

CEGSA NEWS



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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) Inc.

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

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Website Trip Log	All Trip Coordinators	See list p69

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Nullarbor Plain (SA & WA), Yorke Peninsula	Graham Pilkington	As above
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Representatives

ASF	Ian Lewis	As above
	Pam Payne	
SA Speleological Council	Ian Lewis	As above
	Pam Payne	
CDAA Liaison	Ian Lewis	As above
SA Scout Liaison	Matt Smith	As above

Cover Photograph: Barbara Lobban and Decima McTernan with the Ann Augusteyn Award.
(See article on page 70)

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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 66 Number 4 (Issue 264) must reach the Editor by Wednesday **10th NOVEMBER 2021**. 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

18 months down and here we are still living a half-life of short-distance travel events hesitantly around the State due to increasing variants of COVID. The destructive effects of changeable lockdowns are awful for small independent businesses. How ironic that the safest caves to visit are those within our own State's borders! There seems little likelihood that circumstances will ease until the end of 2021 and organisers of next year's Easter ASF Conference in Ceduna are having to consider whether yet another deferral may be required, given national aspirations for 80% vaccination coverage and expanding COVID occurrences across our most populous State, New South Wales and the impacts upon its borders. Let's hope that doesn't happen and our nation's health improves over summer so we can all gather on the Nullarbor in Autumn next year.

Caving in SA has managed to continue with several trips to Kangaroo Island, Corra-Lynn and Naracoorte by CEGSA, FUSSE and the Scout Caving Group. Systematic grid-searches of areas across the burnt-but-fast-regrowing Kelly Hill and Flinders Chase coastline areas is unveiling large numbers of karst exposures and new cave entrances. However, the priorities have to be surface work while it is still possible before the spring growth of underbrush and lower canopy makes bush-searching too difficult in maybe only a few months' time. The actual caving can wait until after that search phase. And of course we all hope that no further fires hit KI in the coming summer, in the form that is currently happening in the northern and western hemispheres in Greece, Turkey, Portugal, California and Brazil.

Corra-Lynn has produced yet another great surprise with an upper-level fossil discovery which is in a remote inner small tunnel network but promises excellent finds to add to this already State Heritage Cave site, listed as such from its other fossil sites in the inner clay banks. I am also reminded of the famous stepping stone down the hill in Town Well Cave which hoisted cavers into that tight and challenging cave network but was rescued when our own Neville Pledge from the SA Museum identified it as a *Sthenurus* skull just before he stepped on it himself! And Naracoorte caves have proven popular in 2022, with several Scout trips and the public also visiting the show caves in greater numbers than experienced for 20 years. An average of visitors is around 40,000 per year but this has skyrocketed to 82,000 in the financial year 2020/21 with people making the satisfying choice that local cave tours are a great school and family destination.

In the Mount Gambier region, cave diving numbers have dropped very significantly as the majority of Cave Diver Association (CDAA) membership is from Victoria but they have hardly been able to travel into SA in this last year. However, one irony is that as a result, the visibility in the sinkholes is better than it has been for some years which may be due to less diving activity (or that SA cave divers don't kick up the mud as much!!?). In truth, we as cave divers here really feel for those interstate who can't take full normal advantage of such an excellent set of dive sites and experiences and would hate to miss out ourselves. Cave diving science has also been a major contributor to a recent series of workshops working with universities, CEGSA, the SA Museum and the Dept for Environment. This has been to prepare a detailed nomination of Green Waterhole (known to cave divers as 'Fossil Cave') near Tantanoola in the South East for status as a State Heritage Site in recognition of the outstanding fossils that have been recovered by cave divers on a number of expeditions held there over past decades. State Heritage status has the capacity to provide a higher level of protection for this very important site and it's great to see cave divers were able to help it happen.

Cheers to all from Ian

TRIP REPORTS

Follow That Steamer!

