



# NEWSLETTER

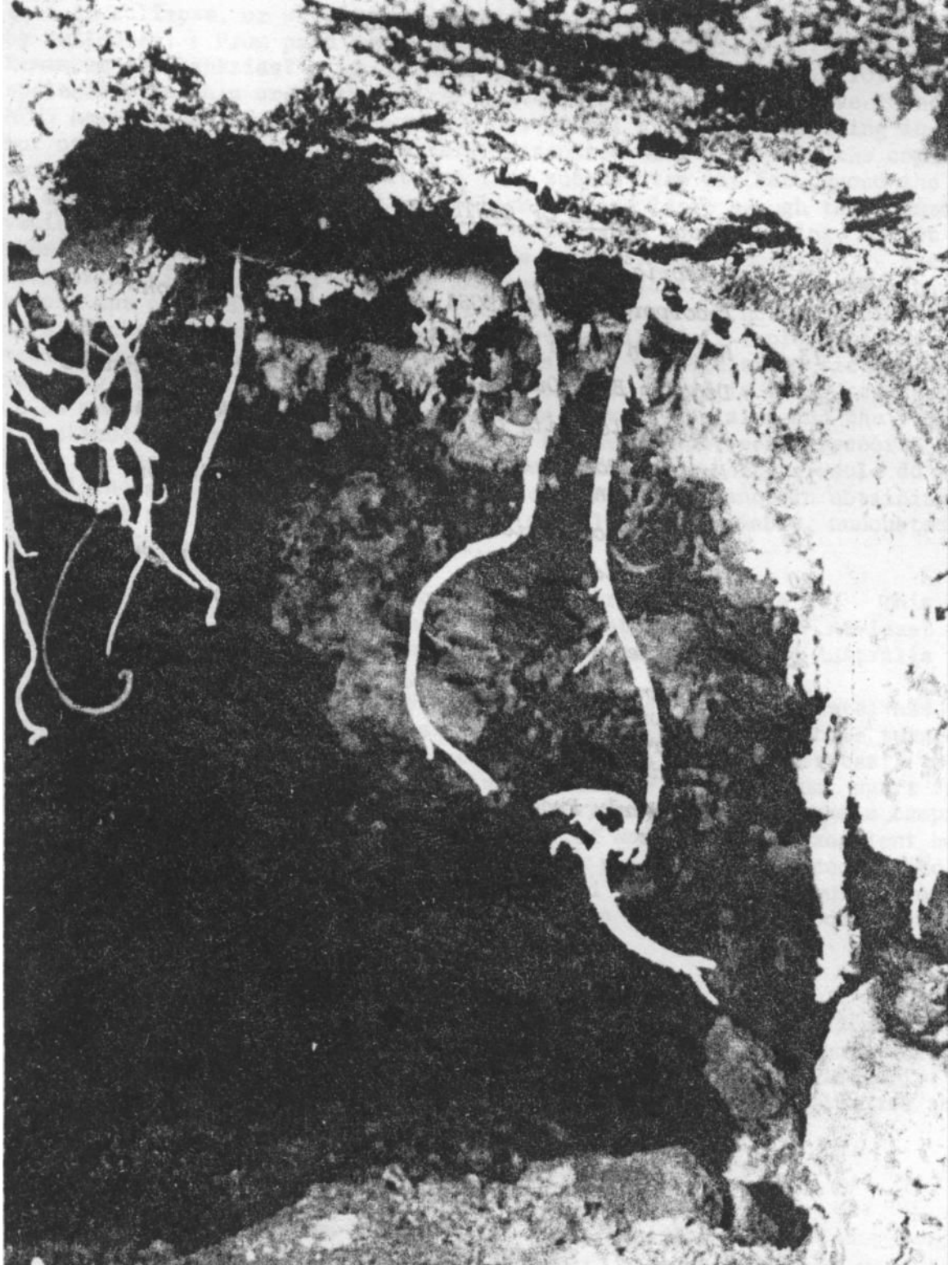
## Cave Exploration Group

*South Australia*

C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

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SALT DECORATION, EASTER EXTENSION,  
MULLAMULLANG CAVE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

C.E.G.S.A. NEWSLETTER

VOL 20, No. 2, AUGUST, 1975

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## EDITORIAL

Once upon a time, there was a wooden hut. This is no fairy story, but could in the future, be a reasonable way of referring to the hut at Naracoorte. We gather that it is part of National Park's policy, not to allow accommodation type structures to exist in Conservation Parks. As the Caves Reserve at Naracoorte is classed as a Conservation Park, it follows that the days of the hut are numbered. In fact, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, have advised CEGSA not to spend any money or energy in effecting repairs or modifications on the hut. I do not know whether this means we shall be allowed to continue using the hut until the weight of possums and their droppings causes the roof to collapse, or whether one day it will receive the sentence of death by bulldozer. From past experience, I suspect the latter fate for the hut. Remember the banksias? If CEGSA is to continue to fulfil its role of furthering speleology in this area, then alternative accommodation will have to be found. NPWS have suggested that we purchase, or erect, a suitable building in the area, but off the reserve. Having briefly discussed this proposal, the committee very rapidly came to the conclusion that such a step was far beyond the resources of the Group. We would require a block of land large enough to accommodate vehicles, tents, caravans etc. plus a building to house cooking, toilet and shower facilities with preferably, some dormitory accommodation. Even the cost of providing water, sewerage and power services to such a site, would be beyond the group's finances. As for purchasing an old house, or similar, the days of cheap housing in Naracoorte are over, with full employment and the new meatworks, even old two bedroom shacks on a postage stamp sized block, are fetching \$8,000. Quite apart from this aspect, there is the question of distance; CEGSA members travel 740 kilometres return between Adelaide and the Reserve for a weekend's caving; if traversing the 12 kilometres between Naracoorte and the caves for meals, showering, sleep etc. were added on, members would do almost as much travelling as caving. NPWS have promised CEGSA assistance in obtaining accommodation off the Reserve, but to date no details are available, undoubtedly these will be received with great interest.

