

NEWSLETTER

Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

JULY - SEPTEMBER 1969

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

EDITORIAL

Ask yourself why you personally joined C.E.G.S.A. and what your membership involves. I presume that you joined initially because you thought you might like caving, or one of your friends was a member. Perhaps you are not even a member yet, but, may be contemplating the idea

Do you take your caving seriously? Have you specialised in a particular branch of caving? Are you as careful as you should be? Are you always Conservation-conscious? Do you at least feel the urge to "do something useful" on caving trips? Do you put as much into the Group as you get out of it?

Perhaps you only have 24 hours in each day, and like most of us find that number far too small. It is possible that you may not realise that you can still assist the Group in a positive fashion by doing even less than you are doing at present.

Have you ever asked yourself why you don't just forget about the Group and razz around caves on your own. It would save paying the annual subscriptions. Obviously the Group must offer something in return for your money. It does. Besides being a receiving-house for new information it is a store of old info., in trip report files, and, more pertinent to this discourse, in the form of maps, which are the result of hours and hours of work <u>for</u> the Group by individuals who pay subscriptions for the privilege.

When you join the Group you undertake to abide by the Constitution and Rules of the Group, which undertaking gives some sort of paper protection to the caves upon which you may inflict yourself. As a member of the Group, you then become entitled to refer to the Records, including the maps, of the Group. As an additional privilege copies of maps have been made available to members so that they may refer to these at home and elsewhere, and because "some people just like collecting things like that".

A potentially alarming situation is undergoing the first rumblings of life at the moment, and immediate action is needed. The Group has had no restrictions on maps in the past, and has even sold them directly to non-members it considered to be legitimate. It is now quite apparent that many private cavers with no connections with C.E.G.S.A. have no intention of being tied down by shelling out our minimal subscription fee, but still find our maps good enough to use.

This situation is bad enough for C.E.G.S.A. itself. If these people can easily get our maps, why should they join? Few of our caves need any gear at all apart from lighting to get from end to end. The Group's source of new members is being diverted away from us, and only the very keen or the most idiotic still walk through the meeting room door in wide-eyed wonderment.

It is a well-known fact that the average caving life of a tourist-type C.E.G.S.A. member is about two years. By that time he thinks he's seen then all, and even if he hasn't, well, what the heck they all look the same anyway – "I think I'll take up surfing or get married". The same must

apply equally to the independent adventurers. It is another well-known fact that many a staunch and long-standing member of C.E.G.S.A. started life as a tourist just like the rest of them, but was tricked into assisting in doing something useful before he broke the "tourist barrier" of the two year mark, and suddenly found that he really liked it and that there was much more to it than he had previously thought. This direction of effort into useful and instructive, and enjoyable, channels is largely unavailable to these independent bods, and so they come and go, usually only leaving their trail of broken formation, signatures and rubbish behind them to show us they've ever been there at all. and we even encourage them by selling them maps which show them how to get into parts of the cave they've never even dreamed of. Who are the worse vandals, they who never knew, or we who gave them the key and didn't care?

Many of these people would be good cavers with some initial guidance, others perhaps not, but we owe it to the, caves themselves to each actively and fiercely recruit for C.E.G.S.A. to safeguard its privileges, and to have the guts to say no when someone wants to borrow our map "just to have it Photostatted".

Some of us have even made a practice of going on more private cliquey trips with our non-C.E.G.S.A. mates than on Group-organised trips. Not good. Even if you take the utmost care these bods are unlikely to be as careful as we hope you are, even if they are trying. What is wrong with bringing them on C.E.G.S.A. trips and doing a bit of recruiting? Why don't you lead a programmed trip yourself if the present selection doesn't appeal or suit your calendar? Please don't spoil all the good work done by others before you for C.E.G.S.A. and for our knowledge of South Australian caves.

I've borrowed this quote before, and I'll no doubt use it again, in connection with the active support of C.E.G.S.A., and with the Conservation of Caves in general, which go hand in hand in South Australia:

"If you are not part of the Solution - then you are part of the Problem".