When I first became interested in caves, a steamer was still the generic name given to an ocean liner. Although I wasn't overly keen to get up early in the mornings, I would happily do so in areas where caves might exist, so that I could perhaps find new caves by looking for steamers. In this context the name "steamer" was not associated with ships, but instead moist warm air emanating from a cave entrance which cooled rapidly on mixing with the outside air, condensing into a visible column of cool "steam", a classic tell-tale indicator of a cave system somewhere below. It was certainly possible in dry caving areas like Naracoorte, or even the Nullarbor, but much more commonplace in the eastern states where the caves more often contained saturated air and were usually found at higher altitude in hilly country that got bone chillingly cold overnight.

I couldn't believe how thick the ice was in the billy outside the tent I slept in overnight at Wombeyan, south of Jenolan, but the compensation for this was the excitement of my first such observations of plumes of "steam", rising into the denser frosty air and therefore pointing directly to where a keen young cave explorer should focus the attention.

Not only will today's technology allow me to sleep in until someone else has got the campfire alight and actually boiled the billy, but maybe it can deal with another problem as well.

Our search for potential new cave entrances in the Myponga area has come to a temporary halt. An initial inspection of the most likely locations suggests that they might be hidden not only near the bottom of creek beds, but inside thickets of blackberry, or other shrubbery as well. Then the thought occurred that if warm air is rising out of a hole in the ground underneath a thicket of blackberries, there is a good chance that it should have little trouble rising up through the blackberries, perhaps warming them as it goes, and still managing to emerge from the blackberries as an identifiable, and more importantly, detectable, stream of warm air.

I have now set out with a moderately priced infrared camera, to learn how to use it to best advantage before heading for the blackberries.

Cave air, whether moist or otherwise, should rise out of a hole in the ground provided it is warmer than the outside air. In some cases it will be replaced by colder air entering the cave through a lower entrance, but it could also be that the warm air flows out of one side of an entrance aperture and is replaced by colder air flowing inwards on the opposite side of the same aperture. Each entrance will obviously have its own characteristics, but for all of them, on a cold morning, warm internal cave air should be less dense than the cold outside air, and so should rise. It will only cause a condensation plume if it is moist enough that when it cools to the outside air temperature it cools below its dewpoint, forcing some of its moisture content to change from vapour to droplets of liquid. The infrared detector, on the other hand, can detect even quite small temperature differences directly,

and is not dependent on the moisture level of the air, so can be potentially a far more sensitive indicator. However, all other things being equal, moist cave air should generally have a higher thermal mass, which should give rise to more extensive infrared plumes than drier air.

It pays to be mindful that there are a number of different mechanisms that can generate airflows in caves, and with adequate instrumentation we can probably differentiate between them, and even perhaps learn more about the configuration of the cave in doing so. However, for the current purposes of detecting the presence of a cave entrance then it should be sufficient to simply locate a plume of warm and therefore less dense cave air rising up into significantly colder outside air.

In South Australia the ambient cave air temperature will be in the vicinity of 16 – 17 degrees C, all year round. Outside air is more likely to be cooler than cave air early in the morning and perhaps late in the evening, especially in the cooler months of the year.

Preliminary tests have been carried out on a cold morning at the entrance to 5A25 at Sellicks Hill, with encouraging results.



Figure 1: The entrance to 5A25, Sellicks Hill Roadside Cave in visible light.

