



NEWSLETTER

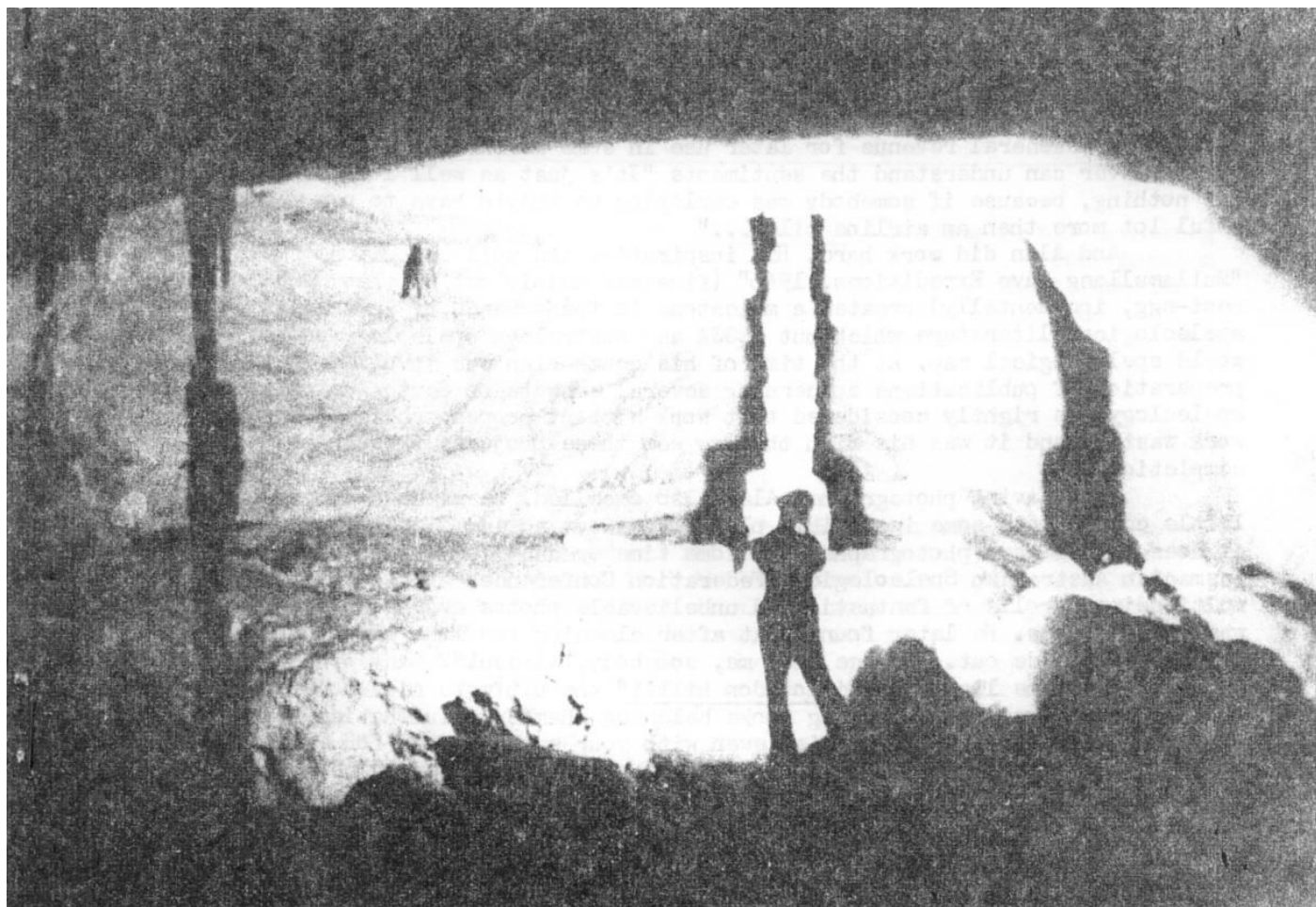
Cave Exploration Group

South Australia

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

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AUGUST – OCTOBER 1972



“THE COLUMNS” SAND CAVE, NARACOORTE, S.A.

OBITUARY - ALAN L. HILL

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Alan Hill, following a short illness, on 21st June 1972. A foundation member and later Honorary Life Member of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia), Alan was our President on two separate occasions, as well as being Secretary, Records-keeper, Librarian and so on at various times in his CEGSA career.

