on 17 September 1988. The only location data was a compass bearing and distance from N-83, ten kilometres away. The story I got from Max was that he and Gary White decided to drive directly from Old Homestead Cave (N-83) to the Anketell Track, 25 kilometres to the north-west. Along the way, without GPS, Max logged some features, this rockhole and two blowholes: N-484 and N-485.



Ray walking in massed white daisies (*Rhodanthe floribunda*)
about 200m south-east of N-5903.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 30 Sep 2014.

We searched all day for NX-160, finding some blowholes and small draughting dolines (N-5679 – 5682) but of rockholes, there were none. However, the day was not without excitement because we did find a nice razor rock that put a massive 80mm slash in our front right tyre. Removing the ruined tyre and replacing it with one of our two spare tyre carcasses, we remounted the wheel and were on our way again.

That night we camped in an area awash with daisies. Good rains in the previous weeks had produced a mass flowering of these and many other Nullarbor plants

The following three days we spent searching for the remaining two features recorded by Max on that 1988 trip: N-484 and 485. They both had good descriptions but poor location data. N-484 was described as 12 kilometres at 312° true from N-83 and N-485 was described as 3.3 kilometres at 002° from N-484.

Now, imagine bouncing across a rocky terrain, dodging bluebush and razor rocks, while trying to keep a constant compass direction — a compass held inside a cabin surrounded by metal. I did some computations after the trip to calculate the likely error of such a system over the 12-kilometre odometer distance travelled from N-83 and came up with an error something like 3 square kilometres. Do you think I wished I'd done those calculations before attempting to relocate these features? You betcha!

This was not my first offence. I'd convinced Ray to look for these self-same features in 2002, and again in 2010 with exactly the same result: several new features found (for example, N-5683–5699 and N-5900–5904 were found on this trip) but over the years none matched the descriptions of N-484 and 485 (Ackroyd, 2008 & 2015).

So, I think these two Nullarbor numbers may be regarded as lost. This area of the plain has scores of blowholes, mostly on the upper-most part of the ridges where all the razor rocks and bluebushes are. When Max and Gary passed through in 1988 they just happened to stumble upon two blowholes that Max allocated numbers to when he got back home.

We did have a few interesting wildlife moments. At N-5686 we watched a Yellow-faced Whipsnake (*Demansia psammophis*) trap then consume another reptile, an endemic Bearded Dragon (*Pogona nullarbor*). A couple of days later, while enjoying breakfast in the early morning, a Black-breasted Kite (*Hamirostra melanosternon*) put on a magnificent display of grid-searching the ground from about 250 metres up. It slowly worked its way upwind for a few hundred metres, turned and allowed the stiff breeze to take it back to its starting line then side-slipped a hundred metres or so to its right before again working its way back upwind, all the time without making a single wingbeat. It did this repeatedly covering a square kilometre or so in the few minutes we watched.



Ray at rockhole N-5907, tiny on the surface but hidden depths below.

Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 29 Sep 2014.

On Monday 29 September we turned to the north to make our way to the Anketell Track. This road, running west from Forrest, and about 7 km south of the railway, was named after the surveyor of the Western Australian section of the Transcontinental Railway, Richard John Anketell (1862–1928). In 1908 he led the survey party, supported by a team of camels, marking the rail route as he went. For many decades, this was the only accurate survey of the Nullarbor Plain (Burke, 1991; Anketell, 1998).

On the way we found and tagged several blowholes and a deceptive little rockhole, N-5907. It looked so small on the surface but was completely undercut to provide a volume of about five litres.

Further on we came across an old rabbiters' camp in a copse of *Eremophila longifolia*. Continuing north from the camp our front left tyre was assassinated by a razor rock requiring another total tyre replacement.



Replacing yet another tyre killed by a razor rock.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 30 Sep 2014.

Not long after this we found a little 11 metre cave at the bottom of a blowhole, N-5909. Further north we tagged and documented a few more features until we arrived at the Anketell Track, which is still a pretty good road by Nullarbor standards. We travelled west along it for three or four kilometres and made camp.

The next day was the first of October. We struck north again to look at a feature I'd noticed on Google Earth's satellite images. We'd barely started towards it when we slashed our third tyre. We mounted the ute's spare wheel but now we were running on our last four bush tyres.

The feature we had been aiming for (N-5914) proved to be quite a conundrum. At first glance it was a rockhole, 1.0 x 0.5 m in size and about 2 m deep. However, it appears that the hole has eroded below the surface to link, via a small window, to a drafting blowhole. The water level of the "rockhole" is thus limited to the height of this window. The water capacity at the time was estimated to be 900 litres.

We also found two nearby features, which we tagged N-5915 & 5916, then drove further north to try to locate the "Nullarbor Lake Blowhole", mentioned in an old Melbourne newspaper, *The Argus*:
Following the torrential rains in Central and Western Australia two months ago... water accumulated on the Nullarbor Plain about 13 miles west of Forrest and a vast lake was formed. Within the last week the water has begun to recede rapidly and a blowhole, 18 inches in diameter, through which the water is rushing at practically full pressure, has been discovered 15 chains south of the railway line.



Ray at the entrance of Nullarbor Lake Blowhole (N-5917).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 01 Oct 2014.

The article went on to say that even after draining for a week, the lake was still 4½ miles (7.3 km) across and 18 inches (0.45 m) deep (*The Argus*, 1930).

We'd almost reached the track alongside the railway when a razor rock caught our fourth tyre putting us in a dilemma. We mounted our worst road tyre and cautiously drove the short distance to the railway road then along to the Nullarbor Lake Blowhole, tagging it N-5917.

We camped that night alongside the railway track, each train driver giving us a cheery toot as they passed. The next day we woke early — we had some decisions to make. Ray pulled off its rim the best of our slashed tyres. It had a 30 mm long cut in the sidewall. We spent the morning carefully prepping the tyre for repair using our largest tyre patch, suitable for up to 20 mm long cuts. We wondered how it would go when asked to patch a 30 mm cut?

Leaving it to cure for the rest of the day, we cruised eastwards towards Forrest, tagging a couple of rockholes (N-5919) near one of the 7 m high survey masts, presumably erected for the rail line when it was built in 1917.

Turning south at Forrest we drove down the Mundrabilla track for about a kilometre to make camp near a stock yard made entirely of railway sleepers held together with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch auger bits inserted as dowell joints. Clearly someone had a box of auger bits they no longer needed.

The next morning we mounted the patched tyre onto a rim and crossed our fingers while we inflated it — success. We continued south checking some old NXK numbers spotted from the air 14 years previously. Some we found to be nothing but rabbit warrens but some were genuine karst features. Along the way we found heaps of other features, mostly small blowholes.