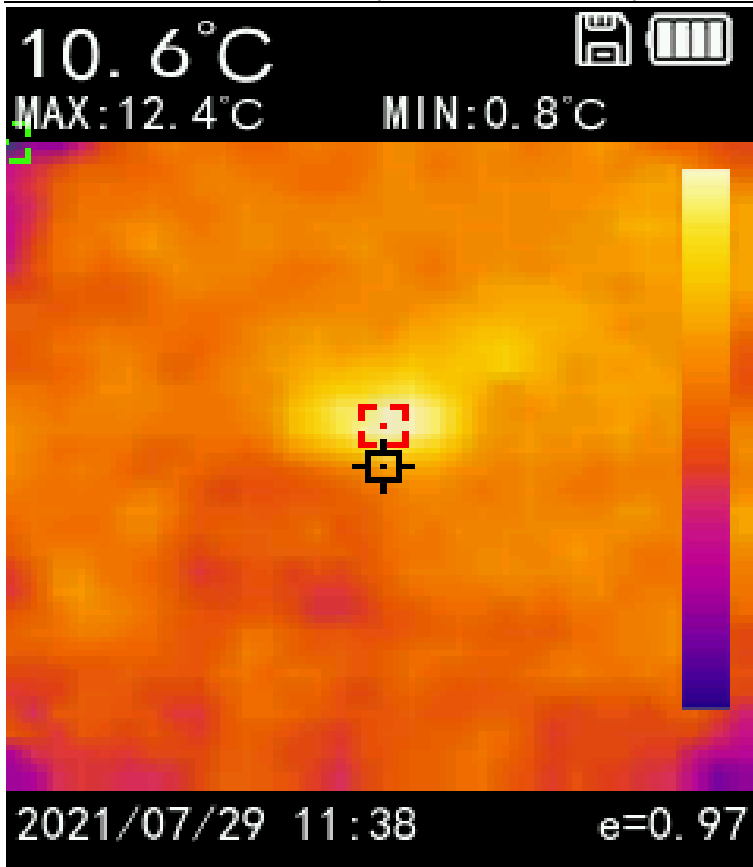


Figure 2: The same scene taken a few seconds earlier in Infrared. Note the maximum temperature of 12.4 deg C in the middle of the entrance, compared to a temperature of 10.6 deg C on the rock face just below the entrance. Note also that the vegetation below the entrance is not visible as a distinct unit, but does appear to be marginally cooler than the rock face above. The tendency to display colder temperatures in the corners of the view is expected to be an artefact, rather than a true reading, but does not detract significantly from the overall positive result.

A short distance to the west of this entrance there is another small hole which we temporarily blocked about 40 years ago with a hessian bag and a couple of scoops of soil. The soil had obviously settled a little over the intervening period, and a small bleed of warm air was easily detected from about 6 metres away.

A few more such tests will be carried out just to get to know the instrument better,

and then, before the weather gets too warm, we should be able to check out a valley full of blackberries without having to get too close to them. Wish us luck!

Grant Gartrell.

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Past Trips from General Meetings

May 2021

- *Pam Payne and Andrew Stempel* described a recent three day trip to Kangaroo Island. A lot of time was spent walking along the coast either side of West Bay but nothing significant was found. Several members who attended said that they thought that the time there could have been spent more efficiently and that they would like some input into future trip planning.
- *Ian Lewis* led a party from the SA Field Geology Club to various sites around Naracoorte including to Henschke's Quarry, the Fossil Chamber, Wet Cave, the bone lab and Wonambi Centre. . There is a possibility of setting up a geological and cave map display in the back area of the Wonambi Centre.
- *Matt Smith* reported a Scout Caving Group trip to Naracoorte where Fox Cave, Little Vic, Appledore, Blackberry and Beekeepers were visited.
- *Graham Pilkington* led two trips for Mercedes College students to Corra Lynn on the 10th and 17th May.

June 2021

- *James Fife* has been doing maintenance on the cameras installed in Bat Cave.

July 2021

No Trips Reported.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP FEES

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES become due on January 1st. To ensure continuity of membership and privileges (particularly insurance) please pay before March 31st.

Joining fee applies to renewal after March 31st.

CEGSA MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2021 YEAR

Full Membership	\$30.00
Associate Membership	25.00
Long Term Associate (more than 2 years as an Associate)	30.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00
3 Month Introductory family	10.00
3 Month Associate Membership (including joining fee)	19.00
Joining Fee (not applicable to 3 Month Introductory)	12.00
Country Membership discount (residing more than 80 km from Adelaide GPO)	
Single member or one-parent family	6.00
Two- parent family	12.00

ASF LEVY FEE FOR 2021 YEAR

Single	\$70.00
2-parent Family	123.00
1-parent Family	88.00
Retired, pensioner, student, or unemployed	46.00
Honorary (not caving)	21.00
12 Month Introductory	20.00
12 Month Introductory family	35.00