Alan was always jealously proud of his "amateur status" as he called it, in caving, which translated means that he was guided by the principle that he went caving solely because he enjoyed doing so. Although he worked extremely hard at his caving, he made the point strongly that he did so for his own relaxation at his own pace and was thus his own master. When on various occasions caving work was carried out by Alan and other CEGSA members for which some payment to alleviate expenses was made, as in the survey of Kelly Hill Cave for the Tourist Bureau, it would have infringed the "amateur status" of those involved to have accepted the money. Instead this was paid into CEGSA general revenue for later use in some worthwhile Group project. Only a caver can understand the sentiments "It's just as well I'm doing this for nothing, because if somebody was employing me they'd have to pay me an awful lot more than an airline pilot..."

And Alan did work hard. His inspiration and toil as Editor of "Mullamullang Cave Expeditions, 1966" (financed mainly out of that CEGSA nest-egg, incidentally) created a milestone in the advance of Australian speleological literature which put CEGSA and Australian speleology on the world speleological map. At the time of his death Alan was involved in the preparation of publications concerning several aspects of South Australian speleology. He rightly considered that work without proper publication was work wasted, and it was his wish that we see these projects through to completion.

As a caving photographer Alan also excelled. He managed to get his little camera into some incredible places, and out again. Disaster struck, as it does to all cave photographers at some time or another, during the recent Tasmanian Australian Speleological Federation Conference, when he shot off multitudinous rolls of fantastic and unbelievable photos every one of which was out of focus. He later found that after cleaning the lens he'd put part of it back inside out. "Please kick me, somebody, please!?" Many of the photos were taken by the light of "Diprotodon hillii" the ultimate mini-monster cave photographers magnesium-burning smoke-belching chamber-illuminating machine (while it's on you get a good view even with your eyes closed) for which Alan will long be remembered. A high point of his photographic career was undoubtedly getting a photograph onto the front cover of what must be the largest circulation speleological publication in the world, the newsletter of the National Speleological Society of the U.S.A. Particularly importantly for Alan the photo was of one of his favourite spots, "The Columns" in the Sand Cave, Naracoorte. Although not Alan's photograph it is appropriate that this area features on the cover of this Newsletter, which incidentally was prepared several months ago.

It's the Same the Whole World Over (To the tune of Good King Wenceslas)

Received recently from Tom Wigley a copy of "The Canadian Caver No. 5, a well-produced offset printed somewhere near annual publication. Approximately 50 pages of typing, a few good piccies, and some fold out maps. Subject matter in the Canadian Caver generally ranges from historical, through technical down to (or up to) major trip reports. But in No. 5 they also had a letter. (Good heavens!) Evidence at last that caving in Canada is alive and well. To raise the standard of our own Newsletter that letter is reprinted here along with the preceding C.C. Editor's note, which makes it O.K.

* This letter is printed as received. (Editor's Note)

Letter - Stuff the Canadian Caver!

What's happening to caving these days? I suppose a good way of getting to know would be to take a look at the 'Canadian Caver'. Very respectable, yes, yes indeed. The sort of place one can publish in, nice and scientific, everything technical and cosily documented. Crap!

Caving in Canada hasn't even begun yet. It still remains the domain of academics, and the amateur academics who are worse - the types who scrabble to get those neatly printed names on the bottom of surveys. The way things are you'd be tempted to think that a panel of Von Brauns and Einsteins awaited us all on judgement day. Mention going caving for fun and the reaction is rather like that of a Scottish Presbyterian minister referring to sex.

Too much organization exists. Even the Mac. Christmas expeditions to Mexico and Guatemala are run so smoothly and commercially you'd think the 'students for virginity society' was directing its followers along. Balls to all this watery middle-classism! Where are the snotty nosed Hamilton steelworkers and the sex offenders from Regina to bring a little colour and originality to the scene?

Hail to Boon for his phantom Castlegard trip, 'The Happening' in Canadian caving! Wonder how much of a mention that will get in the 'Caver'?

A bit of healthy competition and disrespect is what's needed to give a characteristic smell and raise the quality of caving in this country. Less of the ego-tripping and technicalities, and more of the bullshit, defilement and irresponsibility that it needs.

Gary Pilkington.

In conclusion it should be noted as far as is known, the Canadian G. Pilkington is no relation to our very own G. Pilkington. Since this Newsletter has never received an Australian equivalent letter of its own, can we deduce that Australian caving hasn't even begun? Hasn't Even Begun yet, or is it that we are all sex offending steelworkers by nature in this fair land? Perhaps that's why we don't have members under sixteen years old!