We also checked out a temporarily numbered feature, NX-19, allocated by Max Meth in May 1993. This proved to be a shallow karren pan on top of a largish boulder right next to the track. We didn't tag this.

The next day (Saturday, 4 October) was more of the same. Right at the end of the day we found a deepish shaft with decoration so decided to camp nearby and check it out properly in the morning.

The choice of camp-site proved quite propitious as the next day we found ourselves within a little Nullarbor botanical garden. We were surrounded by white and yellow daisies and Silver-tail Mulla Mullas (*Ptilotus obovatus*). Nearby was a nice *Acacia tetragonophylla*, known locally as "Dead Finish". About 30 Fringed Lilies (*Thysanotus* sp.) were scattered about and, best of all, we came across three *Eremophila* species; *E. battii*, *E. glabra* and an *Eremophila* species I did not recognise.



Rare plant, *Eremophila dentritica*, about 200m east of N-5934.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 05 Oct 2014.]

I photographed the unknown *Eremophila*, recorded locations of the various clusters and pressed samples for future investigation. Later I checked my references back home and decided they were *Eremophila dentritica*. This was of interest because the species is quite rare and was only previously known at the extreme western edge of the Nullarbor. Yet, here they were, right in the centre. I sent my pressed samples and photos to the Western Australian Herbarium where it was confirmed as *E. dentritica*. Hence, it is probable that the species, though rare,

extends into the South Australian portion of the Nullarbor as well.

After all this botanical work it was down to some actual caving, as we had yet to check out our deepish shaft. We documented and tagged it N-5934. The entrance was quite roomy at 0.95 by 0.7 metres in cross-section. It led to a spacious, 6 metre free-climb ending at a narrow section, with a fierce draft, landing us on a substantial bridge of rock. On the left was a nice 9 metre vertical pitch and on the right were two holes separated by a 0.4 metre, oval-shaped black calcite column. Both these holes connected to the main shaft about 3 metres below the bridge. At the main pitch we rigged a rope and a ladder allowing us to abseil past cascading black flowstone and stalactites to land us in a 6 x 3 metre chamber with clean-washed rocks and rubble. Bones from two recently deceased kangaroos were also present. We found that the strong draft was coming out of smallish holes in the lower walls of the chamber. There was no obvious way on. Total cave depth was 15 metres and length was 31 metres. We named the cave "Bridge Cascade".



Ray Gibbons at the entrance of Bridge Cascade (N-5934).
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 05 Oct 2014.

We were getting a bit nervous about our lack of spare tyres so opted to head out east back to the Forrest-Mundrabilla Road. On the way a nasty, razor-sharp assassin, lurking behind some saltbush, stabbed our right rear tyre. Fortunately, four tyre plugs, strung sequentially along the 10 mm slash, saved the tyre's life and allowed us to proceed.

We emerged onto the Forrest-Mundrabilla Road in a blaze of colour. We were in an *Eremophila* oasis (*E. Glabra* and *E. longifolia*) with several Sturt Desert Peas (*Swainsona formosa*) providing highlights.



Sturt Desert Pea about 20 kilometres north of
Old Homestead Cave.
Photo: Peter Ackroyd, 06 Oct 2014.

We cruised south to the Old Homestead Cave hut in order to clean up and prepare to leave for home. On the way we had a look for a feature no-one had been able to find, a blowhole registered by Harry Wheeler in 1974 labelled by him as QW-232D (Wheeler, 1952–1980). Max Meth had allocated the number N-957 based on Wheeler's location: "on East side of [Forrest-Mundrabilla] Road, 4.85 miles north of fork". Max had assumed Wheeler was talking about the northern fork a few kilometres north of Old Homestead Cave. The original road, now largely unused, passes well to the east of the cave. It was the increased popularity of the cave as a destination that led to the current route, passing alongside the cave, being adopted and creating two forks in the road.

In Wheeler's day the old road was still the main road. Moreover, careful reading of Wheeler's complete set of notes shows he was on his way north and therefore the southern fork was the one to which he was referring. So, using the same data, but using the southern fork as the reference and being on the old road, we have a recently tagged (2009) blowhole at exactly the right distance and with exactly the same description, namely N-3277. N-957 had been hiding in plain sight all along.

On Tuesday, 7 October Ray and I headed south for the highway. About 20 kilometres from it the ute lost all power. It would start but would not run. A few diagnostic tests showed that the high-pressure fuel pump in the fuel tank was not delivering the goods. So, we drained the fuel into jerry cans, removed the fuel tank, removed and dismantled the fuel pump, found the fault, rebuilt the fuel pump, reinstalled everything and, 24 hours later, we were on our way again, staying that night at Eucla.

The next day was taken up with driving to Ceduna and in the evening of the following day (Friday, 10 October) we were back in Adelaide.

Appendix: Listing of features examined and karst numbers allocated

New 'N' numbers allocated, tagged and documented:

N-5675 — 5699 and N-5900 — 5934.

(Total = 60)

Existing 'N' numbers visited, data collected and feature tagged (when no tag found):

N-484/485 (not able to be found, probably unrecoverable due to inadequate location data), 957 (=N-3277), 2287, 2288, 5048.

(Total = 6)

Temporary 'NX' numbers visited and 'N' numbers allocated (where applicable):

NX-19 (located but not a feature), 160 (not able to be found, probably unrecoverable due to inadequate location data), 729.

NXK-117, 118, 119, 120, 182, 183, 184, 196, 197, 299 (rabbits only), 300.

(Total = 14)

Cave names allocated during this trip:

N-5917 = Nullarbor Lake Blowhole

N-5934 = Bridge Cascade.

All our cave information was entered into the Australian karst database, 'OzKarst', to be accessible to all cavers.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Dr Robert Davis of the Western Australian Herbarium for his assistance in identifying some plant species. Specimens of *Eremophila dendritica* collected on this trip have been lodged with the W A Herbarium.

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Peter Ackroyd, 25 May 2020

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Corra Lynn Cave, 2nd July 2020

Party : Michael Woodward (TL), Graham Pilkington, Anthony Litster, Bowen Martin, Shane Bracegirdle.

This trip was for Bowen and Shane, teachers at Prince Alfred College, to access Corra Lynn as a suitable venue for taking students caving. Michael led us down the Rope Crevasse to the Crystal Chamber on to the Bushwalker and Octopus Chambers with a few small detours along the way. With

time running out I didn't go through the Gunbarrel (it takes me a while these days) but waited (that is snoozed) instead.

An enjoyable start to caving after the Covid-19 lockdown.

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%

Corra Lynn Cave, 18th July 2020

Party : Graham Pilkington, Damien Pilkington, Joel Dillon, Ryan Edwards, Anthony Litster.