If you think we have troubles, read the article on page 14. This has been reprinted with acknowledgements to the "Nation Review". At least no-one is actively engaged in destroying the caves we visit in South Australia (yet! typist).

This year's annual VSA/CEGSA gathering in the Naracoorte Hotel has just taken place, and very successful it was too. Not so many CEGSA members turned up as in previous years, but with the rowdy element missing (mainly overseas!) the dinner and subsequent events were conducted with a little more decorum, apart from a very frenzied Mexican Hat Dance! Plus a very bawdy frolic round a campfire afterwards! All present were given a copy of Norm Hansen's excellent booklet on the Victoria Fossil Cave. Norm, who is a resident of Naracoorte and its local printer, is also a keen CEGSA member and is to be congratulated on his latest printing effort, which is his tribute to CEGSA. This booklet is a gem and undoubtedly will receive wide acceptance.

One of the rowdy elements, mentioned above, is in America. Grant and Leslye Gartrell, with Holly and Neil, are over there for about 12 months. Grant has sent me his first trip report, which is in this issue. I hope this shames some of you into putting pen to paper in time for the next Newsletter! To get some writing practice, what about dropping them a line? (In case they want to prusik back of course!) Their address is:

415 Pequot Avenue,  
New London,  
Connecticut, 06320,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Getting back to Naracoorte, there was a trip there on a weekend in mid-June for the palaeontologists, when a large quantity of fossil material was removed.

At long last, the Sthenurus vertebral column and associated material was removed from its position athwart the old track, after having been exposed there for about 4 years. The highlight of this trip though was in keeping with the seriousness of the work and consisted of nightly readings by the Very Rev Begger Wells from the Good Book. This particular Good Book, having been written by Spike Milligan gave great uplift to the congregation, until a great host by the name of Dr. Brown descended upon them and bade them to be quiet.

For the benefit of both new and established members, the ASF Code of Ethics is reprinted in this edition. It is just as valid today as when it was written and all good cavers should abide by its terms.

Ed. Bailey.

### INCORPORATION

Notice of intent to incorporate CEGSA as an association was published in the Advertiser on Wednesday 9th July. Incorporation should be complete by the time of publication of the November Newsletter. We will then be called, for official purposes only, the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Incorporated.

The Public Officer required by the Act was elected at the June G.M. namely myself.

G. Pilkington.

### VACANCY FOR SECRETARY/TREASURER

As Anne Wilson, the present holder of this office, is spending several months in Perth, W.A. to further her career, the group is having to find a replacement. Nominations will be invited, and an election held at the next G.M. (August 27th).

### RULES ON TRIPS TO NARACOOORTE

All trips involving caves on the Caves Reserve, as well as use of the hut, now require 7 days notice to be given to the Curator, either by letter or by telephone. The information to be given shall consist of the following:

- (i) Name of Trip Leader
- (ii) Approximate number in party
- (iii) Purpose of trip

This information will be entered into a log book held in the kiosk, which the Trip Leader is obliged to sign at the end of the trip. He will also enter in the log, brief details of the work actually accomplished.

Hut Key. This will be drawn by the Trip Leader from the Quartermaster and returned to him afterwards. If the party wishes to use the hut, then it is imperative that the key is taken by the Trip Leader, or his nominee, as no key will be available at the Reserve.

## DIGGING BATS OUT OF THEIR HOMES

Fascinating little creatures, bats. Much maligned in conventional mythology and in most people's minds associated with elements of darkness and evil (through no fault of their own), they spend most of their time doing either useful things like eating insects or harmlessly hanging around together in their subterranean myriads.

Most of the members of the species *Miniopterus australis* or lesser bent-winged bat in central Queensland first saw the dark of night in a large nursery colony in Mount Etna limestone caves, 20 km north of Rockhampton. Bat nurseries are rather hard to come by, as a very specific combination of temperature and humidity is needed in the nursery period to maintain a humid crib type of environment. The bats are estimated to eat one tonne of flying insects on each of their nightly forays from this underground kindergarten.

The Mount Etna colony, largest in Central Queensland, is currently being threatened by a big bad wolf known as the Central Queensland Cement and Lime Company. Its rapacious approach was recently sanctioned by the Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr. Camm, who granted QCL mining leases in the area.

But the bats at Mount Etna have had a temporary reprieve. Their saviours are electricians of the Capricornia Regional Electricity Board. A meeting of electricity board workers in Rockhampton last week asked the Queensland Trades and Labour Council's conservation committee to authorise a ban on maintenance and installation at the eastern quarry of QCL's operation at Mount Etna, near to and impinging on the caves area. This means that while electricity is being supplied to present working facilities, any extension of mining into the cavernous area will be impossible. There is at present a ban on the crushing plant at Mount Etna.