Here follows our own letter, kindly penned for us by the long lost Ian Lewis.

c/- AMAX Bauxite
Mitchell Plateau
via Derby 6728 W.A.

26 - 5 - 72

Dear CEGSA -

How is everybody in the big CEGSA family? I thought I'd write and give you some idea of what's happening on the opposite side of the continent. I flew up from Perth to Derby via Port Hedland and Broome, both of which are "dumps" and from Derby a twin-engined Otter took the AMAX crew of 6 to Mitchell Plateau, which is NW of Wyndham and NNE of Derby (in fact almost exactly where these two lines cross). The camp is situated on the plateau, 900 feet above sea level and 25 miles from the coast, so we don't have many mosquitos and no sea wasps, sand flies, crocodiles, sharks, stingrays, Portuguese man-o-war, stonefish or sea snakes, which the poor old Abos have to contend with to make a living at Kalumburu Mission, 50 miles ENE of here. There are no natives about the place, since they all went longa Big Smoke years ago because conditions were "better" - real galvanized iron humpies (also known as slums); no trouble with bad teeth (they almost all have NO teeth!) etc., etc...

The plateau is basically volcanic rock with a 15-20 foot laterite capping, and between all the laterite the drillers can find pockets or layers of bauxite - a very hard white rock if it is a good sample. The company estimates that there is at least 100 million tons of mineral here on the main plateau alone and plans to export it at the rate of 2 million tons a year for 50 years. To this end the company plans to build a town for 2-3,000 people, with a deep port and 30-40 miles of railway and an airport. This will be situated at the edge of the plateau overlooking Port Warrender and is planned to get off the ground about this coming September. All this was finalized 2 years ago and I believe that AMAX is waiting for the price of Aluminium to rise!

The whole area here is a flora and fauna reserve and the company forbids firearms and pets. As a result many of the local dingoes are quite tame and chew up the microphone leads in the radio shack from time to time, roam around the tents at night and feed at the rubbish dump about 1½ miles away (downwind!). Thus they are very healthy specimens and their howling at night blends marvellously with the high-pitched moans of the curlews and the screaming of the screech-owls!

We have snakes (King Browns, Black Whip Snakes, Death Adders and a variety of pythons and tree snakes), spiders of all sizes and shapes (including a female red-back nearly 2 inches in diameter - the biggest I have ever seen), scorpions, some centipedes, frill-neck lizards, wallabies and kangaroos, numerous emus and the usual run of bower-birds, eagles, magpies, kookaburras etc.

There are also many "Ta-Ta" lizards in around the sample shed, so named because when frightened they tear off at a great rate, then suddenly, stop and turn around to face whatever scared them, and standing up on their hind legs they wave their fore-leg at you frantically as if to say "Oo-roo!" and they tear off again. They are only about a foot long, but the tail is approximately 4 times the length of the body, which is quite a load for a lizard that size to carry. At my urging the whole crew have now found something else to do with their spare time, which is bat-catching. I've had already umpteen dozen of one species, which is safely bottled in formalin but they can't seem to catch another elusive little one which is very touchy and won't hang nicely so you can grab it off the roof of the rock overhangs it inhabits. There are no caves in this whole area, except for some cracks in the sandstone, but I hope to be going down to Geikie Gorge near Fitzroy Crossing later this year where the big stuff is. Some bods who passed through here on their way round Australia filming wildlife have given me a good location of a maternity cave with "millions" of bats in it - however they seem to be fairly reliable so I will try and get there later.

I have been given the job of weather observer and radio operator, which takes up 4 hours or so out of my 9 hour day. I also have a Landrover to tear about in, and judging from its condition, others before me have also given it the works and there isn't much left after 7 years belting!

The camp has a resident emu with a gammy leg which he received from one of the cooks some years ago for swallowing his cigarette lighter and a whole pouch of tobacco - and I mean whole - pouch and all! Since he was a chick he has lived around the camp and has become a mascot of sorts, although more often than not he gets a clip on the ear for getting in the road or making a meal of various odds and ends. Once our German mechanic was fixing a grader and took off a whole series of bolts, nuts and washers and laid them out on a newspaper while he bent down to do something to the drive shaft. Along came Percy and glomp glomp glomp - gobbled up the lot (oil notwithstanding) and not satisfied with that, he began to help himself to as large a portion as possible of the mechanic's backside - this produced some very fruity German and when they turn it on, man can they ever turn it on! Percy was propelled headlong out of the shed with same stern propulsion (pun) from a centurion boot!