After a gap of many years, I finally decided to re-start the Portal Dig. But first I needed to check out the blockage to the Bandicoot Bypass at the Grand Central end created by a broken water pipe in the paddock above bringing down a slurry of clay, calcrete and rocks. This was reported to me by a team on a February trip that had traversed the Bandicoot from Skeleton Crevasse only to have to retreat and exit via Wombat Runs, very late, with a search and rescue being considered. I notified Andrew (the farmer) but he couldn't see any evidence on the surface at the estimated water leak location. He turned off the water to that area of his farm. Weeks later he finally located the hole in the buried pipe close to the expected spot, after a patch of greener vegetation appeared. The pipe had been damaged decades ago by the previous owner when ripping the paddock but the water leak had only just become obvious. It took about an hour to remove enough hardened slurry to regain access into Bandicoot. The 0.4m diameter cross-tube was filled to less than a metre, the "main" 1.5m high passage in which the slump had occurred had filled to the top of the tube.

So off to the target dig of the trip – the Portal. However, because I doubt that I can still climb the Portal (not that I need to for doing the dig down) I thought that it would be handy to have an alternate way into Dreamland. Besides, an easier way into Dreamland would be useful for retrieving a significant quantity of bones from Dreamland. Hence I detoured at the start of the Alberta into the passages off to the northeast to find (read excavate) a way to a patch of isolated tunnels with access via a drop from Dreamland 50m away in that general direction. We spent the rest of the day here. Many available fills to probe but we didn't manage to locate one that broke into open tunnels, just clay-filled large fissures. Definitely worth another try and we didn't tackle all the fill sites.

With a promise to go straight to the Portal Dig next trip, we left the cave. On exiting we were greeted by Andrew and others who had concerns for our late exit. Anthony had given a return home time of 2pm – obviously he had never attended a Corra Lynn digging trip before! We were only an hour late from the expected exit time that I had written on the notice board.

I discussed with Andrew his preferences and options for sinking an access shaft to get at the Graveyard and other bone sites in Dreamland that Gavin Prideaux was planning to extract from over the next few years. I separate report on this issue appears elsewhere in the NEWS.

Graham Pilkington

%%%%%%%%%

Past Trips from General Meetings

May 2020

- No trips

June 2020

- No trips

July 2020

- *Graham Pilkington* took 2 teachers from Prince Alfred College to Corra-Lynn Cave, assessing for use with students like Mercedes College. *Michael Woodward* was also in attendance.
- Last weekend a digging crew to Corra-Lynn with *Joel Dillon*, *Graham Pilkington* and *Ryan Edwards* included. Excavated the blockage to Bandicoots Bypass. Went to the beginning of Alberta to assess digging to the north east. Hoping to find a way to bypass the portal, but plenty of dirt to move.

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

ASF LEVY FEE FOR 2020 YEAR

Single	\$ 68.00
Family	119.00
Journal Subscription	25.00

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		5.00

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
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.

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Proposed Bone Extraction from Corra Lynn Cave

Gavin Prideaux from Flinders Uni in 2012 proposed excavating bones from Dreamland in a systematic way to better sample the deposits that CEGSA members had been selectively retrieving as the cave survey was conducted. However, funding was not forthcoming and the project was put on hold. He's decided to try again to obtain funding because he now has a PhD student working on the Corra Lynn Cave bone collection.

Discussions are underway with Andrew (the farmer) and State Heritage (Corra Lynn Cave is on the State Heritage Register as a significant fossil site) on how, when, what and who is needed to extract bones from Dreamland. Andrew has given an OK in principle to a shaft and various options are being considered. Depending on cost and available funding, the best option appears to be to sink a well (bore hole) into a passage adjacent to the Graveyard. This would entail passing through 6m of calcreted "soil" then about 12m of hard limestone. A person-sized hole would remove the difficulty of traversing the cave every day and significantly reduce possible bone damage during transport through the various constrictions in Dreamland and the torturous tight tubes of Alberta. Without an access well, only small amounts of the cemented bone could be retrieved each day.

The best bones are probably those in the Graveyard that are encased in a solid calcrete-sand matrix. Bringing this material out is difficult because of the weight, shape, and packing needed but would probably contain associated material such as fossil pollen as well as silicon sand grains that might be dateable.

The project could start next year but more likely in 2022.

Graham Pilkington

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The Premier has recently announced an investment of up to \$52 million by the South Australian Government to rejuvenate Kangaroo Island's nature based tourism economy.

Some of this funding has already been directed towards immediate needs such as bushfire clean-up and recovery work and infrastructure repairs and rebuilds to enable visitors to return to our parks.

With the balance of the funding (more than \$30 million), we have a unique opportunity to “build back better” and consider how the visitor experience can be enhanced and improved. This is not just about facilities and infrastructure — it's also about supporting community and stakeholder aspirations, wildlife and ecological recovery, environmental protection and the local economy.

ProManage Australia has been engaged by the Department for Environment and Water to engage with community, businesses and stakeholders on Kangaroo Island in reimagining the visitor experience within the western Kangaroo Island parks and Parks and Seal Bay.

We are asking industry sectors, community and stakeholders to reimagine — without constraints — what new, world-class, different, sustainable, contemporary tourism activities and experiences could look like as well as understanding what shouldn't change and what needs to be protected.

Feedback and ideas generated will then be further refined and developed by community reference groups (one for the western Kangaroo Island Parks and one for Seal Bay) to deliver a vision, key themes, guiding principles, opportunities summary and design brief.

This level of potential investment in Kangaroo Island coupled with the opportunity to be part of a collaborative process to reimagine the outcomes is time critical and unique. The engagement program will run for three months and we're offering a range of ways to get involved, from focus group sessions to online survey, one on one conversations or small group sessions.

Our online engagement hub <https://www.parks.sa.gov.au/reimagine-ki/> will be a central point where we'll share updates and ask for your thoughts and feedback.

The reimagine engagement process will also be one of the many inputs to the development of a new, consolidated Park Management Plan, establishing a long-term vision and a strong foundation for the outcomes needed to support the recovery of Kangaroo Island's parks, communities and businesses. We'll keep you updated and involved in that via the engagement hub as well.

We look forward to sharing further details with you and welcome your interest, participation and contributions.

To arrange a time to meet or to join one of our focus group sessions, please contact the ProManage team: Leslie Wapler (0434 917 911, l.wapler@promanage.com.au) or Molly Gifford (0402 419 255, m.gifford@promanage.com.au).

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Iconic tourism works to be fast-tracked as part of KI parks rebuild

Up to \$52 million of works have started to rebuild and rejuvenate Kangaroo Island's nature-based tourism in parks, creating hundreds of much-needed jobs following the summer's bushfires and impacts from coronavirus.



Remarkable Rocks look-out in Flinders Chase National Park. Picture taken May 2020.