If the ban is approved it will extend to members of all unions affiliated with the TLC. And according to secretary Ken McGrath of the Transport Workers Union, the two year old committee is almost certain to give its approval.

In Rockhampton itself there are strong feelings about the government's decision to allow QCL to mine the Mount Etna caves. Since 1920 the area has been gazetted for recreational use - a ruling that has been consistently ignored by both the government and QCL. And just before the 1973 federal election the premier, Bjelke-Peterson, visited the area and promised that a national park would be set up there. The mines minister is now equivocating by limiting that promise to "those areas where mining has not yet commenced". While mining has been going on at Mount Etna for some time, the vital area in the caves is as yet untouched - and the people of Rockhampton are beginning to feel that they've been double-crossed. The union ban has been welcomed by the Rockhampton based Mount Etna Committee.

The Mount Etna limestone caves are uniquely beautiful, and constitute the most densely cavernous area in Australia. The area is also remarkable for being a patch of relict rainforest in an otherwise dry area. It supports a number of colonies of rock wallabies and is the home of a very rare species of native cat. As well as being the only breeding ground for the bent-winged bat within an 800-900 kilometre radius, Mount Etna supports the largest colony of the rare ghost bat in the world. It is regarded by conservationists as both scientifically and recreationally an extremely valuable area, especially in view of its location so near to a major population centre that suffers from a dearth of recreation facilities.

But even apart from the question of the destruction of Australia's heritage, there is the problem of what will be the consequences of eliminating the bent-winged bat's nursery colony. One thing is certain - the insect population will enjoy a boom like it's never seen before; the effects of this on local farming are incalculable.

According to Mr. Lex Brown, vice-president of the Australian Speleological Association, each summer 3-400,000 female bats and progeny occupy the cave known as Bat Cleft. The huge numbers of bats heat the cave to the 40 degrees necessary for the survival of the young.

The undersecretary of the mines department, Mr. Healy, declared that "the company have been given permission to mine the area, and they are quite within the law to do that". He appealed to the needs of the central Queensland building industry as justification for the decision: Building workers wages hinge on the mining of limestone for cement", he said.

However, the Queensland Conservation Council have pointed out that the company's other Mount Etna quarry, alongside the mountain, has reserves estimated at 3.7 million tonnes - sufficient for quite a number of years at present rates of usage. The company is in no danger, they say, of having to close down its operations if the Mount Etna project does not proceed.

Their spokesman, Gordon Claridge, also stresses that the Limestone Ridge area, which Mr. Camm in an effort at compromise has proposed as a national park, forms an integrated ecological unit with the Mount Etna region. It's highly possible that the two areas are "part of a single limestone body, meaning that cave systems might eventually be proved to join the two features. To mine Mount Etna while recognising the value and significance of the Limestone Ridge area would be equivalent to mining half the Barrier Reef." he said.

Just what the reaction of Queensland Cement and Lime will be to the ban is not yet clear. Unionists say it is certain to have been one of shock and surprise. QCL are expected to announce plans to proceed with the project and raise legal objections to the ban - but it's hard to see how they can extend their operation to the caves without electricity. Unionists predict that any attempt by the electricity board to take action against workers refusing to work on the site would inevitably result in widespread blackouts and industrial chaos in the area. But in any case the government's growing local unpopularity over its volte face on the national park question is likely to inhibit it from becoming directly involved in the dispute.

The company's attitude hinges on the fate of an application to the Gladstone mining warden's court by Darra Explorations, a wholly owned subsidiary of QLC, to mine at Mount Larcon, about 96 km south of Rockhampton. This area is seen by many as an alternative source of limestone to the Mount Etna deposits, and is reported to involve fewer environmentally disastrous consequences. Most significantly, it is not a bat breeding area. Darra Exploration's application makes nonsense of Mr. Camm's justification of his granting of the lease on Mount Etna on the grounds that no alternative source of limestone was available.

The Queensland government's decision of Mount Etna is just another in a series of anti-conservation decisions. It was made in the face of reams of environmental evidence presented to the government by conservationists over a number of years. The government itself has made no attempt at all to survey the area, either ecologically or recreationally. Government policy statements refer vaguely and meaninglessly to a "balance" between development and conservation. Its idea of "balance" seems to be what you need when you are bending over backwards to give the mining companies all they want of Queensland's natural resources.

The continuing sand mining by Murphy ores and Dillingham Mining Co. on Fraser Island is yet another example of Queensland government tolerance of environmental destruction. The Transport Workers Union has recently placed a ban on three bulldozers due to be moved to Fraser Island to work in the sand mining operations. The TWU is the union that distinguished itself a couple of weeks ago by announcing that in the event of a natural disaster occurring in Queensland, it would co-operate unconditionally with the Federal government Natural Disasters Organisation, and ignore instructions from the Bjelke-Peterson government if there was any conflict. Just warning.

Even if QCL do decide to shift their developments to Mount Larcon, it will not be the Queensland government to whom the bats will owe their thanks.

Reprinted with acknowledgements to the "Nation Review".

### THE AVAILABILITY OF CEGSA MAPS

One of the Prime Objectives of CEGSA is to foster speleology. However, this sometimes conflicts with the further objective of protection of caves from damage and the ethical question of release of information about a person's private property.