Since he has this club foot he cannot go walkabout after female emus so he has found a substitute for his mating instinct in - of all things - Landrover tyres! There are 10 Landrovers in camp so he is kept busy at it, and maybe his normal grumpy mood is due to overwork in this department. He is quite unashamed about demonstrating his devotion in front of the mess at breakfast time which goes well over a mouthful of runny egg or baked beans.

On that "creative" note, I will leave you all in suspense until the next message stick comes through.

Regards to you all,

Ian Lewis.

Some Caves in Intrusive Rocks in the Northern Flinders and a Visit, to Wooltana Cave
(Trip Report) - Trevor H. Maddock.

During a rather unsuccessful bat research trip to the Northern Flinders Ranges during the week of the 19th June 1972, I had the chance to take a first look at the locality of Wooltana Cave and to examine some caves in intrusive rocks in Arkaroola Creek, about ten miles to the north-west.

The area of Arkaroola - Mt. Painter is rather complex, being laid down in younger Precambrian sediments and close to glacial beds. Also, along the eastern face of the Ranges near Arkaroola and reaching almost to Mt. Painter is a fault line and outcrops of Wooltana Volcanics. To the north, including the Mt. Painter - Mt. Gee complex are older Precambrian beds so that the whole area is enclosed and inter-layered by the above-mentioned sediments. The area is also heavily folded and intrusive outcrops are common in the immediate vicinity of Arkaroola Creek. I wouldn't even hazard a guess at exactly what the succession of the outcrop in question is but the actual cave or tunnel features appear to be caused by what may be termed trap-rock pockets. Of their origin I am not certain.

The first tunnel went in about eight or ten feet from the rock face of the creek bank. It was about twenty inches high and at the far end was a small opening reaching into the roof. This led to a similar tunnel a little shorter than the first but now in total darkness with a similar hole reaching into a much smaller tunnel that faded in two or three feet. Upon reaching into the second tunnel it was possible to stand up with one's feet on the floor of the first. The estimated height was about seven feet. Down the left side of this tunnel near the entrance was a black tar-like shiny stain which was quite hard and not unlike bat staining in limestone caves. The substance which actually formed a built-up deposit was obviously the excrements of some animal. It is apparently not uncommon to the rock shelters of the area and is known to the natives by the name 'Eatawoodna' which apparently means bird-guano. From the firmness of the substance one might prefer to call it petrified. A similar deposit may also be seen on the wall near the entrance of Wooltana Cave.

The second tunnel investigated was considerably longer than the first winding up probably thirty feet or more as one passage with a small sump-like entrance prohibiting any light. Small mammal droppings were common in both tunnels.

Wooltana Cave was visited following the statement by the manager of Arkaroola Village that bats had recently been seen flying from the entrance. Wooltana Cave was once the home of the predatory ghost-bat, Macroderma gigas, and several mummified carcasses have been excavated from the guano on the floor of the cave. The cave also boasts of having South Australia's longest ladder pitch, at two hundred feet. Unfortunately, we did not have the equipment to enter the cave and had to content ourselves with setting a mist-net over the entrance. No bats were trapped in the net and none were seen emerging, but the cave is used as a roost by several birds: hence the eatawoodna.

Remains of the old guano workings are still present both in the cave and nearby and are a distinctive landmark to look for to find the cave. Although the two tunnels reported above are not in limestone they must at least ecologically be considered caves and certainly are of interest.

An Eyewitness Account of an August Assemblage in the Naracoorte Hotel, Naracoorte
(Trip Report) - Jupiter B. Pluvius

'Twas the twenty-fourth of June when eighty intrepid trogs and others descended upon the Naracoorte Hotel and therein proceeded to strain the bonds of hospitality to the limit. The occasion was the first combined CEGSA / VSA (or if you prefer it VSA / CEGSA) Dinner and what more excuse do you need to have a good time.

It seems that not only can the Victorians read, but also that they take it in, particularly if it is a bait. Our propaganda "we must outdo those scruffy Vics" in the advert saw them to a man rise nobly to the occasion and all roll up looking like a 1930's undertakers' lodge meeting in antique tails and you name it. Most appropriate seeing we also declared the show to be a ceremonial wake for Alan Hill. He would have loved it. Of course the Victorian ladies didn't look like the above. They were indeed much more attractive than their penguins, and although that wouldn't be hard to be, that's not exactly what was implied, but we won't get personal.

Trust Graeme Wilson's piccies turned out better than Athol Jackson's. Seems likely when the only one which came out was taken with the loan of Graeme's flash. Extra speshully hope the colour photo of Mr. P. Robertson and Miss K. Thomas smiling over blue lagoons is a success. Blimey, Shudder.

Once again it was impossible to award the "Spirit of Caving" to Harry Baker because we left it in Adelaide, accidentally. Also pleased to see that Bill Platt, Frank Harrison and Dorothy and Bill Pavy could make it. Was a good show because Bill Pavy was among the last to leave, along with those La Trobe heavies with Hulme at the helm. We thoroughly recommend the hostelry and hope they'll let us in the doors another time.

Next year the Vic's are promising a return match, probably to be convened at Nelson, on Victorian soil, and we trust on a long weekend or better, so we can get amongst those tremendous Glenelg River caves as well.

There are vague recollections that some attention was paid to the Victoria Cave, Sand-funnel, S102 and other caves but they're understandably vague.



Moon Caves? Moon Karst?

Perhaps I haven't been keeping sufficiently abreast of the latest literature, but I feel that there is a strong case for the next astronauts to land on the moon to be speleos. While recently perusing the Lunar Orbiter Photographic Atlas of the Moon (Bowker and Hughes, NASA 1971) I was intrigued to see a very distinct rill type feature showing evidence of meander patterns, looking for all the world like an ancient river bed. To help the illusion along there is what can only be a rejuvenated stream bed meandering along the old rill floor, and so help me turn the page and the whole lot vanishes into a black circular hole of diameter similar to the width of the old rill. It could be a crater, but it doesn't look quite right. Maybe the hole was the source, not the sink. Anyway, very interesting. For others with access to a copy of the atlas, the feature appears on Plates 168 & 172.

Grant Gartrell.

Australian Speleological Federation Recommended Code of Practice - Cave Safety

The following code was prepared by the Convenor of the Cave Safety Commission of the Australian Speleological Federation, Lloyd Robinson, and adopted under Motion 14 - 1972 Committee Meeting. Unfortunately, CEGSA was not represented at that meeting, however, we are in general agreement with the code as drafted, and commend its observance to all cavers. There has been some discussion of recommendation 18, which concerns abseiling underground. The matter is virtually academic in South Australia where all of our pitches are easily negotiated by ladder, and almost all are entrance pitches, not internal ones. However, in recent years there has been a considerable amount of interest in methods for the descent and ascent of pitches on a single rope, particularly amongst some American "vertical cavers". Pitches of 1200 feet, out of the question for ladder climbing, have been tackled relatively comfortably by some single rope techniques. They have longer ropes, but are having difficulty finding longer pitches to use them on. There are some positively dangerous devices extant for rope climbing, and a number of safe and reliable ones as well. A survey of these devices, or at least the better known ones, appears in the Proceedings of the 8th Biennial Conference of the A.S.F., in an article by Andrew Pavey of U.N.S.W.S.S. It is natural that some of these devices will appear on caving trips, and it should be obvious that they should only be used by people who know what they are doing. If recommendation 18 refers to abseiling in the strict sense, then these devices constitute "other methods" and are covered by the existing code. It should be pointed out, however, that if this is the case, that the use of certain "other methods" involving devices which may damage the rope, or out of which the rope may slip completely, is certainly not preferable to properly executed abseiling. On the other side of the coin many people look down on ladder climbing as an inferior technique, sometimes through a sort of gear snobbery, and often because they never did learn to do it properly. Contrary to popular belief, not every "mug" can climb a ladder. If you don't believe it, you should try a stint of belaying sometime. The number of hours lost by medium sized parties on ladder pitches on CEGSA trips alone in wasted time over the last ten years couldn't be counted on the legs of a hundred centipedes. Three minutes to tie on, five minutes climbing, and two minutes untying and moving clear, for ten people is an hour and twenty minutes just to get the party into a cave, not counting hold-ups for snagged ropes, passing gear down or up, communication problems and so on. For the average South Australian cave, efficient fit cavers could cut all these times in half comfortably, and cave more safely with less effort. A caver who climbs a ladder properly has his balance so that his weight is taken by the powerful leg muscles, and in this position he can climb rhythmically and extremely quickly, certainly over several hundred feet if fit. A caver who climbs a ladder wrongly takes his weight on his poor old arms, and can never find the next rung with his foot. No wonder he needs three rests in sixty feet. The answer to this problem, and all other aspects of safe caving practice, is regular and diligent trailing, so that it becomes second nature to you. Why waste your time and everyone else's by driving in excess of 200 miles to do this training on a precious caving weekend, when you can do it much better by coming to field days at our own local Reynella?