The Kangaroo Island tourism industry contributes around \$126 million annually to the regional economy, and the rebuild works will create more than 400 jobs in the region, and will fast-track important works to iconic park sites.

Nature-based tourism is a critical part of South Australia's economy and Kangaroo Island is one of our crown jewels.

Works will begin immediately to rebuild much-loved park visitor experiences across the island. This includes the boardwalk to access Remarkable Rocks, as well as the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail, which travels across Flinders Chase National Park and Kelly Hill Conservation Park. Rebuilding the infrastructure destroyed by the bushfires will provide a timely boost to the local economy and help Kangaroo Island's nature-based tourism industry bounce back.

A '**Reimagining Kangaroo Island Parks**' engagement process is now underway and will involve the community and stakeholders in reimagining Kangaroo Island parks to support the recovery of the island's tourism economy, and balance this with environmental recovery and protection.

Flinders Chase National Park has this week reopened to commercial tour operators, with public access expected in the coming weeks.

The first \$17 million of works is now underway, with further funding for rebuild projects to follow the Reimagining Kangaroo Island Parks engagement process.

Reimagining Kangaroo Island Parks will also involve the development of a new western Kangaroo Island parks management plan to support best practice conservation management.

For more information about the State Government's extensive integrated engagement and planning approach to reimagine Kangaroo Island parks visit: <https://reimagine-ki.parks.sa.gov.au/>

[Article courtesy Environment SA News 5 June 2020]

Issues on Kangaroo Island

Hi all

I have sent you this email because although you may not live on Kangaroo Island your voice is important and valuable. Please take the time to have a look and provide feedback to ProManage via their web link below.

After the devastating bushfires on Kangaroo Island last summer the Department for Environment and Water have appointed ProManage Australia to engage with community, businesses and stakeholders on Kangaroo Island in reimagining the visitor experience within the Western Kangaroo Island parks and Seal Bay. I've attached their Information Sheet and more information is available on their website: <https://reimagine-ki.parks.sa.gov.au/western-kangaroo-island-parks>.

Personally I do not see any need for Seal Bay to receive any funding as they've been the recipient of the most funds in recent years and their infrastructure wasn't affected by the fires.

I believe that the funds should be spent on rebuilding better facilities at Kelly Hill Caves, Flinders Chase National Park and any other park areas that were directly impacted by the bushfires.

Feel free to pass this on to your contacts.
Thanks in advance.

Katrina Wills

Providing Event Management Solutions

M: 0439 840 758

E: katrina.wills2@bigpond.com

Other matters on KI are more serious. Katrina has advised us of plans to rebuild 'reimagine' is the government term' KI facilities and parks after the bushfires. CEGSA can take a role in this consultation process. Katrina's observations are important – especially her last sentence. (Ian)

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Healing tours of ravaged Chase

THE National Parks and Wildlife Service SA has organised tours of bush-fire-ravaged Flinders Chase National Park just for locals this Sunday, June 28.

The service knows there is interest to see and understand first-hand the park's recovery from the devastating bushfires. To support the community's bushfire recovery, two free tours at 10am and then 1pm to take locals on a private guided tour of the park with a NP-WS ecologist.

The two-hour tours will be by bus via a "safe corridor" to Admirals Arch and Remarkable Rocks. Numbers limited

to 20. Contact the site visit team on 0455 147 835. Please be mindful that your visit will include viewing severe damage and loss of environment and infrastructure and may cause emotional distress.

Flinders Chase National Park was reopened this month but only for tours with accredited guides. Indications are the park could open for self-drive visitation as early as next month.

Hanson Bay Wildlife Sanctuary this Sunday will also be offering KI locals free 90-minute guided tour at 11am sharp. Bookings essential at 8559 7344.

— STAN GORTON



Accommodation Pod on Kangaroo Island.

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Katrina Wills has been an enthusiastic Cave Guide at Naracoorte and more recently at Kelly Hill Caves. In the last couple of years she has been involved in community and environment work from her home business 'Providing Event Management Solutions'. Recently she discovered 'Homestead Cave' as a result of being more restricted in her travelling due to Covid-19 considerations. As we all know, KI has plenty of new caves to be discovered! (Ian Lewis)

COVID-19 Self Isolation, Social Distancing and Quarantine through the eyes of a Cave Explorer.

As COVID-19 started to wreak havoc around the country I decided it was time to return to my home, set myself up and stay there for a while. Some might say it is my "Comfort Cave". So I will endeavour to describe this "Comfort Cave" environment.

Welcome to Wills Homestead Cave.

A short walk from the ironstone road, bordered by native vegetation the entrance is gated and guarded by a friendly white husky named Mako. As you wander through the daylight zone into the first chamber, the kitchen and dining hall, you are greeted with high cathedral ceilings and large open spaces. Meandering through the kitchen leads you to a smaller chamber "the Pantry" where you'll find enough food and snacks to last some time. In fact, there should only be a need to venture to the

supermarket for the essentials on a weekly basis.

Heading back towards the dining area the third chamber can be seen via a large double door opening to the right. This is a long narrow chamber with many decorations on the walls and a cosy fireplace in the corner. It is here that occupants of the house spend time together catching up on the latest news, Netflix and just generally lounging.

Further through the third chamber will lead you to the front lounge chamber that is currently set up with exercise equipment to keep the household occupants in shape. Traversing this chamber is tricky as the chamber is very full of equipment including a weight set, an exercise bike, various different sized dumb bells and weights, an exercise ball, a yoga mat and physio bands. Also, in the third chamber you will find a packed bookcase full of a variety of text including cookbooks, novels, and several non-fiction titles. Photo albums also adorn the shelves full of years of memories of the resident's lives. A family tree mural on the wall of this chamber has historic photos of past and present family members. A piano sits quietly in the chamber but when played, the acoustics are incredible.

Leading off this is another entrance chamber a much smaller alcove leading to the outside world.

To the right of the front lounge chamber the parent's bedroom can be found with two smaller chambers the walk-in robe and the ensuite. The walk-in robe chamber is long, dark and narrow with obstacles of washing baskets and such on the floor. At the end of the walk-in robe chamber a poster can be found of a past event from the Naracoorte Caves, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Adjacent to the walk-in robe chamber is ensuite chamber a small damp section of the Wills Homestead Cave where running showers of water can be found.

Heading back through these chambers and into the dining chamber the cave narrows significantly as you traverse the passage. Off to the left of the passage is the laundry and toilet chambers. The laundry chamber has another entrance to the outside world however this is difficult to traverse on laundry washing days as piles of dirty clothes are scattered on the floor. The toilet chamber can be known for fowl smells but is better when the little window is left open allowing this chamber to breathe.

Further along the passage you come to Chelsea's Bedroom Chamber. A dark 3metre x 3 metre chamber with many obstacles to find your way around before getting into bed. Opening the curtains doesn't happen too often in this chamber so be sure that your head torch is working properly in here.