Example 2021 YEAR FEES

	CEGSA	ASF	TOTAL
Full Membership	\$30.00	\$70.00	\$100.00
Full Membership retired	30.00	46.00	76.00
Full Country Membership	24.00	70.00	94.00
Associate Membership	25.00	70.00	95.00
Associate Membership student	25.00	46.00	71.00
Inactive Full (needs Committee approval)	30.00	21.00	51.00
3 Month Introductory	5.00	20.00	25.00
3 Month Associate Membership	19.00	18.00	37.00

Examples for Family Membership

1st Full Member + 2nd Full Member	\$60.00	\$123.00	\$183.00
1st Full Member + 2nd Associate Member	55.00	123.00	178.00
1st Assoc Member + 2nd Assoc Member	50.00	123.00	173.00

NOTE Country Membership discount on the above examples would be \$12.

Full Member 1-parent Family	30.00	88.00	118.00
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Please make sure your payment of fees includes CEGSA and ASF, if applicable.

Membership Fees can be paid directly into CEGSA Account

CEGSA

BSB 105-900

Account No 950661040

Reference with your Name or Membership Number and fee year; eg 7201-21.

Graham Pilkington. Membership Officer.

Approved CEGSA Trip Leaders

Name	Caving Leader levels
Stan Flavel	Horizontal and Laddering
Grant Gartrell	Coordinator
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's also a requirement that all trips be led by an approved Trip Leader at the appropriate skill level for the cave being entered. Trip Leaders ensure that every caving party has a member with current First Aid training.

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Silver anniversary for Friends of Mount Gambier Parks

National Parks and Wildlife Services South Australia (NPWSSA) Limestone Coast staff recently gathered to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks in recognition of the group's long term service provided to NPWSSA and the community.



Limestone Coast National Parks and Wildlife Manager Nick McIntyre and Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks President Kevin Mott

A lunchtime event was held at Telfords Scrub Conservation Park, which included the presentation of congratulations letters from the Minister for Environment and Water David Speirs along with 25 year, 20 year and 10 year service certificates and badges.

Limestone Coast National Parks and Wildlife Manager Nick McIntyre attended the event and along with Friends of Mount Gambier Area Parks President Kevin Mott presented certificates and acknowledgements to the group.

'The Friends of group continues to be active having contributed more than 5000 hours of voluntary work since its inception,' Nick said.

'There are four members who have been a part of the group since its inception.

'A lot of reminiscing occurred over lunch about the many interesting projects completed, successful funding grants and humorous moments experienced.

'One theme that continues to be as apparent from its formation 25 years ago is the great enjoyment experienced by our Friends volunteers when working outdoors and participating in fulfilling and meaningful NPWSSA work.'

SA Environmental News 25 November 2020

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Ann Augusteyn Award

Decima McTernan, from Naracoorte Caves and Tantanoola Cave, was announced as the recipient of the inaugural Ann Augusteyn Award at the recent ACKMA Annual General Meeting (held online on 8 May 2021).

Decima has a long record of commitment and service to these caves over the past 27 years, in a variety of roles that have included Acting Manager and her current position of Senior Guide. The nomination for Decima noted her excellent tours, her mentoring and training of other guides, and her input into new developments at Naracoorte Caves, including the interpretive panels.

The nomination of Decima for the award was accompanied by outstanding references from community members who have long and significant associations with the Naracoorte Caves.

Sincere congratulations to Decima, and thanks for your many years of service to show cave interpretation efforts.

ACKMA determined in 2019 to honour our late member and colleague, Ann Augusteyn, with this award to promote and reward excellence in show cave interpretation and presentation. The Award Committee is Emeritus Professor Betty Weiler, interpretation trainer and consultant, John Pastorelli, and Cathie Plowman (committee chair).

The award will be open biennially and nominations will next be invited in January 2023.

Cathie Plowman
ACKMA Journal 123, July 2021

See photo on front cover.