Therefore, the availability of CEGSA maps is not as open as it would be in the "Ideal" Society. Anyone can ask the Group for any of its maps; whether or not they get one depends on both their "status" and the cave's.

In general the following criteria are used:

- (a) Full members of CEGSA  
All maps available for temporary loan or permanent hire.
- (b) Associate members of CEGSA  
All except "classified" cave maps (at present, none) available for temporary loan.
- (c) Persons or institutions of known integrity  
As for Full members except for "classified" maps.
- (d) Unknown Persons or institutions  
Generally available for loan only but always at the discretion of the Committee.
- (e) Draftsmen (whether CEGSA or not) of cave map amendments  
Temporary loan of any original for updating.

However, any person found guilty of unauthorized redistribution or copying of maps loses all rights of access to maps until the Committee deems otherwise. Also, the Committee has the right to restrict access to any map, in general, or from any specific person, but this is subject to appeal at a General Meeting.

Maps on temporary loan **MUST NOT BE FOLDED** and shall not be taken down caves. The cost of replacement as well as return of the damaged map is imposed for any undue wear and tear (or dirty, grubby finger marks!). Standard loan interval is 2 months.

Maps can be permanently hired (note that the map is still Group property) for a nominal replacement fee of 20 cents. At the discretion of the Committee, Associate members may hire maps.

For information on CEGSA maps please contact:

G: Pilkington,  
Records Officer

## MAPPING POLICY AND SHEET NUMBERING

The fundamental concept behind all CEGSA's new maps is that a map represents the plan view of an area of land, not, as previously, a cave. For South Australia with its predominantly horizontal caves this is the most useful concept. With this idea in mind, the following map types are proposed:

- (a) Cave plan, with sections if possible.
- (b) Cave sections, only used as an appendix to (a) if found necessary or preferable.
- (c) Multi-layer plans, each distinct cave level having its own plan set.
- (d) Surface plan, surface details only but can include entrances and land contours.
- (e) Silhouette or outline plans.
- (f) Miscellaneous.

Now, since the usefulness of each type depends on the reason for drafting the map, the scale used is type dependant. In general, the following should be adhered to:

- (i) Micro 1:100 (X-Y) for very detailed mapping of cave features (e.g. bone deposits or enlargements of complicated passage areas).
- (ii) Detailed 1:250 (X/Y) for all general cave mapping.
- (iii) Coarse 1:500 (X/Y) for publication and Nullarbor-style caves.
- (iv) Kilometre 1:2500 (XkY) for types (d), (e).
- (v) Area 1:25,000 (XaY) for types (d), (e).
- (vi) Zone 1:250,000 (XzY) for zonal maps.
- (vii) State 1:5,000,000.

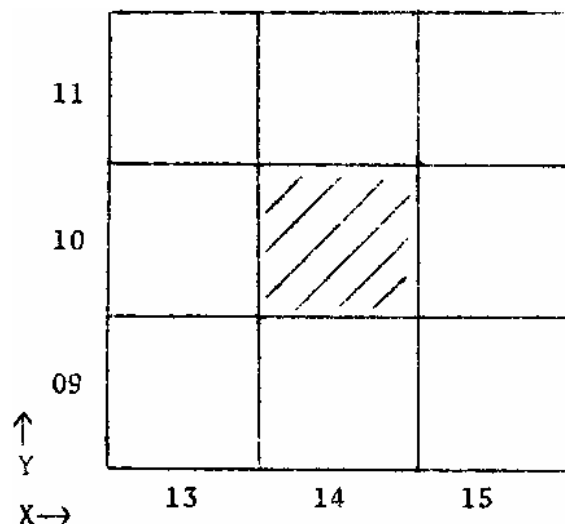
The (X,Y) reference will be discussed shortly. Before the introduction of a standard size mapping sheet (A2 = 420 x 594 mm) cave maps were drawn on literally whatever was available to the draftsman. Large caves, large sheets and visa versa. In this way the problems of multiple sheet maps was largely avoided. When multi-sheet maps became necessary (simply because someone could not easily obtain sheets wider than 1m), the sheets were either numbered sequentially (Punyelroo, M1), lettered (Sand, U16) or left to the user (Kelly Hill, K1). This was barely satisfactory and only then because each sheet reached up to one square metre in area.

Our present sheets have a useful mapping area of 0.16 square metres. Hence, Sand Cave (5 sheets of the old map) will require up to 30 A2 sheets. Clearly, alphabetical sequentialing is out unless we use double letters. Numbering sequentially is possible but needs a directory like a street map.

To overcome this problem, a self-directing label is to be used for each sheet. That is, one which tells you which sheets are adjacent. There are various simple solutions from pure alpha to mixed alpha-numero to pure numero.

For reasons of continuity between individual cave maps (especially at Naracoorte) a pure numero has been chosen, consisting of a pair of double numbers X,Y.

To explain how this works I refer to the accompanying diagram. Illustrated is a nine sheet map. Since the scale is unknown we refer to the central map as 14,10. Let us say that the scale is 1:250, then the central sheet is 14/10. For other separators between X and Y, see the earlier list (i) to (vii).



All A2 CEGSA maps have true north vertically up the sheet.

To enhance the usefulness of this system, the X,Y refers to the SW corner of the sheet. In this way, 14//10 includes the four sheet areas 14/10, 14/11, 15/10 and 15/11.

The simplicity and perfection of references to a point on a sheet is best explained by noting the following. Our A2 sheets have a square mapping area of 400 mm sides which does not overlap onto the adjacent sheets. Now our primary mapping scale is 1:250, therefore, one sheet covers a land area of 100 m by 100 m.

References to a point in a cave are as precise as you wish. All that you have to do is change the integer X,Y to read X.,Y.. For those not conversant with the terminology I will give some examples. Reference 15./10. means the area covered by sheet 15/10. Reference 14.7/10.2 means the 10 m square with SW corner 70 m from X = 14 and 20 m from Y = 10 on sheet 14/10. Similarly 14.70/10.21 refers to a 1 m square. Please note that the NE corner of 14.99/10.99 is 15.00/11.00 - the SW corner of sheet 15/11.

A reference 14.99//10.99 means the same as 14.99/10.99 but suggests you use the 1:500 scale map. If you wish to inform someone of a peculiar sand grain then you could give its location - say 14.70115/10.21111 to the nearest mm!

The real advantage of this new system is that adjacent caves are given the same map number (an "area" map by A.S.F. terminology) and the exact relationship is automatically given on the detailed sheets without having to draw another map at reduced scale, EVEN WHEN the caves are a kilometre apart or more (providing an accurate surface survey was done). Note that the double figures at 1:250 means that a map set covers a land area of 10 km side and corresponds to one Area map on one A2 sheet at 1:25,000.

The items and ideas mentioned in this article should become clearer after the new A2 maps are in general use.

G. Pilkington,  
Records Officer.

## AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION CODE OF ETHICS

The Federation expects that the following rules will guide the actions of members of A.S.F. Societies.

1. (1) They will in reporting their work, avoid and discourage sensationalism, exaggeration and unwarranted statements.
- (2) They will in publishing their work take particular care to acknowledge other peoples' contributions to the work involved; either as clubs or individuals, published work, personal communication or whatever.
- (3) They will be discrete in disseminating information that might endanger caves. In particular they should not broadcast their knowledge of entrance locations or routes.
2. (1) They will treat guides and other officials of tourist caves courteously and respectfully.
- (2) They will endeavour to be courteous to the general public, but will defend caves from the attentions of the uninstructed where this is deemed necessary for the protection of the cave.
3. (1) They will carefully observe the established rules of good camping conduct especially in the removal and proper disposal of rubbish.
- (2) They will bury their faeces when camping in bush conditions, but should avoid the catchment areas of caves.
4. (1) They will have specific or tacit approval from the owner or guardian before entering private property or caves reserves.
- (2) They will follow normal local practice regarding gates on properties or reserves.
- (3) They will not, except in cases of emergency, presume on the goodwill of owners in dry areas for supplies of water. Prior arrangements must be made.
- (4) They will take care to avoid interference with stocks or crops.
- (5) They will, where a cave entrance has been blocked by the owner to prevent injury to livestock, re-block the entrance after use and liaise with the owner to erect some fence or other less offensive means to protect the integrity of the entrance.
5. (1) They will not leave rubbish in caves; their own or other peoples! Spent carbide, flashbulbs, wrappings, and other refuse must be brought out of the cave.
- (2) They will not disfigure caves by any unnecessary markings. Survey marks should be small and inconspicuous.
- (3) They will take care to avoid disfiguration or destruction of cave decoration or any other natural features of the cave. Disturbance should be confined to tracks. In areas of clean flowstone floor, muddy clothing or boots must be removed and only clean clothing worn. Tracks should be rigidly adhered to. Helmets should not be worn in the vicinity of stalactite clusters.

A.S.F. CODE OF ETHICS (continued)

5. (4) They will not under any circumstances leave faeces in caves, they will prepare themselves beforehand or, when underground, make provision for the removal of faeces.
- (5) They will take stringent precautions to isolate all artificially introduced organic wastes from the cave.
6. (1) They will, when visiting an area frequently visited by another club, do all in their power to co-operate with that club.
- (2) They will conduct disputes in a restrained and gentlemanly manner.
7. (1) They will behave responsibly in environmental matters.
- (2) They will endeavour to protect the caves of Australia.

CEGSA SLIDES

Our present collection of photographic slides for sale, consists of two sets of three slides each. One set shows highlights of the Naracoorte Tourist Caves, and the other set is of views of the fossil deposits in the Victoria Fossil Cave (taken in 1971).

This limited selection is well below present tourist demand, but was as much as the Group could afford to produce at the time. However, despite the limited selection, sufficient capital has been raised by slide sales to enable a much wider range of slides to be produced. I suggest sets of varying number be made up from the following aspects:

- (i) General views of the Naracoorte Tourist Caves
- (ii) The Fossil Chamber, Victoria Fossil Cave
- (iii) Scenes from other caves in the general Reserve area
- (iv) Unusual Speleothems
- (v) Speleological interest.
- (vi) Cave Entrances
- (vii) Cavers in action

With each set should go a brief description of the scenes, which could be printed on the folder or envelope containing the slides. Sets should be slightly discounted, but single slides should carry the full price.

Comments are invited, together with the submission of suitable slides.

G. Pilkington.

### FORMATION OF AN EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

I propose that an Education sub-committee be formed by the Group (persons to be elected as necessary, not annually) to run the Slide Account and to create, update and improve means of educating the public about speleological matters (as well as raising the necessary revenue).

The sub-committee should take over the annual photographic slide competition, selecting suitable slides for use in the future by the Slide Account. At the start I suggest that the sub-committee is composed of photographers, writers and the Treasurer; but not more than five in number. Anyone with comments, suggestions or slides please contact the Committee. The sub-committee should be open to Associate Members as well as Members. People interested in talking about caves or just generally showing-off please apply.

G. Pilkington.

### S. & R.

S & R in South Australia has suffered from a severe lack of interest in the last 18 months or so. This has necessitated a reappraisal of what is needed in an S & R Team in this State.

The caving conditions here are less severe than in other parts of Australia. Most of the caving in this State has been described as 'bush walking on your navel', but even allowing for this any accident underground can become quite a complicated operation in getting the injured person to the surface.

At the May general meeting the discussion on this subject brought out the following points:

1. CEGSA was not big enough to run a rescue team on its own.

The legal responsibility for any rescues in this state lies with the S.A. Police Emergency Operations Group. In the event of a major rescue operation, the Police will have to take charge and CEGSA would have to provide guides and 'expert' advice, assistance etc. to the Police. To this end the present call out list that the Police have will be withdrawn, it's out of date anyway, and replaced with a list of 10-12 trip leaders or experienced members who can act as advisers to the Police in the event of an emergency.

2. The initial responsibility in the event of an accident is going to fall on the trip leader. He will have to assess the situation and try to get an idea of the injuries, if any. Obviously then all trip leaders must have some knowledge of first aid and rescue procedure. If the situation is such that help is required from Adelaide, the trip leader must be able to handle the situation for anything up to about 8 hours. This is the time it is estimated it will take for help to arrive in the Naracoorte area from Adelaide.

3. There are only 3 or 4 caves in the State which could be classified as 'severe' caves. They are all vertical caves and are quite unlike the normal Naracoorte caves most of us are used to.

With this in mind, the most likely form of accident in South Australia is somebody getting trapped in a squeeze or being buried in a dig. Not very likely I must admit, but we have had people buried because they were digging a choke from below and in one case digging up a sand pile.

These problems can be largely overcome by proper training. To this end the field days at Reynella have become more frequent and I would urge everyone to come along to the next couple, if only to brush up on the things they already know.

There is going to be a training session on one of the Naracoorte trips towards the end of the year and all people aspiring to be trip leaders should come along. It won't take up the whole weekend but the rescue stretcher will be demonstrated together with basic patient handling. The only real way to avoid accidents is to cave safely with the proper equipment. That means boots NOT sandshoes. Ladder technique should be mastered above ground as should belaying and tying your own lifeline. There are still some people in the group who can't tie a bowline.

The basic message I am trying to put over is one of prevention. Not rescue training but training to be efficient and competent cavers, able to look after yourselves underground.

B. Dunn

P.S. See the trip list for the next field day or contact I. Lewis.

.. .. .

*Careless dope*  
*Frayed rope*

*Don't mock*  
*Falling rock*

Light beyond repair?  
don't despair  
Use your spare,  
Spare forgotten?  
You clotten!

*Surprised trog*  
*Demised trog*

*No hat*  
*Splat!*

These are your Editor's first attempts at composing Clerihews (well try using your dictionary then). If there is any bright Herbert who thinks he can do better, I'll publish them.

## TRIP REPORTS

GRAN GRAN CORNER, LOWER SOUTH EAST: 12th APRIL, 1975

*During Easter 1975 (see the last Newsletter), Kevin Mott mapped a chamber at the end of a small crawl in the south eastern end of Gran Gran Cave. Unfortunately, in his hurry to pay a visit to nature, Kevin failed to see an opening on the other side of the chamber. To our amazement when this was mapped and tied into Quarry Cave it was found that this chamber corresponded exactly with an unexplored chamber at the North Eastern end of Quarry Cave.*

*Some locals in the area have for years claimed that a connection existed and for three years Kevin Mott had searched for it.*

*Now that you know some of the history, you will understand why John Davidson and I left Adelaide (Thursday 11th) in an attempt to find this connection. That night was spent partly in the Millicent Pub and partly trying to find a quiet road where we could sleep the night. We finally found a "quiet road" about 2 miles from Gran Gran corner (only 67 cars used it that night) and hence we arrived at the caves bright and early.*

*The biggest problem was deciding which cave to enter firsts bearing in mind that we might have to retrace our steps. Quarry Cave has a long narrow extremely muddy passage with two difficult squeezes, while Gran Gran Cave has only a short difficult section but requires wading through knee deep mud and waist deep water. We opted for the former.*

*As I'm a very modest person I won't go into details about our bravery, undying devotion to the task in hand, freezing water, sticky deep mud, tight squeezes and our deep desire to humiliate Kev.*

*Even with the odds against us and Mott's curses ringing in our ears we did manage to discover this connection, and were able to enter Quarry Cave and emerge victorious from Gran Gran Cave.*

*So there Mott; Eat your heart out.*

*Jim Cundy.*

\*\*\*\*\*

DOWN UNDER IN YANKEE LAND: 7th-8th JUNE, 1975

*After what seemed an eternity of 'atrogia' (being a trog without a cave) I accidentally learned of a keen caver, Brian Pease, who works in the same place I do. It turned out that the Northeastern Regional Organisation of the National Speleo. Society, was holding its Spring Meeting the very next weekend in Greene County, New York State. Although our tents and caving gear were still rotting in Melbourne on their incredibly slow sea voyage over, the Gartrell family decided to go anyway and camp in the back of the car. We drove the 150 miles approximately to Greene County (the nearest limestone of significance to New London) in a little over 3 hours along some broad turnpikes (toll charge about \$1 per 50-80 miles) with maximum allowed speed of 55 mph. and arrived at the private campground at midday to see a sea of tents and cars under planted pine trees - shades of Naracoorte - and cavers sitting around a small campfire. Unlike S.A. they were finishing lunch, not breakfast and had already been caving that morning! (not all S.A. surely? Ed).*

TRIP REPORTS (continued)

*The then Chairman of the N.R.O. (he got off the hook at elections that night) and his wife, John and Joan Mylroie, gave us the warm welcome of long lost brothers. Before I knew it, Leslie was looking after the children as usual, and I was dressed in two pairs of John's old dungarees, several shirts, a sweater and a helmet with carbide lamp - the "complete spelunker". Joan equipped herself with wetsuit, which didn't cheer me up greatly, but before I had time to contract the 'flu', or measles or anything, I found myself in a car on my way to the longest cave in Greene County - "Jack Packers Cauterskill Cave". This proved to be a sporting little cave, consisting of 1,100 feet of low crawlways (you could stand occasionally). Almost horizontal, the caves' greatest attraction is a second entrance, eliminating the need to do it all twice. When I emerged, the sweater was full of wet mud and had stretched from my waist to well below my knees! Fortunately, no one had a camera and fortunate too that the cave wasn't any longer, crawling was becoming difficult. (A few more trips Grant, and you will possess the only example, in the Northern Hemisphere anyway, of the personal, ready to wear, hand knitted, muddy woollen, portable cave. Ed.).*

*Most of the party had heard that Australian caves were good (some possessed copies of CEGSA's opus on Mullamullang) and were surprised that I would still speak to them. If only they knew! Apparently Albany County some 50 miles away has caves of larger dimensions including a couple of tourist caves. The caves of West Virginia are about 450-500 miles away and could shatter the delicate minds of South Australians - but because of distance we won't be making many trips there.*

*The NRO business meeting on the Saturday night was a familiar scene, with the same problems we have (our worst problem has disappeared for a whole year! Ed.). It was all I could do to keep my mouth shut, but you'll be proud of me, 'cos I did it. (I withdraw my previous remark. Ed.). Just as they warmed the banjos up for the camp fire at night, down came the rain! A pity, 'cos those banjos sounded pretty good.*

*Caving here is definitely a late spring to fall activity - winter sees everything blanketed in snow) and very cold. In Albany County a month ago, a lad was killed as he entered a cave by a large block of ice falling - presumably it let go in the thawing process. Ice also works at freezing -expanding and shattering rock surfaces. One obviously must be on the lookout for a whole new set of dangers most unlikely to be encountered in S.A.*

*In conclusion - heard from the tightest squeeze in Jack Packer's:*

*C.C.*

*Q: What's 36 ft long, got six wheels and looks glorious in flight?*

*A: A busload of N.R.O. members going over a cliff! It even raised a laugh or two and I was still allowed out of the cave, so they can't be too bad. (I withdraw my previous withdrawal. Ed.).*

*Grant Gartrell.*

TRIP REPORTS (continued)(5Y1) CORRA-LYNN: 7th-8th JUNE, 1975

June trips to Corra-Lynn are typically sparse in numbers due to the expected cold, windy, weather. The few brave souls who turned up (including Michael Lake) enjoyed the warm, still, dry sunshine. I even got a tan. Sorry, I take that back, Ann says it's dirt.

From the above, it is obvious that as the sun got up we did not get down, but eventually we did some useful surveying. The survey is now complete for the south and central parts of Skeleton Maze. This involved a team near City Cross - Hawaiian Tub Hill and another in the Cauldron-Taylor's Tomb lower passages.

By Sunday we had become even more sparse in numbers (3 instead of 5 active cavers) and involved ourselves in a continuation of a late Saturday survey of the upper passages in the Big Stalactite to RDF 6 area. The previous work did not fit together very well being too much of a rush job. There are STILL several long weekends surveying to do in 5Y1 before the known cave is finally mapped. Best we get this done prior to starting new work. Any volunteers?

G. Pilkington.

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FLINDERS RANGES: JUNE 14th-16th, 1975

Present: A. Wilson (L), J. McCann, D. Peisley, G. Douglas.

After a late start Friday night, Georgina and I made it to our rendezvous, the Orroroo Hotel, a couple of hours late. Half frozen we walked in to find Joy and Dot sitting comfortably in front of a blazing log fire, being entertained by some of the town's male inhabitants. We spent that night in the pub, rather than accept an offer of quarters in the mining camp.

Saturday morning we drove on to Bagalowie Station where we received a very warm welcome and half a gallon of fresh milk. Driving down Buckalowie Creek wasn't nearly so easy! The bottom of the creek bed was far too friendly and we had to manually extract ourselves, twice, from its confines!

