



NEWSLETTER

Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

NOV - FEBRUARY 1969.

EDITORIAL

Wednesday, February 26th, 1969 is the Annual General Meeting of CEG(SA) and as this is the last Newsletter before then, it would seem appropriate even at this early stage for all members to give some serious thought to the running of the Group. It is absolutely essential that we get maximum attendance at the A.G.M. so that everyone becomes involved in one way or the other in the future of CEG(SA). In some ways this year has been a disappointing one, as almost without exception the running of the Group has been left to 2 or 3 people.

Perhaps the hardest hit by this state of affairs has been this Newsletter. The Newsletter should not have to be written by the President and Editor, as has been the case this year, with the exception of Trip Reports. Newsletter trip reports this year have perhaps been the best ever, and if this response were extended to include other activities and projects, our publication would reach the standard that befits a group of our reputation. Expose those latent literary talents and put pen to paper as it is surprising what can be accomplished.

With the ASF Conference looming closer, we are going to need organisers for a host of the smaller aspects that will probably make the difference between a good or a bad Conference. We would like to see a few more people at the Combined Committee and ASF Conference Sub-Committee Meeting on Thursday 12th December as listed in the Programme. The last Conference Sub-Committee Meeting had an attendance of only 3 people, so we will have to do better next time so that the usual small group won't have to bear the full burden.

B.D.

TANTANOOLA TREASURE.

One great silent void.
Then – Splash! gurgle, gurgle, - glug.
A small solid soldier type trog lamp sinks to the dark depths below.

Monkey chatter filters the cavern.
"Where! Whose! What!"

A naked form flings into the icy water and wheels the weights below.
Wide eyed faces peering, bagging knees bent, the audience waits.

Alas - the lamp, veteRon of trogging delights lies lonely in a limestone lair.
All is Silence, but for the weeping walls.

The year whisks by. The weathers come and g.
Our lamp, still in slumber, sleeps chilled.

Sunday 27th October. The air breaths spring.
Down deep the trogolights grovel along the pressing passage
to the great hollow gloom.
Sharp metallic crinkles cry out as the ladder falls against the rock,
And one by one the little burning lamps descend to disturb the vault.

Streaks of light drown blue green in the lake
And the three stone sisters glist silver.

Brash trogs in undies dive with daring bravado into the fairy feast
Breaking the surface with ripples of laughter.

A figure of dashing splendour donning goggles, lungs abulge,
And clutching a battery wonder,
Plunges down to the enchanting depths.

The underworld ceases to spin and the shadows sky the walls.
The only life the merman below.
He emerges, a smile angelic upon his face.

The long damp lamp how wafts with the old garlic stench
And baths in the beauty of his Nightingale.

Leslye Gartrell.

This work has been specially dedicated to commemorate the occasion of the raising of the trusty carbide lamp of Ron Galbreath from the depths of the Lake in Tantanoola Lake Cave on the 27th Day of October, in the Year of Our Lord 1968. A.D.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEW

The following list of publications were received by the Group over the last quarter (Aug - Oct.)

Sinkhole Formation by Groundwater Withdrawal: Far West Rand, South Africa, (reprint from Science, Sept. 1, 1967, vol. 157, no. 3792, pages 1045-48.

Northern Cave Club Journal "The Caves". Spring 1968, vol. 2, no.1. This has articles on first-aid cave rescue procedures, Land Rover Trials, Cave Diving and trip reports.

Exeter University Speleological Society Newsletter vol. 4, no. 5. May 1968. Contains mostly trip reports.

Southern Caver, vol. 1, no. 3. from the Southern Caving Society in Tasmania. Also mostly trip reports.

Newcastle University Speleological Society's "Cave". Aug.1968.

Stop Press. Aug and Sept. issues. Both contain trip reports and reviews.

"Trog". Kempsey Speleo. Soc. newsletters for Aug. and Sept.

Victorian Speleological Association Annual Report for 67/68.

SUSS Newsletters for Aug. and Sept.

YHA Hostel Yarn for the months of Aug. Sept. and Oct.

Speleo - Spiel. Aug. Sept. and Oct. issues. All contain trip reports.

Hondo Grotto Inc. April 1968. Newsletter from a Missouri Cave Group.

Tandanya. Magazine of the Adelaide Bushwalkers, no. 4. June 1968. It has two articles on caving.
 1. Caving Hints, by J. Salvona.
 2. Glimpses of cavers in action, by. S. Taylor.

Uni. of Qld. Speleo. Soc. Conservation Bulletin no. 4. "The Texas Caves and Pike Creek Dam.

The Australian Women's Weekly, Oct. 16th. 1968. pages 104-105. "Margot Finds a Cave". More on Texas Caves and the fight to save the caves. It also has some excellent colour pictures.

Helictite. April 1968. vol.6, no. 3. 2 papers are presented in this issue along with several reviews.

Geol. Survey of W.A. Annual Report for the year 1967. In this, there are two papers by D.C. Lowry on the Nullarbor Limestone and its caves.

x The Geographical Magazine, June 1968. One of the articles in it is entitled "Riddle of the Welsh Caves". It's about the discovery and the present day exploration of the Dan-yr-Ogaf Cave. The cave now measures approx. 6 miles and they say it will probably enter double figures. Also has plenty of pictures if you can't read.

x Woman's Day. Sept. 2. 1968. This contains a one page article on Ben and Eva Cropp's diving trip to the Mt. Gambler district. They visited Piccaninny Pond, Kilsby's Hole and a hole some 170' deep.

x The Victorian Naturalist, vol. 85. no.10, Oct. 1968. This contains two items by E. Hamilton-Smith; "The Insect Fauna of Mt. Widderin Cave, Skipton Vic. and Platypus in Caves" and one from T. Pescott on the Lesser Long-Eared Bat.

X - Not in C.E.G.S.A. Library.

Norm Hocknell

THE TUB AND THE ARK.

Many caves in the Naracoorte area which look like they should go for miles are suddenly cut short by vast quantities of sand reaching right to the ceiling, blocking the tunnel. In theory it should be possible to dig this out and go through, if you are both careful and lucky. In practice, well, you ought to try it some time.

Three months ago the Group was kindly donated two specially designed machines to change all this - the TUB and the ARK, and in that three months the mountains of sand shifted are monuments to the fact that they have been a complete success.

Each is a sturdily constructed thirty-inch long, fifteen inch wide and 10 inch high "boat" with a round tapered nose and a ring to which to attach ropes at both ends. With ropes attached it can be pulled out by a team of "horses" in the main section of the cave, emptied and then pulled back in by the digger.

The TUB first used in the Sand Cave shifted very quickly over three tons of sand and formed a passage about 50" wide by 30" high which is quite comfortable to work in. In the Fox Cave the TUB and the ARK were used simultaneously. One was used for forward digging, while the other used in widening the tunnel. When the widening was complete both were used for forward digging-side by side, an empty one coming in while a full one is towed out.

A fully loaded boat carries about 150 pounds of sand and takes at least four people to pull it out without busting. A complication which wastes time but is easier is for the team to pull the wrong rope. "One-two-three, charge chaps - oops".

The most comfortable position for filling the boats is to sort of stand on your head and flick sand in with your ears by wagging your eye brows. This is much better than digging with a shovel in such a confined space which could be dangerous if too violent, but naturally a little slower.

Both boats have been thoroughly tested and are now approved for general use. No major extensions have been found with them yet, but get in there and waggle those ears and it shouldn't be long now.

P.R.H.

7th- BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Despite the late get-away of the first circulars and applications for the A.S.F. Conference to be held at Goolwa, S.A. this year, the response has been encouraging and plans are taking a bit more shape. Groups and Societies throughout Australia have been sent application forms to distribute to interested members and V.S.A. has even re-printed this material in its own newsletter, thanks V.S.A.

The numbers of applications to attend all of the trips has been gratifying, but more starters are welcome still on each trip. You are reminded that time is running short on the Kangaroo Island trip applications, which must be in hand and paid up by mid-November.

The main projects in the South-east will be centred on a selection from the thousands of caves around Mount Gambler, with Fred Aslin as your host.

Please don't leave it up to the other's. Your contribution, even a small one, to the Conference discussions, will be appreciated. Has your Group promised or submitted even one paper? No? Well then, the Boy Scouts Association has done just that. Are you going to be outdone by Scouts?? Speak now or forever hold your peace.

The overall theme of the Conference this year will be the most important issue of the conflict between people and caves. If you have papers prepared or under way or even thought of already on any aspect of speleology, we will have a place for them and welcome them. If you would like to contribute something but are not sure what, then collect your thoughts under one or more of the

following general headings, and help us to get a more complete picture of the state of the art.

CONSERVATION. This has been a burning issue over the past two years in particular. Tell us your troubles. We'd like to help. What practical methods are open to cavers to promote and fight for conservation? What criteria should we go by? Is conservation just a word designed to fool people into thinking they've got something they haven't. Come along and find out.