- And while you are polishing up the practical side of things, take a little time off to sit down and soak in the following ASF Code of Recommended Safe Caving Practice, and when you've read it – don't throw it away, KEEP IT so that when you've forgotten it you can soak it in again, and again.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

CAVE SAFETY - RECOMMENDED CODE OF PRACTICE

Introduction

Caving is a pursuit which, by its nature, involves a certain element of risk; cavers are advised to make it a calculated risk by observing the following recommended Code of Practice. The rules suggested here-in are intended as a basic guide and do not purport to cover all possible caving hazards.

Pre-Trip Organization

1. No one to go caving alone. Desirable minimum size - FOUR.
2. Each caving trip to be under the control of a trip leader possessing qualities of responsibility, discipline and temperament needed to ensure the safety of the party and the protection of the caverns.
3. Suitable helmet, clothing (one piece boiler suit) and footwear to be worn when underground.
4. First aid kit to be carried on all trips and kept at the camp.
5. Two totally independent forms of lighting to be carried by each person.
6. Inspect for wear and damage all equipment (i.e. safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders, climbing aids, winch ropes etc.) whose failure could result in injury. Ensure such equipment does not suffer chafing during transport or come into contact with chemicals (e.g. battery solutions).

Above Ground Organization

7. Don't take underground anyone whose ability is affected by drugs or liquor.
8. In the event of all persons on a trip going underground at the one time, leave some indication at campsite of whereabouts and expected time of return.
9. When entering caves where flash flooding could prove hazardous, ensure effective communication with the surface for weather change warnings.
10. Care should be taken to avoid becoming lost or separated above ground when visiting remote caving areas. (Bendethera, Nullarbor, Kimberleys, Camooweal, Tasmania etc.)
11. Ensure radio transmitting equipment is switched off when using explosives.

Ascents and Descents

12. A safety line should be used in any situation where a fall could result in injury. The trip leader should make the decision considering :
 - a. Experience of the party
 - b. Physical condition of the party at the time
 - c. Difficulty of rescue should a fall occur
 - d. Difficulty of the obstacle

On pitches in excess of twenty five (25) feet a safety line should be mandatory.

13. A belay man should be experienced in same and securely positioned.
14. Only one person at a time should descend or ascend a cable ladder, rope or winch.
15. At least three (3) members of a party should be experienced in knots and the use of climbing equipment where the trip involves the use of such equipment.

16. Alternative means of contact to be used on pitches where unaided voice contact is difficult.
17. Care to be taken with safety lines to avoid damage by sharp projections or nail boots.
18. Abseiling underground should only be used where other methods are impractical.
19. Don't use abseil ropes as safety ropes or vice-versa.
20. Helmet mounted naked flame light not to be used when ascending or descending a pitch.
21. Use only metal cables on powered man winches.
22. Do not engage in horse play, rock throwing etc.

Cave Diving

23. Do not attempt to force siphons alone or without proper diving equipment. A diving party to consist of at least-five (5) persons :
 - a. Lead diver
 - b. Follow-up diver
 - c. Emergency diver
 - d. Telephonist
 - e. Runner
24. Divers must be attached to a suitable guideline in all siphons or near siphons.
25. Communications to be established through all siphons by the Lead diver and maintained by an outside party where the trip leader considers it necessary.

General

26. Safety lines, abseiling ropes, cable ladders and man winch ropes not to be used for other than the intended purpose e.g. towing vehicles.
27. Dry out ropes etc. and store in a cool dry place out of direct sunlight.
28. Do not uncap carbide lamps in confined places.
29. Ensure reserve supplies of carbide do not become damp.
30. Carbide lamps are not reliable indicators of foul air. Use matches or candles as indicators if foul air is suspected. If still in doubt, more sophisticated detection equipment should be used.
31. Do not use copper in modifying carbide lamps.
32. Do not construct cable ladders of materials likely to cause electrolysis e.g. copper ferrules on steel cable.
33. Internal combustion engines not to be used underground or on the surface where exhaust fumes are likely to enter a cave.
34. Persons using explosives should be experienced in their use. Extreme care should be taken to avoid explosive fumes, especially underground. Advice should be sought on explosives that give off less toxic fumes for underground use.
35. Ensure that cords used to carry whistles, lights, etc. around the neck will break with reasonable ease should they become caught during a slip or fall.
36. The Trip Leader should ensure that no member of his party is coerced into a situation beyond his capabilities.
37. Advice should be sought from local clubs as to caving hazards when visiting unfamiliar areas.