Further along the passage you come to Chelsea's Bedroom Chamber. A dark 3metre x 3 metre chamber with many obstacles to find your way around before getting into bed. Opening the curtains doesn't happen too often in this chamber so be sure that your head torch is working properly in here. Further along the passage you come to Chelsea's Bedroom Chamber. A dark 3metre x 3 metre chamber with many obstacles to find your way around before getting into bed. Opening the curtains doesn't happen too often in this chamber so be sure that your head torch is working properly in here.

At the end of the passageway is the study chamber or as it is now called the work from home office. A bright and airy chamber, visitors to this chamber are able to look out onto the back garden and clothesline. This chamber is filled with computers, paperwork and the likes. Built in cupboards in the study are full of art and craft supplies, sewing equipment and materials, and photography equipment.

A little further along the passage is Sasha's Bedroom Chamber. While Sasha has moved away to live in Tamworth this chamber will forever be known as Sasha's Bedroom. Another 3metre x 3 metre chamber this chamber has become a bit of a storage space. Especially for Sixteen Legs Documentary and Exhibition paraphernalia. Opposite Sasha's Bedroom Chamber is the Main Bathroom Chamber. Similar to the ensuite chamber this is a damp little chamber where running showers of water can be found. The floor of this chamber has a fine coating of dirt introduced from Chelsea's work clothes after a long day on the potato harvester. This chamber has the added bonus of a bathtub pool that when clean is a lovely place to soak. A dripping tap in the hand basin gives a true cave sound effect.

CEGSA will have to consider mapping and numbering this unique feature for the Group's records! (Ian)

CAVE OFFERS GLIMPSE OF ABORIGINAL HISTORY



Steve Milner from Ancient Land Tours is hoping to begin a new tourism venture which explores the Koonalda Cave in the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area. Picture: Steve Milner

MICHELLE ETHERIDGE

A CAVE used by Aboriginal people 22,000 years ago would be opened up to small tour groups for the first time, if plans under State Government consideration are approved.

Start-up company Ancient Land Tours wants to run small group tours of Koonalda Cave in the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area.

Consultation has begun on the proposal for the landmark.

Ancient Land Tours owner Steve Milner plans to employ about four staff, including Aboriginal elders, to share the area's geological and cultural significance.

"As you go down through the cave ... you're

TOMORROW New look liftout in tomorrow's Sunday Mail



descending through a layer of limestone which was laid down 15 million years ago and then you go down into a layer of limestone which was created over 40 million years ago," he said.

"It has a majesty and feeling which is absolutely

indescribable." Visitors would see natural flint in the cave's walls, used to make tools, along with stelae (standing stones), believed to have been positioned in the cave because of their likeness to animals.

Tours would cross a 500m section of the cave previously modified by pastoralists, who pumped water from a lake about 90m below ground level.

Mr Milner said he had been working with the Mirning people - the traditional landowners - who had been supportive of the project.

"There isn't much in the way of tourism products out in the Far West and we're really hoping this project will stimulate growth in the region," Mr Milner said.

Adelaide Advertiser 8 August 2020

Koonalda Cave Cultural Tourism Proposal

An exciting new initiative under the direction of CEGSA's Steve Milner may lead to Cultural Tours of the majestic Koonalda Cave in the eastern Nullarbor Plain. This cave has carbon-dated material which showed that Aborigines were mining flint from the cave 22-26,000 years ago. When that information was released in the 1960's, it caused a ruckus amongst anthropologists and archaeologists of the time as until then, it was thought that Aborigines had only arrived on the Australian continent around 5,000 years when they brought the dingo with them. We now know they arrived ten times older than that number, entering the continent 50,000 years ago. The Mirning people occupied the Nullarbor region which has been their country for 40,000 years or so after the gradual migration to the southern shores of the continent. Various CEGSA members worked with Dr Gallus at Koonalda Cave in the 1950's, 60's and 70's on his archaeological discoveries.

Now Steve is planning Cultural Tour visits to the cave in the company of Mirning people to interpret the cave and also see the early pioneer relics in the cave when the Gurney family extracted water from the lakes to run the old Koonalda Pastoral Station which has been a National Park now for 40 years. Steve is doing this through his excellently-named company -

ancient land tours

Steve Milner | M: 0402 884 121 | E: steve.milner@ancientlandtours.com



Steve says "The proposal is the result of 3 years of careful planning, risk assessments, and sensitive negotiation culminating in the support from the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, the Department of Environment and Water – National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Nullarbor Parks Advisory Committee."

There is a current period for responses to his proposal by Traditional Owners and Aboriginal parties who feel they have an interest in the cave (and any party the Minister deems appropriate) to have their say. Responses from other organisations eg CEGSA are not sought at this time. Full details are available in a [consultation information pack](#) accessible at -

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-koonalda-cave-tourism-proposal/about>

and dpc.sa.gov.au/heritage-applications

Steve is happy to answer any queries and is available to discuss them. This is a great proposal and the majestic Koonalda Cave deserves to be given the best attention and interpretation, as it has so many excellent ancient and historical stories to tell. CEGSA wish Steve and the Mirning people every success in this excellent initiative!

Ian Lewis



Koonalda Cave entrance.
Photo: Ian Lewis



Koonalda entrance ladder pitch.
Photo: Ian Lewis.



Flint mining in Koonalda Cave.
Photo: Ian Lewis.



Steve Milner on Nullarbor Cliffs.

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COVID-19 and Australian bats – information for bat carers and others interacting with bats

3 April 2020

Information on COVID-19 and Australian wildlife is provided in the WHA fact sheet: Novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Key messages from the fact sheet relating to Australian bats are provided below. This information is based on current knowledge (3 April 2020). For updates, please refer to the WHA website and check for the current version of the WHA fact sheet.

Key points

- • There is no evidence of SARS-CoV-2 or SARS-CoV-2-like viruses in Australian wildlife.
- • There is no evidence to suggest that any animals in Australia might be a source of SARS-CoV-2.
- • Human to animal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is exceedingly rare.
- • Appropriate precautions are always recommended before, during and after contact with animals (see National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines).
- • People diagnosed with COVID-19 should not have any contact with Australian wildlife.
- • Further information on COVID-19 and animals can be found from the Australian Veterinary Association and World Organisation of Animal Health - OIE.

Potential involvement of Australian bats

Although betacoronaviruses have been found in a variety of Australian bat species, there is no evidence of SARS, MERS, or SARS-CoV-2 viruses in Australian wildlife, including bats. SARS-CoV-2 is not closely related to any known Australian bat coronaviruses and there is no suggestion that SARS-CoV-2 is present in Australian wildlife. For information on published studies of coronaviruses in bats, see the WHA fact sheet: Coronaviruses in Australian Bats.