Each of us has a responsibility to his fellow members to give this matter serious thought, and to get rid of the idea, like being entrusted with a secret, that "it won't do any harm if I only tell Joe Blow" - cos he's just the same.

Grant Gartrell.

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD BUT IT HELPS"

How many times have you heard that said while stuck upside down in a squeeze? From information presented in their N.S.S. News it appears that up and coming American cavers are not only mad but have MAD equipment as well. Only in the U.S. could MAD stand for Motorised Ascending Device. It takes the shape of a petrol driven rope climbing machine, and has actually been used on the Sotano de las Golondrinas twice without any failures, not too bad seeing that the pitch is roughly 1200 feet.

General specifications of the device are: -

Petrol consumption 2 miles/ gallon

(150 lb load, 37ft/min)

Weight 23 lbs

or

Load and rate of ascent 400 lbs max @ 37 ft/min,

200 lbs max @ 74 ft/min with a gear change.

Parts cost US\$120

Be interesting to see how it goes. Wonder if it has reverse gear?

Seem to remember a bod climbing kernmantel or sheathed mono-filament rope with some sort of ascending device probably similar to jumars which cut right through the sheath quite a few

hundred feet up the rope. The whole works then slid neatly down the inner fibres at a brisk but steady pace to deposit him surprised but unharmed back at the bottom of the rope.

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW IT ALL

Well well well well and goodness gracious me, it seems that there is yet another cave just come to light within 50 miles of Adelaide. At present it will not hold an overlarge number of people, but it certainly augurs well for the future, and the formation isn't too bad either.

TASMANIA * 1970-71 *

Plans seem to be consolidating for an invasion of the place for the 8th Biennial ASF Conference. As you will remember an advert to this effect was recorded in the last Newsletter. There seem to be a number of cars going already, and probably a bit of room in them, so whether you have a car or not, if you want to go it is important that you book <u>now</u>. CEGSA is organising a Group booking, and requires from you, <u>as soon as Possible</u> (or sooner) an eeny-weeny deposit of \$5-00. Bookings are being made for the round trip by Princess of Tasmania and/or Australian Trader, and for a period of about three to three and a half weeks from Christmas into the New year. Remember:

\$30-00 return per person, \$60-00 or less per car return from Melbourne.

If you still cannot quite-make up your mind whether you should go to Tasmania or not, we won't try to force you. If you miss out, that will just be your bad luck. Invest \$5-00 now, if you think there is a chance, though, because you'll have no trouble getting a refund later if circumstances prevent you from keeping the appointment.

If it isn't the money that worries you, perhaps you haven't heard that it is a fabulous place even without caves, and that with them it is indescribable. Perhaps you haven't heard of Exit Cave, although that seems hard to believe, with its 7 or so miles of surveyed passage and its seven-hundred-odd foot Mini-Martin entrance (but not exit unless you are pretty fit).

If you <u>have</u> heard of all this I bet you haven't heard that they've just found themselves yet another respectable hole. Called Hobbit Hole for certain literary reasons, it is not far away from Exit Cave. The only report to hand so far describes it as a couple of short pitches and slopes down to a ledge thing with two holes going off below this. One of these holes takes a waterfall, but the other one is dry, and quiet enough to hear a stone thrown down. A suitable stone tossed down this baby took in excess of 4 seconds to the first bounce, which puts the hole at over 250 feet deep for a starter. The waterfall could well feed one of the streams in Exit Cave, so that the system sounds as though we wouldn't be too proud to-have it in this State.

They've been cutting a walking track in to Mount Anne, too, and it should be ready for us in 1971. It is the least we can do to help those Tasmaniacs out. They've got more caves than people.

TOURIST BUREAU REP.

The motion concerning creation of the above position on the C.E.G.S.A. Committee, for which notice was given in the last Newsletter, was put to the April General Meeting and was carried.

We are pleased to welcome Mr. Ern Maddock to our new Committee in his role as appointed Tourist Bureau Representative.

TREASURY REPORT

It is not normal practice to include a Treasury Report in the Newsletter, but special exceptions are made for special occasions.