THE ROLE OF THE AMATEUR IN SPELEOLOGICAL SCIENCE. A long title perhaps, but it concerns you. What is your excuse for caving? Do you just do it because it's good fun, or do you justify it with science? What scientific work is done in caves today? What scientific work needs to be done in caves today? Who says? Whose right is the greatest? No entry - experiment in progress, - fair or foul? What can we do to make the best of what we've got? Come along and tell us.

CAVING FOR RECREATION. The sporting caver? Caving as an activity for youth groups? "Underground wilderness areas" and Tourist caves. The responsibility of the ASF and its members to the general public. The responsibility of the general public to cavers. Good and bad publicity? Education and cave safety.

The comments under each of these headings are intended only as guides and thought provokers. You must have something to say on some of these, however, and this little lot is more than enough for a really good conference, so how about it?

A rough layout of the Conference Time-table is as follows:

Thursday 26th (December of course) the Conference centre - Graham's Castle, at Goolwa, will be open for early arrivals. Dinner on Thursday evening will be available for those who indicate on their applications that they require it.

Friday 27th. The ASF Executive will meet in the morning and the opening general session will be held after lunch. There will be another session in the evening.

Saturday 28th. The ASF Committee will meet in the morning. Interested persons may attend this meeting as observers. Again, a general session will take place after lunch. It is proposed, if possible, to keep the Saturday night free.

Sunday 29th. As for Saturday, but with the CAVEMAN'S DINNER in the evening.

Monday 30th. The new ASF Executive will-meet in the morning. Lunch will be the last meal served and a general exodus will follow.

For those going to Kangaroo Island, it is hoped that a Scout Hall near Port Adelaide will be available for bedding down on the Monday night. Cars must be packed and alongside the Troubridge by 7am. the next morning (Tues 31st). Similar arrangements will be made for those going to the Nullarbor. Monday 30th is a public holiday in South Australia, but some sort of arrangements will be worked out for the provisioning of these trips with last minute items; eg perishables, on that day. You are reminded that food will be left to the individuals on these trips.

Remember, if you haven't already done so -

1. Get those applications rolling in.
2. Get those papers rolling in and write those thoughts down.
3. Come along and enjoy yourself.

1 - 2 - 3 it's easy.

G. Gartrell,
24th Oct. 1968.

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report for w/end 28th-29th July at Naracoorte

Aim: To extend the sand dig in Fox Cave, S33.

Present: People from C.E.G.S.A. and V.S.A. and visitors (over 20 people in all).

Work Done.

Both the "boat" and "ark" were dragged into the cave. This was the first time both were used in conjunction with each other. The "ark" was the forward tub and the "boat" was used for widening. Some two or three tons of sand were removed with 3 major collapses of the sand close at the end. Parties of 4 fairly strong fellows were sometimes battling to pull out the boats. After the last collapse, one member was successful in climbing up the sand face to a small hole on the right hand side. He put two drives of about three feet into the sand pile with very poor results. This right hand hole went up at plus 30° for 6 feet and then along for 20 feet.

Future Digging.

The best possibility is in the forward direction which has now touched the roof some 15ft. high.

P. Hawkes.

Trip to un-named Cave, Mt. Gambier Area (S171)

Entrance

The cave has 3 window type entrances situated in a 33' x 27' approx. fenced enclosure. Large pine trees are growing in the corners of the fenced area. One of the entrances has been blocked by rubbish. Entrance to the cave is gained by dropping 5' onto the top of a huge rubbish heap and then climbing down this to the floor of the cave, some 50' below. Very similar to S128. A rope is useful in negotiating the entrance drop and rubbish slope.

Cave Description

The main chamber would be some 50' long x 50' wide x 50' high. There is a 55' long tunnel (approx) on the N.W. side of this chamber, and another chamber 50' up on the W.N.W. side. The entrance to this 50' chamber is via a drop hole in the floor, terminating in what would be a dig to get to a lower level. The S.E. side of the cave was not checked, but is obviously similar to the N.W. and could well prove extensive. Time did not permit us to even look into it.

Bats

12 bats were seen in the N.W. end and there could have been more.

Party

Fred and Jan Aslin, Janeane Sundberg and N. Hocknell.

Authors F. Aslin and N. Hocknell.

3/10/68.

Naracoorte 13th - 14th July. (S29)

The aim of the trip was to extend the dig (known as "Hill's Dig") in the Sand Cave.

People present from C.E.G.S.A. were Wayne Goedecke and Peter Hawkes.