Precautions when in contact with Australian bats

There is no evidence to suggest that bats or other wildlife in Australia might be a source of infection of SARS-CoV-2. However, there is a risk of exposure through handling bats to other diseases such as Australian bat lyssavirus. Only people who are trained and rabies-vaccinated, and using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should handle bats.

It is believed that human to animal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is exceedingly rare. Regardless, appropriate precautions are always recommended before, during and after contact with bats or other wildlife and their food, supplies and excreta. This includes, for example washing hands and cleaning of equipment, clothing and boots (see National Wildlife Biosecurity Guidelines).

People who are unwell, including those with COVID-19 like symptoms, should avoid contact with wildlife wherever possible. People diagnosed with COVID-19 should not have any contact with wildlife. If you care for wildlife, you should have a plan in place for the animals in your care in the event you become sick or have to self-isolate.

Article courtesy Adelaide Advertiser, 26 May 2020

Heat-stressed bats swoop back into city Parklands

CELESTE VILLANI

HUNDREDS of rehabilitated bats have returned to Botanic Park following a scorching summer that claimed the lives of half the city's flying fox population.

About 400 bats that suffered severe heat stress have been released back into the Parklands over the past month.



It comes as the University of Adelaide prepares to spearhead a trial of misting systems – which are like sprinklers in

trees – to make bat habitat cooler and prevent heat-related deaths.

The university's wildlife and conservation medicine senior lecturer Wayne Boardman said the misters would make trees cooler on days when the temperature soared past 40C.

He said bats were often too scared to fly down from trees to get water from in-ground sprinklers.

"What we are thinking about is putting those misters

higher up in the tree, 25 to 30m above, so they help reduce the temperature in the area ... possibly by about 10C," Dr Boardman said.

"If a bat's core temperature gets above 42C then there is a good chance it will die."

Last summer, about half of the city's 20,000-strong colony of grey-headed flying foxes

died. About 20 per cent were

adults and the rest were juveniles. Dr Boardman hoped seven misters would be installed by October, subject to securing grant funding.

Sue Westover, a former Fauna Rescue SA volunteer who will soon create a new rehabilitation service called Bat Rescue SA, cared for about 250 injured bats in an aviary at her Wynn Vale home.

"We had a wonderful group of volunteers that helped look after the bats," Ms Westover, pictured, said.

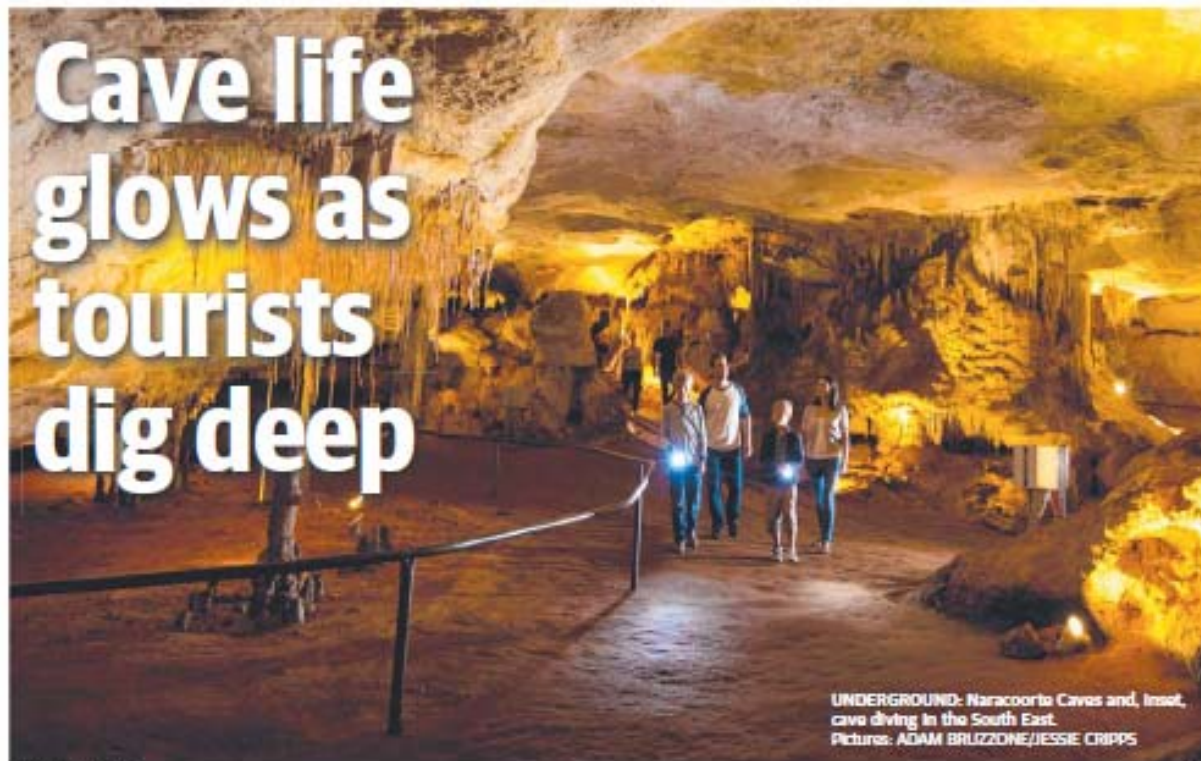
"We had a whole team of just fruit cutters because we would go through about 90kg a day."

She said she was looking forward to the results of the misting system trial.

"It will not stop the problem

but hopefully it will alleviate it," she said. "We hope it will have a huge impact on the amount of bats coming in for care for the better."

An Environment Department spokeswoman said the bats were important to the ecosystem as "long-distant pollinators and native seed dispersers" and they had to be protected.



Cave life glows as tourists dig deep

UNDERGROUND: Naracoorte Caves and, inset, cave diving in the South East.
Pictures: ADAM BRUZZONE/JESSIE CRIPPS

MITCH MOTT

WHEN COVID-19 forced the Naracoorte Caves to shut its doors to tourists, below the surface researchers took advantage to continue their groundbreaking work.

The heritage protected caves are one of the richest fossil deposits in the state, and have been a drawcard to visitors and researchers for decades.

Department of Environment and Water Limestone Coast regional manager Nick McIntyre said the shut-down allowed researchers to work undistracted.

"One thing about stopping the tours in the caves because of social distancing and shutting down some of the sites, was that it allowed for small groups of research-

ers to enter the cave and work undisturbed," he said.

"They had the whole cave to themselves."

The research included a new palaeontological dig in the Alexandra Cave as well as work in the large Blanche cave, which has been the site of multiple weddings and concerts.

But, while the researchers were huddled underground, Mr McIntyre said it was promising to see the first tourists returning to the caves for tours over the weekend.