Gobble gobble?

Norm Poulter reports from Perth that he “overheard a conversation in which it was revealed that the Big Hearted People (BHP) has a team out on the Nullarbor looking for limestone suitable for the blast furnaces” and asks "Will we see a Save the Nullarbor campaign?"

We know it's a big area, but it's just natural law or "trog's luck" that if they dig up anything they'll dig up half our caves. As at our end it's only a rumour at this stage, CEGSA would be pleased to receive more information on the matter from anyone who knows anything about it and as for all you BHP shareholders, we would appreciate it if you would make sure your company doesn't go digging in all the wrong places. It has been known in the past that quarrymen gravitated towards caves for their rock because of the ready made vertical faces to work from. Much easier than having to dig the hole completely from scratch, but hardly a ploy to gain favour in influential spelean circles. So what? - you ask. Have you ever pondered the thought that if cavers don't like you then you can't be very likeable? and we never did hit it off too well with environmental vandals.

NIBICON

The Ninth Biennial Convention (what happened to good old Conference?), as it is called in the March 1972 ASF Newsletter, is being convened in Sydney in December 1972. The convention itself will cover the three days 27th - 29th, with the CAVEMAN'S DINNER on Friday the 29th. Following the convention, field trips are offered to all major NSW caving areas, and they've got some rippers!

It is expected that field trips could continue for up to a fortnight, or at least until everyone has to drag themselves back to work again. If you can't afford the time, then even a week or a few days would open your eyes up.

If you are planning on going, then start training now. As those who were lucky enough to get to Tasmania for the last one found, their caves is quite different from ours. Whereas ours go down and along and along and along and are generally equivalent to bushwalking on your navel, NSW caves go down up along down up along down along up twiddly om-pom, and a raw junior CEGSA chap might find all that most confusing.

In these affluent vehicular days there will certainly be a number of cars ripping up the road between here and Sydney for the occasion, and if you need transport, let us know in plenty of time and we can probably find seats. Alternative plans could involve train travel, which can be enjoyable in a group, however bookings will need to be made well in advance. If you're rich enough to go by plane you can look after yourself.

And as a final point - conferences/conventions - it doesn't matter what they are called they still run on papers which are written and presented by you. Somewhere in CEGSA there is bound to be something to offer. We've done something over the past two years, haven't we? Haven't we? Well, besides that, start your head scratching now to give the organizers as simple a job as possible, but look out for splinters - from the pencil of course.

Fantastic New Discoveries in the West.

A fantastic new extension has been found by members of the West Australian Speleological Group (WASG for short but not for long?) in a cave in the golden West. Least you should get the wrong impression, let us hasten to add that the new extension is only a few feet long, and nobody has ever been nor will ever go into it. Experts are busy trying to work out how it was formed, but it might be years before they come up with the answer. Meantime, highly technical theories centre on the possibility of a cementing process of some kind, caused by splashing of calcite during stalactite-stalagmite development over hundreds of years. The cave is not open to tourists and it's exact whereabouts have not been disclosed.

This report, with an amazing photograph, appeared in the May 4, 1972 issue of Australasian Post on page 19. Well it wasn't really an extension, but just a "weird collection of matted strands (that) could pass for an extension" and how could anybody confuse that with a new extension unless it happened to be of Miles Durand's beard? There's not a shadow of doubt but that the photo would scoop the CEGSA photo competition booby prize if it was eligible. It's quite incredible the depths to which some societies will descend for a little good old fashioned sensational publicity.

The Heysen Trail

The Heysen Trail will stretch from Cape Jervis to Mt. Hopeless, and plans for its establishment, usage and maintenance are now in preparation. It will be there for your use and your children's ... so why not be involved in discussions at the planning stage to make sure you get what you want. Come to THE HEYSEN TRAIL FORUM to be held in the Museum Lecture Room on Tuesday 8th August at 8.00 p.m.

THE CEGSA QUARTERLY PROGRAM

Once again the following program has been drafted substantially in one night, around what the Committee, or at least some of its members feel that you, the other members of the Group, want. Several trips have been specifically requested by trip leaders with some specific objective in mind. Others are listed merely to balance the program out, and the leaders have said not 'I want to take a trip to so-and-so' but rather 'I suppose I can spare the time to look after a trip to so-and-so, since I feel it's my duty to do so'. In many instances trip leaders devote so much time and effort prior to and during a trip in organization that they do not find time to get enjoyment from it, which is a shame seeing they took up caving for enjoyment and relaxation. Perhaps they might enjoy it more if those interested in going let them know in plenty of time (at least a week before, preferably more, the program is drawn up quarterly, and the leader can plan that far ahead, so others can as well) rather than the usual last minute shambles. This would enable the leader to devote more time to planning the activities for the trip, since he would know what to expect in the way of man-power, and the trip time could then be better spent, to everybody's advantage. The trips are enjoyed by those that go, but often they would be enjoyed more by participants and leaders alike if more was achieved on them. These problems are always with us, and particularly so in the wet winter months, but we should all strive to improve the situation. Caving involves teamwork at all levels. Singing YO HEAVE HO

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

Programme August - October 1972

July

28th – 30th	Naracoorte (L) G. Gartrell	Training Trip for the Beaumont Rover Crew. Plans include digs and survey, and the checking out of some rarely visited caves.
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August

4th – 6th	Naracoorte (L) T. Maddock	Continuing the exploration of all the new caves to be discovered the weekend before with the La Trobians
Tues 8th	Heysen Trail Forum	Museum Lecture Rooms 8.00 p.m.
Wed 9th	Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.	45 Marlborough Street, Brighton
12th Aug to 3rd Sept	Nullarbor trip by some numbers of UNSWSS is planned sometime during this period. Anyone who would like to join them should contact John Foulds.	
20th	Sellicks Hill Sunday trip (L) G. Gartrell	Work trip to Sellicks Hill Cave. Underground party strictly limited, but surface explorers and assistants welcome.
23rd	General Meeting and Films	Museum Lecture Roans 8.00 p.m.

September

9th – 10th	Curramulka (L) B. Dunn	Search and Rescue Training Trip. Just in case you ever have to be fished out of a cave, <u>you</u> should make every effort to attend this trip and be prepared for it.
Wed 13th	Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.	31 Lutana Cres., Mitchell Park
17th	Sellicks Hill Sunday trip (L) G. Gartrell	See trip 20th Aug.
23rd – 24th	Punyelroo Cave trip has been suggested for this weekend, either as a day trip or a full weekend trip. A leader is required, and for those that don't know it, the cave is close to a mile long, with possibilities for further extension.	
Wed 27th	General Meeting and talk on The Geology of the Flinders Ranges, by Dr. Brian Daily, Geology Dept, Uni. of Adelaide.	Museum Lecture Roans 8.00 p.m.

October

1st	Sunday Survey Training Reynella Cave. (L) G. Gartrell Bring BBQ lunch. Directions see below.	All surveyors or potential novice surveyors who are expecting to take part in the Vic. Cave Survey should attend this trip, as the survey teams will be formed on this day and will train as teams.
7th – 9th long-weekend	Naracoorte (L) (L) G. Gartrell	Victoria Cave Survey Trip. This trip is for the <u>sole purpose</u> of mapping work in the Vic., which is now so ramified that mapping is urgent. See previous trip 1st Oct.
Wed 11th	Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.	31 Trimmer Parade, Findon
15th	Sunday Field Day - Reynella 10.00 a.m. onwards. Drive to western end of Grants Rd, Reynella and then follow track through gate. <u>Shut the gate after you, please.</u>	Bring your caving gear with waist loops and karabiners if you have them, plus strong gloves, preferably leather. Bring a BBQ lunch. Families and friends welcome.
Wed 25th	General Meeting and talk on The Psychology of Caving by that eminent caving psychologist, P.Cairney, Esq	Museum Lecture Roans 8.00 p.m.
27th – 29th	Buckalowie Creek (L) J. Foulds.	Mairs Cave and Clara St. Dora will be visited. The main purpose of the trip is to dig in some potential caves not far away, so practice those chin-ups both for ladder climbing and bucket hauling.

CONTACT LIST

G. Gartrell	45 Marlborough St, Brighton	Ph 98-2203
T. Maddock	14 Arcoona Ave, Rostrevor	Ph 37-3067
B. Dunn	4 Parsons Rd, Reynella	
or D. Hawke	43 Semaphore Rd, Semaphore	Ph 49-7070 S&R Trip
J. Foulds	c/- Wm. Charlicks, Mile End	Ph (W) 57-4162

Note: In addition to the above listed trips there are frequently other trips planned, notice of which is only given at General Meetings. While it is expected that you should try to support the listed trips where possible, should this programme clash with other of your arrangements you may find more suitable trips advertised at the meetings. Please advise the Trip Leader at least a week in advance of your intention to join or withdraw from any trip. Failure to do so can greatly inconvenience others.