The key was borrowed from Bill Platt, the owner of the property, to open the lock which is now on the cave. The dig in question is situated 20 feet to the north of the ladder at the bottom of the entrance and has been dug to the wall approximately 40 feet from the start.

Two smaller drives were dug, one to the left and the other to the right. The one to the right proved to be unsuccessful as it tended to go back towards the entrance chamber, but the left one appeared to have more possibilities, although it needs much more work.

The "tub" (mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter) was pulled out 25 times full of sand and quite a bit of progress was made. Although some bones were noticed in the sand, these were not of any great interest.

On the next day, we walked across the line of the cave, looking for depressions, although this was made difficult by the bracken fern which covers the cleared area of the cave. One known cave was visited, but was not entered.

The rest of the weekend was cut short by the usual "Naracoorte Mist".

Peter Hawkes.

The Committee welcomes the following New Members to the fold. We hope that they will continue to take an active interest in the Group.

FULL MEMBERS

Peter Crabb
Ken Heyne

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Malcolm MacDonald
Norm Britain
Christine Dodd.

Almost in the same breath, we must bid farewell to Peter Crabb, who is returning to the UK. We wish him "bon voyage" and hope that we will hear from him from time to time (perhaps a trip report or two !!).

PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER

9th - 10th	Naracoorte Trip	Leader : Peter Hawkes
Wed 13th	Committee Meeting	46 Hardy Street, GLENGOWRIE.
Wed 27th.	General Meeting	Museum Lecture Room Guest Speaker: Mr D. Seaton Subject: Underwater archaeology (Diving for Wrecks)
30th -1st Dec.	Buckalowie Creek Trip	Leader: Grant Gartrell. Continuation of work in the area in conjunction with Hans Mincham and Brian Daily

DECEMBER

Fri 6th	Caveman's Dinner	Florentino's Restaurant, Hindley Street.
Thu 12th.	Combined Committee & ASF Conference Sub-Committee Meeting	14 Arcoona Ave, Rostrevor. General Meeting cancelled due to Post ASFConference.
26th -30th.	7th Biennial ASF Conference, Grahams Castle, Goolwa. Post Conference Trips: Kangaroo Island The Nullarbor The South East	

JANUARY

	Committee Meeting cancelled due to Post ASFConference Field Trips.	
Wed 22nd.	General Meeting	Museum Lecture Room Resumé of Conference Proceedings – Field trip reports with slides if possible.

FEBRUARY

Thu 13th.	Committee Meeting	47 Folkestone Rd, BRIGHTON.
Wed 26th.	Annual General Meeting	Museum Lecture Room All members are urged to attend this most important meeting.

TRIP CONTACT LIST

Peter Hawkes	46 Hardy St, GLENGOWRIE. (H) 953658 (W) 578053 Ext.230
Grant Gartrell	47 Folkestone Rd, BRIGHTON (W) 234333 Ext 2322

QUARTERMASTER

Peter Hawkes	46 Hardy St, EAST GLENELG. (H) 93658 (B) 578053 Ext.230
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THE CAVEMANS' DINNER

As in previous years, the "Grand Finale" of CEGSA's social calendar, the Cavemans' Dinner will be held at Florentino's Restaurant in Hindley Street on the night of Friday 6th December at approx. 7.30 pm.

Most people who attended last years function agree that a good time was had by all. We usually manage to fill the place to capacity, so to avoid disappointment you should complete and return this form as soon as possible. After discussion with the management of Florentino's it has been agreed that the cost will be \$3.50 per person. The evening is usually full of surprises - you may even get one yourself! One of the highlights will be presentation of this years "Leather Medal" to some lucky, deserving caver. Tradition demands that previous medal winners wear theirs on the night, so we should see quite an impressive display.

Yes, the caving photographic competition will be held again and will be judged in 3 sections:

1. Professionally judged; by one of Adelaide's leading photographic experts.
2. Popular choice; judged by the majority on the night itself.
3. Best Caving Personality.

The slides will be limited to 10 per person, and should have been taken in South Australia, not more than 3 years ago and should not have won a competition before.

It is most important that the slides for the competition be given to Tony Butterfield by the November General Meeting at the very latest so as to enable judging to be arranged.

APPLICATION TO ATTEND THE CAVEMANS' DINNER

NAME.....

ADDRESS

.....

Please reserve..... seats for me at the Caveman's Dinner on Friday 6th December.

I enclose \$ (\$3.50 per person)

Signed.....Date