"We weren't quite sure what to expect but we had a fair few phone inquiries before the long weekend and their interest certainly showed there was a hunger for guided tours and experi-

ences," he said.

"We were pleasantly surprised on the weekend: it was quite brisk in both the caves and the cafe.

"We have a large portion of trade which comes from within this state, but international visitors and people from other states feature prominently as well.

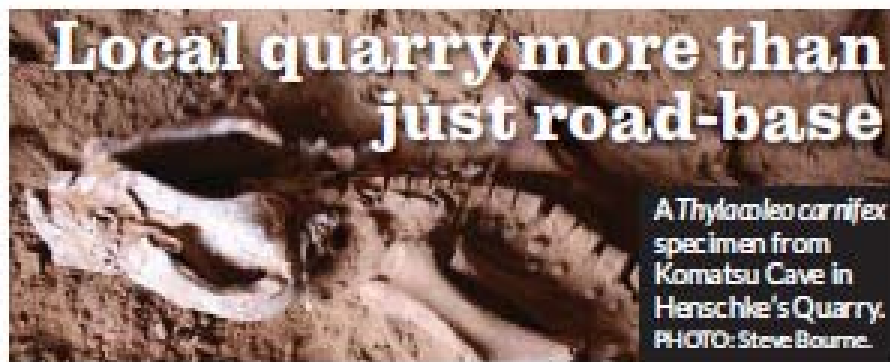
"The impression we got was that people were keen to get out and travel and do something different."

The reintroduction of tours also meant the long-awaited return of tour guides and other staff for the first time in months.

The Limestone Coast is famous for its caves

and diving areas which dot the region, and include Umphenston Sinkhole in Mount Gambier.





A *Thylacoleo carnifex* specimen from Komatsu Cave in Henschke's Quarry.
PHOTO: Steve Bourne.

■ Judy Murdoch

HENSCHKE'S quarry on the edge of Naracoorte has played an important role in our history.

It lies on a major fault line and was once part of The Needwood property, established by Thomas Hinckley in the 1840s.

It was bought in 1914 from Charlie Schinckel, then owner of Needwood, by Bartlett Miller of Wool Bay Lime who appointed Amos James as their manager. It is now the property of the Henschke family.

The quarry, known for many years as James' Quarry, mines into a beach dune built when the receding sea paused at the foot of the Kanawinka Escarpment cliff as the seacoast receded to the west. For those interested, the present Red Hill, further to the east, marks the dune at the top of the cliff, formed when the sea paused there, before retreating further and dropping to its foot. The limestone varies from very hard in some parts where it was exposed to the air, to softer areas in others. The lie of the

sediments show that the area had been submerged and exposed on a number of occasions. The fossil remains of past sea creatures are scattered all through the rock. In 1956, another kind of fossil was found there...one that caused great excitement in the world of science and began in a quiet way, a new era in Naracoorte's history.

In 1956, blasting in the quarry exposed a small cave. On a ledge in this cave was the mainly intact skeleton of a large female animal with its cub, partly embedded in silt. Finding articulated skeletons such as this is rare and very exciting to scientists. Des James, the finder, carefully tacked aessian bag to the rock to protect the skeletons, and set about informing research institutions such as the SA Museum and the Universities. Unfortunately, in the time for one of them to respond, heavy rains soaked the bag and it fell on the skeletons, disturbing the bones.

The first to respond

was the SA Museum, when Curator, Paul Lawson, who had previous experience in extracting fossil Diprotodon remains from Lake Callabonna, came to deal with it, finding it was a complete example of a rare, long extinct creature, *Thylacoleo carnifex*, or Marsupial Lion... the first-ever discovery of a complete skeleton of this animal, previously known only from skulls. Its unique feature was the massive, unmistakable jaw.

The bones were carefully gathered and documented, and removed to Adelaide, where they passed into the hands of an American researcher, Professor Tedford, and removed to that country.

Sometime later, skulls of this same long-extinct species were to be the clue that a new fossil bed had been found in an extension of Victoria Cave.

Naracoorte, understandably, craves closer connection with the nearby Naracoorte Caves, but has forgotten that the first major discovery was right here, within the town boundry.



Richard Harris and Anh Do with portrait Of Richard Harris.



ASF Child Protection Policy, Guidelines and Code of Conduct

Adopted by Council on 4-January-2020

ASF Child Protection Policy

1. These Policy, Guidelines and Code of Conduct apply to ASF and to all members of ASF in situations where ASF members interact with children in the course of activities of the Federation and member societies.

2. For the purpose of these Policy, Guidelines and Code of Conduct:

an “ASF member” is defined as a person who is a direct member of ASF, or is a corporate organisation which is a member of ASF, or is a person who is a member of such corporate organisation;

a “child” is defined as a person under the age of eighteen years; and

“caving or cave-related activities” include, but are not limited to, caving club meetings and social events, and travel to and from activities, and field practice, and caving trips and camping, and ASF conferences.

3. ASF is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children involved in activities of the Federation and member societies. Consequently, these Policy and Guidelines and Code of Conduct are intended to provide ASF and its members guidance to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all children in the course of activities of the Federation and member societies and to assist ASF members to fulfil their obligations under child protection laws.
4. Child abuse involves conduct which puts children at risk of harm or neglect. Child abuse can be inflicted by adults or other children and can include:
 - a) Physical abuse by hurting a child or a child’s development (e.g. hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child’s development or maturity);
 - b) Sexual abuse by adults or other children where a child is encouraged or forced to watch or engage in sexual activity or where a child is subject to any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography including child pornography, inappropriate touching, or inappropriate conversations);
 - c) Emotional abuse by ill-treating a child (e.g. humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring, or placing unrealistic expectations on a child); and
 - d) Neglect, including medical neglect (e.g. not giving food, water, shelter or clothing, or not protecting a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury, or not providing access to medical treatment).
5. Child protection laws apply in each state and territory and cover the reporting and investigation of child abuse. The ASF and its members must comply with all applicable child protection laws. (See *Notes* below.)

ASF Child Protection Guidelines

1. If an ASF member reasonably suspects or believes that a child needs protection, they should report immediately to the police or the relevant government agency in their state or territory.
2. ASF members should obey all applicable mandatory reporting laws. Mandatory reporting is a legislative requirement imposed on selected classes of people to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to government authorities. All Australian states and territories have enacted mandatory reporting laws. However, the laws are not the same across all jurisdictions. (See *Notes* below.)
3. ASF members should obey all relevant child protection laws when dealing with a complaint or incidence of child abuse. In particular:
 - a. ASF members should deal with all allegations of child abuse promptly and confidentially and should not disclose information about the child, the accused or details of the complaint except as required by law; and
 - b. ASF members should not try to investigate, mediate or conduct any hearing into any allegation of child abuse.
4. If a caving or cave-related activity takes place in multiple states or territories (e.g. travel from one state to another), ASF members should check the requirements for each state or territory.
5. A child should not be left unattended without making arrangements for the child's care.
6. The child's parent or guardian should be encouraged to attend the activity with the child.
7. ASF corporate members may decide not to allow children to be members, or not to allow children to attend caving or cave-related activities, or only to do so if a parent or guardian is present. If an ASF corporate member allows children on their caving or cave-related activities they should have their own Child Protection Policy, Guidelines and Code of Conduct.
8. ASF members who organise events which include children unaccompanied by their parents, shall comply with the working with children obligations in their state or territory (see *Notes* below). This may involve undertaking a "working with children check" to determine their suitability to work with children.

ASF Child Protection Code of Conduct

Proposed Amendments August 2020

General Code of Conduct

1. ASF members shall treat children with respect regardless of race, gender, sexuality, language, religious beliefs, political or other opinions, nationality, ethnicity, social status, disability, or any other characteristic.
2. ASF members shall ensure the child's parent or guardian or care giver is fully aware of the risks associated with caving or caving-related activities, and is aware of the arrangements for carrying out the activity (e.g. transport, party structure, camping arrangements), and has fully consented to the child's attendance if the care giver is unable to attend the activity.
3. ASF members shall obey all relevant child protection legislation and mandatory reporting requirements.
4. ASF members shall immediately report concerns or allegations of child exploitation, or child abuse, or non-compliance with this Code of Conduct.
5. *ASF will provide support to the member reporting suspected breaches of this code of conduct where reports are made in good faith. the following is a guideline and not an exhaustive list. Other behaviours could fall into any of the categories and should be dealt with appropriately.*

Concerning Conduct

Conduct which may not require investigation or reporting and can be addressed with the individual directly

1. In the presence of children, ASF members shall not use language that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning, or culturally inappropriate.
2. ASF members shall not act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade a child.
3. ASF members shall avoid situations with children that could be considered compromising.

Misconduct

Conduct which is deemed by the ASF to be unacceptable but may not require reporting to authorities. This would usually be dealt with through internal procedures.

1. ASF members shall, wherever possible, ensure another adult is present when interacting with children.
2. ASF members shall ask permission from the child and their parent or guardian before taking and using photographs of the child. ASF members publishing photographs of children (e.g. in newsletters or social media) shall ensure such permission has been obtained.

Criminal Conduct

Conduct that must be reported to relevant State authorities

1. ASF members shall not engage children in any form of sexual activity.
2. ASF members shall not use physical punishment on children.
3. ASF members shall not develop relationships with a child that could in any way be thought exploitative or abusive, or act in ways that may be abusive, or may place a child at risk of abuse.

Notes

Information about statutory working with children obligations, legislation and mandatory reporting guidelines can be found at:

- QLD: www.bluecard.qld.gov.au
- NSW: www.check.kids.nsw.gov.au
- WA: www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au
- VIC: www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren
- SA: www.families.sa.gov.au/pages/protectingchildren
- TAS: www.police.tas.gov.au
- NT: www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au
- ACT: www.ors.act.gov.au/community/working_with_vulnerable_people_wwvp

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*The ASF has been grappling with the complexities of child safety legislation requirements and implementation. It has prepared some amendments to the existing policy and put them out for a vote from all member societies. The Policy and the proposed amendments are included in CEGSA News to advise all members. CEGSA and all member societies are requested to **vote on the Amendments shown in red** only, by 9 October. This has triggered a lot of email discussion since and is a difficult issue with several perspectives. One example is printed below representing some of the views. CEGSA Committee will respond with a vote by the due date. Besides yes/no, there is an option to abstain. (Ian Lewis)*

ASF Child Policy vote on Amendments

Hi Club Contacts

Attached are proposed amendments to the Child Policy Code of Conduct for voting by Clubs. Please pass on to your Club members for consideration.

Voting will close 9th October

These are amendments to the existing Policy as accepted by Council in January 2020. The need for amendments was also recognised and passed at the Council Meeting (Resolution 14).

In the attached, sections highlighted in red are the proposed additions, and the remainder are the same as the existing policy, which can be found on our website for comparison.

<https://www.caves.org.au/administration/codes-and-standards/category/8-codes-and-standards>

These amendments aim to clarify the different levels of misconduct and give indications of how incidents could be handled.

Separate reporting guidelines will be developed later this year.

This is a vote on the amendments only.

Vote Yes - to accept the amendments

Vote No - to reject the amendments and retaining the original policy wording

No reply - Club will be recorded as abstaining

Thank you

Sarah

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Hi Everyone

NHVSS strongly supports Rod's additions to the amendment of the Child policy currently being discussed. To reject outright the current policy and just adopt the Australian Human Rights is leaving the ASF wide open if a legal case were to arise in the future. At stake is all of ASF's assets. The ASF Child Policy is primarily set up to protect children, but it also sets out a guideline of how ASF should respond to an issues forwarded to the ASF from its members clubs or an issue which may arise on an ASF organised event. Hopefully any issue arising at a club level should be handled by that club and following the clubs guidelines and the appropriate State or Territory laws. But if passed up to the ASF, then the ASF needs a policy guide to follow.

The Royal Commission into Child abuse was extremely critical about institutions and organisations who did not have (or had inadequate) procedures to handle complaints of child abuse in their organisations. This lack of appropriate procedures in place left organisations wide open to legal proceedings against the organisations/institutions with the result of lengthy expensive court cases and substantial payouts to victims. ASF needs a Child Policy which has clear direction and some clear substance, it just can't be wishy washy. The Royal Commission into Child Abuse was an extensive process which came out with a clear recommendation of what should be included in an organisations policy involving children. The Royal Commission recommendations do not circumnavigate any State or Territory laws which must be adhered to, but the recommendations set a guide of how to handle complaints against children. Organisations who do not adopt some sort of guideline along the lines of the Royal Commission recommendations are leaving themselves wide open for future legal action in the future. Adopting just the Australian Human Rights is not fulfilling the requirements of the Royal Commission.

Regards, Garry Smith, NHVSS

Calendar of Events

	Type of Event	Description	Contact
26/08/20	General Meeting	SA Museum Armoury Room 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
03/09/20	Caving	Mercedes College, Corra Lynn Cave	Michael Woodward
??/09/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
23/09/20	General Meeting	SA Museum Armoury Room 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
??/10/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
28/10/20	General Meeting	SA Museum Armoury Room 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
??/11/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
11/11/20	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
26/11/20	General Meeting	SA Museum Armoury Room 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
??/12/20	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
23/12/20	No General Meeting	No General Meeting	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.

NOTES