Ron Galbreath, our faithful Treasurer for yet another year, announced to the last General Meeting that the Group's bank balance has reached a dizzy new height, with the pile now in the four-figure bracket. The first thousand is the hardest they say. Diligent use of this money is like having your cake and eating it too. It can be put to work to assist or finance Group projects, and if they are chosen and executed carefully, at the end of the venture there is more money than when you started. The principle has been tested and proven correct. Don't sit-back and let it go stale while you feel secure and gloaty. Work for the Group and keep the stuff circulating. We need the rake-off for grills and gear and nest-eggs for emergencies in Conservation battles and we need the capital too. Spare us a bob for a cuppa tea mate.

APOLOGY

We'd like to apologise to Noel Ancell, who is one of our more recent Associate Members. He just sent in a letter to say that although he first approached the Group last October he still hasn't received any sort of reply, acknowledgement, receipt, Newsletter or anything at all. Sounds about our form especially in the period just after October last year. Sorry Noel, we know we're slow enough at the best of times, but the system seems to have broken down completely in your case.

CURRAMULKA 17th-18th May.

A trip to Curramulka is not to -be sneezed at. If you are going to get anywhere in this world you'll have to start digging now. In the South Australian caving fraternity that would be pretty good advice at any time, but it particularly applies to Curramulka.

Looking through the records of the Group it seems that there are or were a number of sink-holes to the east of the town and that the Group was actually given permission by the owner or owners to dig these things out. Nothing was ever done about it. It should be. We haven't done anything yet, but a trip should be arranged soon to follow this up and renew the arrangements if this is still possible.

In the South-east you have to dig tons of sand at a time to get anywhere, but at Curramulka in Correll's Cave, the quantities are far more reasonable. Just go in there and start digging anywhere a tunnel stops and more likely than not you will find some more.

Admittedly the last effort was following a faint breeze, but that just boosts the morale. When discovered the section was pure and clean and actually has some respectable formation, gypsum needles, helicities, botryoidal stalactites. It was quite extensive and not fully explored on our departure. It is very interesting morphologically, and it is secret. For the time being it is going to stay that way. A survey will be initiated at an early date.

One more reason for keeping secrets like this is the bags-full of bottles, tin cans and general rubbish that we removed from another section of this cave on the same week-end. I refer you to the Editorial if you have not already read it. Long-term indications may call for an internal gate to be installed in this section of the cave, but this will depend on the outcome of the survey and thorough exploration. It does appear that gates, like keys and door locks on houses are a necessary evil. If we are going to put them on, we must at least do it before the horse has bolted.

Detailed measurements of the Town Cave entrance were taken, and construction of a suitable trap-door has now begun. It is hoped to organise a follow-up trip to install it within a month.

STOP PRESS (apologies to S.S.S.)

Since page 5 was bashed out the trap-door for Town Cave has been completed. It is hoped to install it on the weekend 5th - 6th of July. Volunteers are most welcome.

IF YOU'VE BEEN READING YOUR SUNDAY MAIL LATELY:

Then you will have seen the centre spread in the May 10th issue accounting for Jack Hood's absence from Naracoorte over the last few months. Besides being an owner of land which is more hollow than not, Jack is a pretty keen ornithologist. He has just-whiled away the best part of three months studying penguins at Cape Crozier in the Antarctic. The article makes interesting reading, and may be located in future in Speleoddities.

SPELEODDITIES:

For those of you who don't know - Speleoddities is a large volume of miscellaneous items of interest to cavers and C.E.G.S.A. - a sort of C.E.G.S.A. Scrap Book. It is kept up to date by the Librarian, and material is stuck in as it comes to hand. Already it is quite incredible, and good for an entire weekend's reading.

If <u>you</u> have newspaper cuttings, tourist cave brochures, or even photographs of C.E.G.S.A. bods in action or just standing round looking normally stoopid, donate them to Speleoddities. If you don't normally collect these things, keep your eyes peeled on behalf of Speleoddities. It is amazing what turns up, and in a few years you will be glad to find it all stashed away in that all-time C.E.G.S.A. literary museum <u>Speleoddities</u>.

IF ANYONE EVER DESERVED TO WIN Colong NSW Caves or Cement?

Conservation is, it seems, always a rear-guard action, in which dedicated people fight, usually against wealthy and vested business interests, to save natural features from commercial exploitation. As a result the pro-conservationists are invariably at a great financial disadvantage to those they are striving to contain, as well as being at a disadvantage through lack of time in which to make themselves heard, and so on.

Any conservation campaign which despite these odds makes any impression at all is worthy of praise in these days when the under-dogs should know their place and bloody well stay under where they are not in the road of progress.

The first signs of spirit became obvious at the Goolwa Conference when Greg Middleton of S.S.S. somehow landed a load of first-rate publicity by naming the doomed(?) caves after the N.S.W. Cabinet ministers who pronounced sentence on them.

In April they did it again. (The Sun, 15-4-69 p70 (Sydney)) The conservationists bought two hundred shares in the offending company and two hundred of them attended it's A.G.M. to make themselves heard. The outcome could be interesting.

SO YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW IT ALL CHAPTER II

Well well well well and goodness gracious me it seems that there is yet another cave just come to light within 50 miles of Adelaide. This is not the one reported on page 3 but at present a completely separate one. It is smaller than the first, but has warm air coming out of it and a distinct breeze inside. It is not very far away from the other one reported, and it has good possibilities once a few nasty awkward heavy tough rocks are dealt with. With luck and crossed fingers it could eventually link with the other one and with other karst features noted in the area. If it does it will be a major cave system with good formation. Prove that wrong if you're good enough, young Harry. (Once again the Harry referred to is not Harry Dolan, nor is he Horrible Hairy Harry although we're not so sure about that. He is actually in this instance a figure of speech.)

DOES YOUR CONSCIENCE PRICK YOU?

First news to come to light from the Queen's Birthday Naracoorte trip led by Barbara Dicker is that a bloke out Joanna way has 25 feet of wire ladder, the rungs of which are attached by soldered wire, in the early C.E.G.S.A. tradition, and which looks just like the standard C.E.G.S.A. 25 foot ladder. He claims it is his. After all - finders keepers, and he did find it on the side of the road there one day. We're not so concerned about him keeping it - if it is ours - as long as it doesn't bring harm to the caves, and anyway he is reluctant to relinquish it so there is probably little we can do about it anyway. The big question is:

WHO (WHAT DOPEY DRONGO) LOST IT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

(The obvious follow up questions about Q.M. book-keeping will be politely refrained from at the present time - there's not all that much competition for the job.)

WHO BROUGHT HIM?

TOM WIGLEY'S SPOT

Got another letter from Tom the other day. This one was posted in England. He certainly gets around.

- " almost finished my first spell in England it is a fabulous place
- Went caving with the Oxford University Caving Club last weekend to South Wales. Terrific we did a through trip from Cwyn Dwr (?) to Ogof Ffynnon Du II the highlights of which were the 300 foot crawl, 1½- miles of glorious river passage (including cunningly hidden 10 foot deep plunge pools which tended to appear immediately underfoot) and a very long meandering canyon passage 1000 foot of walking sideways. Total about 3 miles and 3 short ladder pitches. "

He's still promising great things for the future and will be taking part in the "British Expedition to the Epos Chasm, Greece" in the second half of July. Leader of the expedition is Pete Livesey who has been down to -1000 feet already using 600' of ladder. It took him one hour to get in and three hours to get back out again. As Tom says, the cave is "still bombing on down".

Tom seems to think that the hardest part of this cave might be carrying all the gear 5000 feet up the mountainside to the entrance in 100°F weather (July is <u>Summer</u> in Greece).

If you'd like to write to Tom you can reach him at

c/- General Delivery, Coleman, Alberta, Canada until July 15th.

For the rest of the year his address will be:

Theory Division, Culham Lab., Culham, Abingdon, Berkshire, United Kingdom. or you can ring him on Oxford 41721 if you have a few quid to spare.

Dick Heffernan's boat passed through town again the other day. He's still mad keen to get out to the Nullarbor and detect huge extensions to Mullamullang. His next opportunity will be sometime after October and probably around Christmas. If you are interested in going along he'd be glad to have you. If so contact Grant Gartrell and let him know.

WANTED - ONE QUARTERMASTER

Peter Hawkes is not too sure of his movements for the rest of the year, but it seems that his appearances in town will be "only passing through" and that he will be in remote places for most of the time. Peter has been a keen Quartermaster and has a big shed full of C.E.G.S.A. junk to prove it. We will be sorry to lose his services, but he feels that it would be in our best interests to resign and make way for someone who will be around the place. Our thanks are also due to Mrs. Hawkes who has administered the position in practice over the past couple of months.

An election will be held at the July General Meeting to fill the vacant Committee position. In the meantime Bernie Dunn has offered to store some of the gear at 413 Cross Roads Edwardstown, and to administer it. Thanks, Bernie.

JUST A WORD ABOUT MEETINGS

Perhaps you will have noticed in the Programme that General meetings are listed as starting at 8.00 p.m. This is <u>no</u> different from in the past. The doors will be open at 7.30 p.m. as usual, but the formal business itself will be begun as soon as possible after 8.00 p.m.

General business should generally be kept short, and, in fact there is a time limit of 30 minutes, with a ten minute extension possible, for general business when a visiting speaker is present.

It has been found necessary to have supper in between general business and the following entertainment to ensure that there will be enough volunteers present for the washing-up. Normal practice is to bung a small silver coin in the dish to help defray the supper expenses. 5c is ample. The supper period should not be too long either, and should not delay the presentation which follows to an uncouth hour.

These meetings are for <u>you</u>. The Committee <u>could</u> just decide most things by itself and you would be none the wiser. Routine matters <u>are</u> handled in this way by the drayload, but problems which are of general concern to the Group are aired in General Meetings for <u>your</u> benefit. Support the Group by attending these meetings and exercising your vote. General business is usually protracted most by the frequent calls for volunteers to assist with special projects, and the deathly silences which follow. We wait, and wait, and wait, but not too often are we rewarded by someone standing up and saying "Perhaps I could help a bit with that". If business is handled efficiently and calls for help are answered quickly, then the General Meetings can run effortlessly through their business and be a pleasure to attend.

... and a word to trip leaders giving verbal trip reports:

just the facts, please, just the facts. Keep it short, too. We all like to waffle on and spin yarns, but let's fight the temptation.

IT'S TOO BAD THERE ARE NO CAVES THERE.

What a pity the Piccadilly Valley doesn't drain under the hills to the sea, (does it?) because the area under question is administered by the East Torrens District Council. The interesting thing about this Council is that our Librarian, Rod Wells, is a councillor on it. We haven't congratulated Rod on his election, so we'll do it now. They say that there is a new bloke just stepping into a Council seat on the <u>same</u> Council and it seems that congratulations are in order for him too. He is none other than our Committee Tourist Bureau Representative Ern Maddock. Congratulations Ern, but where's it all going to end?

REGARDS TO ALL YOU OLDIES

from Lorraine Murphy who used to be known to us as 'Sis' Harris before this bloke called Tom Murphy stole her away from us. Lorraine is all over the world these days and doesn't get enough caving and still thinks of us and paid her subs. again and is off again. Tom couldn't make it this time, and Lorraine's purpose for coming was to see her family because her Dad is not as well as he might be. We can only hope that things work out for Mr. Harris and that it won't be too long before Lorraine comes over again. Bring Tom with you next time Lorraine, and stay a while.

C.E.G.S.A. SEARCH & RESCUE

We can be pleased with the lack of need, in the past years, for our Search & Rescue section. Perhaps it is just as well. There have been various attempts over the past few years to stir up an active S & R unit, but no-thing permanent has come of them. This is no reason to stop trying or to think that the situation is satisfactory. Past S & R exercises have shown that training is necessary and that we need to devote thought and time to the design and building of proper equipment, and training to learn to use it properly and efficiently.

We may think that we are safe cavers, but there are still those among us who take unnecessary risks from time to time, and there is still a margin of danger in caving even with proper precautions (even though it is safer than crossing streets). We <u>have</u> got specialised knowledge, and we have a responsibility to use it wisely. Cavers who do not know or belong to C.E.G.S.A. are quite common, and are rarely adequately equipped for what they are undertaking. It is only a matter of time before someone does get themselves into a <u>real</u> mess underground. Where will we be then? Perhaps we can learn something after all from the Boy Scout (the Ideal Boy Scout of course –Ed.), - let's "BE PREPARED" for such an emergency.

If you are interested in joining our Cave Search & Rescue Squad please fill out the form provided as accurately as possible and return to me at your earliest convenience.

Wayne R, Goedecke (S & R rep.)

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

PROGRAMME JULY - SEPTEMBER 1969

JULY

Wed 2nd S.A.M.A.F. Slide competition Museum Lecture Room

8.00 p.m. 30c admission

Wed 9th Committee Meeting 8.00 pm 6 Bradbrook Road, Athelstone

11th - 13th Naracoorte Leader: Wayne Goedecke

Wed 23rd General Meeting Museum Lecture Room

8.00 p.m. Speaker: Mr R.T. Wells "Australian Marsupials"

AUGUST

2nd - 3rd "Up North" Leader: Wayne Goedecke

Wed 13th Committee Meeting 8.00 pm Flat 44, Gloucester Flats, Yorketown Road,

Elizabeth Centre

16th - 17th Curamulka – surface exploration Leader: Grant Gartrell

Wed 27th General Meeting Museum Lecture Room

8.00 p.m. Practical Gear Night.

Sun 31st. Field Day + barbecue National Park – Belair

up little Mullamullang to Workanda Falls

SEPTEMBER

Wed 10th Committee Meeting 8.00 pm 66 Ashfield Road, Elizabeth

6th - 7th In search of Good Friday Cave Leader: Elery Hamilton-Smith

and other old haunts in the Flinders Ranges

(and week following for those who can spare the time

Wed 24th General Meeting Museum Lecture Room

8.00 p.m. Speaker: Mr G. Pretty "A Survey of

Aboriginal Monuments in S.A.".

TRIP CONTACT LIST

Wayne Goedecke 225 Findon Road, Findon. (H) 45-2391 (W) 45-2411

Grant Gartrell 47 Folkestone Rd, BRIGHTON. (W) 23-4333 Ext 2029

Elery Hamilton-Smith c/- Alan Hill

84 Perseverance Road, Vista. (H) 64-1523 (W) 59-705

PROGRAMME JULY - SEPTEMBER (cont.)

WORK TRIPS:

JULY 5th - 6th Trip to Curramulka to install gate on Town Cave. Even if you can only come

for a day you will be welcome. If enough help there may even be some

caving in Corrells Cave to round the weekend off.

<u>SOMETIME</u> Trip to Crippen Lane to learn how ladder is actually made. Very interesting.

Fine food follows. By appointment with the proprietor a date convenient to all will be negotiated. Announcements will be made at the prior General

Meeting.

DIGGING TRIPS: It is hoped to hold a number of trips for the sole purpose of rock removal

from small caves recently discovered within 50 miles of Adelaide. The idea is to make the aforesaid caves bigger. It will be hard work, and slow, but could have its rewards in the end. Only those who are truly imbued with the spirit of keenness need apply. The trips will be generally of one day's duration only and new participants will be sworn to secrecy and conveyed to the cave mouths while blindfolded to ensure that the locale remains suitably

vague. Ho, Ho.

All intending participants in programmed trips must notify the trip leader at least seven days prior to departure of the trip. Withdrawal from any trip without the necessary seven days notice may result in additional expense to others, in which case,

Clause 6 .of the C.E.G.S.A. Rules may be invoked.

This reads as follows:

" 6. DEFAULTING MEMBERS

Any defaulting member who fails to fulfil his obligations to attend a trip will be fined an amount of 50% paid by participating members, at the discretion of the Committee, and such fines will be distributed to those participating members."

CHARGES FOR GEAR HIRE ON GROUP TRIPS:

Trips up to four days 20c per head for gear (including ladders)

20c per head for carbide.10c per head for nylon rope.

TRIP LEADERS: All gear is to be returned to the Q.M. within one week of end of trip. There

is a penalty charge for late return of gear.