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20-year cave record smashed

28/07/2021



RECORD SMASHED: Visitation numbers at the Naracoorte and Tantanoola caves have soared the past financial year, with the World Heritage Listed site recording 82,000 tickets - smashing its 20-year record of 79,000.

INCREASED demand for regional travel and holidaying at home has resulted in a record-breaking number of people visiting Naracoorte Caves National Park.

The past financial year, Naracoorte Caves set a new benchmark for visitors touring its World Heritage Listed ancient fossil experiences, recording 82,700 tour tickets sold, smashing its 20-year old record of 79,000.

Tantanoola Caves also recorded a significant increase in the number of visitors with 26,000 tour participants, the highest number in many years.

Environment and Water Minister David Speirs said regional tourist destinations across South Australia have been experiencing record levels of popularity.

"This is the most people we've seen come through the doors at the Naracoorte and Tantanoola Caves since the Wonambi Fossil Centre opened in 1998," he said.

"This is an amazing result for tourism in the Limestone Coast and follows a trend across the state with regional South Australia as popular as ever with visitor numbers going through the roof in the past couple of years.

"It continues to provide a significant economic boost to our regions and support local jobs at a time when it is needed most as we continue to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Mr Speirs said the site had introduced additional tours to keep up with demand.

"The rise in visitor numbers at the caves also come following recent upgrades to improve site amenities, including the installation of a new playground and added accessible tourism experiences," he said.

"This is another example of the Marshall Liberal Government investing record amounts in our national parks to boost conservation and improve the visitor experience."

A new audio-visual tour experience for Victoria Fossil Cave is also due for completion later this year. It will feature animated videos of what extinct animals would have looked like, how they moved, and the environments that they lived in at the time, based on discoveries in the cave's fossil deposits.

"It's important that we keep improving the experiences we offer, so we're also undertaking further research on the scientific aspects of the sites' outstanding fossil records and working closely with local business and tourism operators," Minister Speirs said.

Member for MacKillop Nick McBride said the record-breaking year at the Naracoorte and Tantanoola Caves was a welcome boost for the region.

"The caves are a major tourism drawcard for the Limestone Coast region, playing an important role in boosting the regional economy," he said.

"The surge in tourists have definitely had significant flow-on benefits, with more people staying the night, spending money and supporting local businesses."

Visit naracoortecaves.sa.gov.au to book tour tickets.

Permission from 'The Border Watch', Friday 30 July 2021.

Ed's note: In another local Mount Gambier newspaper - **Lifestyle 1** (4th Aug 2021), the same article appeared with the heading –

Record visitation to World Heritage site

Naracoorte & Tantanoola Caves reap the rewards of rise in domestic travel.

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Shared trail OK by Naracoorte

RAQUEL MUSTILLO

Border Watch, Mt Gambier, 11 DEC, 2020

NARACOORTE Lucindale mayor Erika Vickery has welcomed a proposal by neighbouring Wattle Range Council to link the '**Caves to Cabernet**' via a shared-use rail trail.

Naracoorte Lucindale Council is currently developing a 16km trail connecting the Naracoorte township and the World-Heritage listed Naracoorte Caves to strengthen the high-quality visitor experiences offered in the region. At last month's council meeting, Wattle Range elected members voted in support of a proposal to transform 16km of Coonawarra's disused rail line into a shared-use cycling and walking trail.

The first stage of the project is expected to cost \$800,000 and will be funded by a Federal Government grant, with plans to ultimately link Penola and Naracoorte in the future. Ms Vickery said construction on Naracoorte Lucindale Council's cycling and walking trail has been completed in stages and additional routes and themes will be developed over time.

She said the trail, which starts at the town centre, will be attractive for community members as a health and wellbeing asset as well as an important educational resource through the development of interpretive signage.

"One of the major projects Naracoorte Lucindale Council has been working on is developing a linkage between the town and the caves, which we hope will provide increased offerings for visitors and retain them in the region for longer," she said.