The padlock and gate on Mairs Cave (F3) are still in good condition. No water was visible to the eye, although the rocks at the bottom of the shaft looked wet and there was an apparent water mark a few feet up.

We spent the rest of the day in Clara St. Dora (F4). The mud at the bottom of the wooden ladder is very squelchy, sticky and wet, as Joy found out when she went for a cropper! There is some beautiful cave coral through the un-gated "honeycomb" section and unfortunately the receding water has left some of the formation dirty.

A couple of very small sumps were found but were too small to investigate. The top of the water was thick with calcite flakes, and tasted brackish, but wasn't very cold.

TRIP REPORTS (continued)

*Beyond the gate the area is fairly dry until the second to last chamber. Two shallow lakes are left, and these must be crossed in order to reach the end of the cave.*

*Seeing no reason for the water to be wasted and the wall on the far side to remain unexplored, we accepted the challenge - minus our trog suits.*

*Sunday was a most eventful day. We made our way to Woodendinna Cave (F11) (Lake Cave), Narrina. We made it after one car stopped in the middle of a deep creek and started to lopsidedly sink, and the other became temperamental after too much to drink. We got the car out of the creek, opened the doors and whoosh! started our own waterfall.*

*The cave itself was also in a very wet state. Dry caving was possible for fifteen feet within the entrance. The water was at least fifteen feet deep and crystal clear. We crawled under the wall to the left of the entrance and entered the chamber. Consequently, since there was no dry caving available there was only one way to go - wet! The chamber has since been named "Cherubs Chamber"! There is no need to describe the activities that followed except to say that it's a pleasant change to pass over the top of a formation column and to be able to float through a crawl.*

*Monday was spent trying to locate Backwater (F12), and Eyrie (F15) Caves. Unfortunately both searches were unsuccessful due to scanty information, but the beauty of the Ranges was worth the walk. There seems a possibility of Eyrie Cave (F15) having been demolished by mining activities in the area. Let us hope this is not so, for there is so much limestone there must be more caves.*

*Many, many more trips are needed in the Flinders - there is so much potential and a lot of out of date information.*

*My thanks to all who came, for making it a most enjoyable and memorable (!!!?!) trip.*

*Anne Wilson.*

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAProgramme for August to October, 1975AUGUST

|                                                                                                        |                                                  |                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 3rd                                                                                             | Graham Pilkington<br>66 Eyre Cres, Valley View   | *Ladder making                                                                         |
| Wednesday 13th                                                                                         | Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.                      | 23 Dorset Street, Brahma Lodge                                                         |
| 16th -17th                                                                                             | Naracoorte (L) D. Peisley                        | Photographic trip                                                                      |
| Wednesday 27th                                                                                         | General Meeting 8.00 p.m.<br>Museum Lecture Room | Kevin Moriarty and his<br>Merry Men will describe some of<br>their work at Naracoorte. |
| 30th -31st                                                                                             | Naracoorte (L) I. Lewis                          | Surveying in Victoria Fossil Cave                                                      |
| During Augusta Rod Wells will be running a two weeks palaeontology dig in the<br>Victoria Fossil Cave. |                                                  |                                                                                        |

SEPTEMBER

|                |                                                                                             |                                                  |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 7th     | Fred Sanders Chain Works, Crippen Lane<br>(off Bindley Street, near Morphett Street Bridge) | *Ladder making                                   |
| Wednesday 10th | Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.                                                                 | 7 Parish Hill Road, Uraidla                      |
| Sunday 14th    | Field Day, Reynella                                                                         | Belaying practice; Bring your BBQ                |
| Wednesday 24th | General Meeting 8.00 p.m.<br>Museum Lecture Room                                            | Dr. Michael Bull<br>Dynamics of Cave Ecosystems. |
| 27th -28th     | Corra-Lynn (L) G. Pilkington                                                                | Surveying                                        |

OCTOBER

|                              |                                                                                   |                                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 5th                   | Fred's place, see above                                                           | *Ladder making                                     |
| Wednesday 8th                | Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.                                                       | 12 McLachlan Avenue, Glenelg<br>North              |
| 11th -13th<br>(long weekend) | Eyre Peninsula or Glenelg River<br>(L) I. Lewis<br>Flinders Ranges (L) D. Peisley | Exploration<br>Exploration                         |
| Wednesday 22nd               | General Meeting 8.00 p.m.<br>Museum Lecture Room                                  | Dr. Graham Pretty<br>Ethnics of the Pacific Region |

\* Note: If you want the ladder you have ordered, come and help to make it!

TRIP CONTACT LIST

|                   |                                       |                                      |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ian Lewis         | 12 McLachlan Ave, Glenelg North, 5045 | (W) 87 6212 (H) 295 6582             |
| Graham Pilkington | 66 Eyre Cres, Valley View, 5093       | (W) 223 0461 ext 136<br>(H) 264 2598 |
| Dot Peisley       | 23 Dorset Street, Brahma Lodge, 5109  | (W) 262 2521                         |

SEARCH AND RESCUE

|                                                                             |                          |                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Max Meth<br>12 Cleve St,<br>Mansfield Park, 5012<br>(W) 87 7499 (H) 45 6744 | Ian Lewis,<br>(as above) | Bernie Dunn,<br>4 Parsons Road,<br>Reynella, 5161<br>(W) 382-2722 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|