“The one we have done from the town centre through to the caves has been done on some road reserves and some state forestry land. “The route has been chosen because there is a diversity of scenery, there are some open space areas, pine area and bushlands, and it is also low risk for users because it is separate from vehicular traffic. Part of the trail we have already built is quite wide and allows two to three people to ride abreast, so families are able to ride alongside their children. It gives us all a recreational opportunity to help with health and wellbeing and gives people an opportunity to safely ride without having to share it with vehicles.”

While acknowledging the ‘Caves to Cabernet’ plan was still in its infancy, Ms Vickery said a regional trail would provide significant economic potential for the Limestone Coast. “A trail from Naracoorte to the caves right through to Penola would be a fabulous linkage and as councils and the Limestone Coast Local Government Association we have looked at it,” she said. “What we have decided across the councils is that we will be responsible for developing the trails across our own council areas and we will work together to link them up. There has been some discussion about how we connect the caves to Coonawarra and it would require a lot of planning as we would need to link it across the Riddoch Highway.”

Ms Vickery said any rail trail challenges would be mitigated by the potential of facilitating new businesses, with the trail encouraging increased visitation and longer stays. “The whole idea of doing these trails is it gives us a recreational opportunity to help with health and wellbeing, but it also helps our tourism sector and has significant economic benefits,” she said. “It is another thing for people to do in our area. There is a real opportunity for tourism experiences to be developed because of the trail. For example, someone might create a package for people to cycle from Naracoorte to the caves, to Penola and then to Mount Gambier. “As a council, we can also help our existing industries such as the hospitality industry which has been hardest hit by COVID through projects such as this and now is the time to make this happen.”



REGIONAL BENEFITS: Naracoorte Lucindale mayor Erika Vickery has welcomed a move by Wattle Range Council to establish a rail trail along Coonawarra's disused rail corridor.

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Cave harvestman ~ cave critters project

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Anna Stewart** <nzss-conservation@caves.org.nz>

Date: Wed, 7 Jul 2021 at 19:14

Subject: Cave harvestman ~ cave critters project

To: asf.caves.info@gmail.com <asf.caves.info@gmail.com>

Kia ora

I am currently working on a little project (that seems to be expanding!) looking at what lives in our NZ caves.

In particular cave harvestman, cave spiders and cave beetles.

I'm really interested in comparing our troglobitic cave harvestman with your ones, hence am keen to make contact with cavers that might be interested in helping out.

I'm a caver, not a scientist ~ so they don't have to be either :)

What I am looking for is for clubs to take photos of any harvestman they see in caves and share with me ~ in particular if there are glow worms or not in the cave too.

And perhaps compare the genetics of them with ours. It would be cool to see if they are closely related.

Harvestman are really photogenic ~ they stay still as a defensive mechanism so take nice photos. I've attached a pic of one of our locals.



Feel free to forward this to your clubs or whoever you think might be interested.

Best wishes Anna,
Research & Conservation coordinator,
New Zealand Speleological Society (NZSS).

Calendar of Events

	Type of Event	Description	Contact
25/08/21	General Meeting	SA Museum Royal Society Room 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
??/09/21	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
22/09/21	General Meeting	SA Museum Royal Society Room 7:30pm	Dr Julien Louys
27/10/21	General Meeting	SA Museum Royal Society Room 7:30pm	Ian Lewis
??/11/21	Committee Meeting	TBA	Ian Lewis
10/11/21	CEGSA NEWS	Articles due	Athol Jackson
24/11/21	General Meeting	SA Museum Royal Society Room 7:30pm End of Year BBQ.	Ian Lewis
22/12/21	No General Meeting	No General Meeting in December.	
	Committee Meetings	Continuous email meetings between meets	
	Caving	Regular KI Restoration Trips See	Matt Smith
	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 party caving.

Also, please ensure that a report of the trip is submitted to the Records Officer and Editor in a timely manner.



Save the Date!

ASF Conference **17th to 21st April 2022** in Ceduna

Welcome BBQ 16th April

Field trips **22nd April to 1st May**,
exploring the caves of the Nullarbor

Register now

for updates: www.asfconference2022.com

Notes: