



NEWSLETTER

Cave Exploration Group

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STREAKED FLOWSTONE, STRAWHAVEN
VICTORIA FOSSIL CAVE, NARACOORTE, S.A.

C . E . G . S . A . N E W S L E T T E R

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EDITORIAL

With the advent of cold, wet wintery weather, one expects caving activities to diminish somewhat, although I have always maintained that any sort of weather is good caving weather. However, since the last Newsletter came out, there has been an almost frenzied burst of activity by the Group, both inside and outside actual caves. The inside activities I'll leave for Trip Leaders to report on and concentrate on giving news and views of outside activities. Being an awkward sort of bloke, I'll be different and deal with the various items in almost chronological order.

Firstly, let me apologise to Dot for omitting her name from the list of Committee Members for 1976-77 appearing in the last Newsletter. To complete this list, please add the following:- "Dot Peisley, Membership Officer."

The last Newsletter also contained a notice of motion from the Committee regarding an increase in Membership Fees. Unfortunately, the notice did not include details of when and where the motion would be put to the members. To avoid confusion, this notice has been repeated in this Newsletter and this time includes the missing details and other amendments.

And now for something completely different. If you've been observant, you will have noticed something different about this Newsletter. The reason is, the Group almost bankrupted itself by purchasing an I.B.M. Electric Typewriter. Apart from the clear type, the most noticeable improvement is in the quality of stencils, which in turn means better printing and thus a more legible Newsletter. This will be of benefit to all members, but chiefly to those who started their caving activities before they became proficient in reading! That exclamation-mark reminds me that, although our new (second hand) typewriter is a modern machine, it is like our old one in that it does not possess an exclamation-mark key. This will be of absolutely no comfort for the poor typist faced with the task of typing a report by that inveterate scribbler Ian, seven exclamation marks per line Lewis!

To help the Group back to solvency after the aforementioned typewriter purchase, the Committee decided to organise a fundraising evening. Because time was short, it was not possible to contact all members, but even so, over forty turned up at Pat and Tony Lake's place on Saturday, 5th June, 1976. Pat and Tony had kindly offered to throw open their house for the occasion and thanks go to them for being so accommodating, even to the extent of tolerating slumbering bodies scattered around the house for the remainder of the week-end. Great piles of useless junk, even empty cardboard boxes were auctioned off to junk starved bidders. The outcome of this and other nefarious activities was a very creditable \$460.00.

Last April, Rod Wells, Graham Pilkington and myself, gave four lectures to teachers at the Wattle Park Teachers Centre on aspects of Speleology, ranging from elementary Geology to caving techniques. The success of these talks may be gauged from the fact that several teachers have since become enthusiastic cavers. The lecture notes are being prepared for duplication, so that those attending, and for that matter, any interested group member, can receive a copy.

Word has been received from the National Parks and Wildlife Service that the second part of the grant from the Federal Government has been received. This totals \$87,500.00 and is earmarked for providing the audio visual displays in the Interpretation Centre and for improvements to the Victoria Fossil Cave, which includes new lighting, pathways and a separate exit. The Interpretation Centre building was funded earlier and tendering action is now in progress. So, despite the change of government last December, the scheme has been accepted in its entirety, much to everyone's surprise. The provision of this facility will be a big asset to Naracoorte and to the Caves Reserve in particular, both from the tourist and educational viewpoints. My only fear is that the greater influx of visitors, for whatever reason, may be too great for the existing reserve. I would hate to see the area degenerate into one large car park - camping area - picnic ground. It may well be that in a few years time, the N.P.W.S. will need to increase the size of the reserve in order to prevent just such a calamity happening. Or, alternatively, to fence off the true reserve from the area set aside for the more commercial activities, so that those who wish to can explore the reserve on foot via a nature trail.

For several years now, it has been the practice every 12 months for the more extroverted and socially active members of CEGSA to gravitate towards Naracoorte. This gravitation takes place about the end of June and coincides with a similar movement by the VSA from the direction of Melbourne. In fact these get-togethers, being so well established, could now be termed "the annual rapport". This year, instead of the dinner being held in the Naracoorte Hotel, it was held in the Old Mill Museum, on Saturday 26th June, 1976. The changed venue allowed a more informal atmosphere to prevail, and little encouragement was needed to get everyone into the "party spirit". The numbers present were pretty evenly matched, 29 from VSA and 28 from CEGSA. There were the usual chair squeezes attempted with varying degrees of success, but the highlight was an overall stuffing contest. The aim was to stuff cavers into a pair of overalls, not the other way round! An enlarged (slightly!) pair of overalls was produced by CEGSA, and with some "polite" encouragement from the "home team" several VSA bodies were stuffed unceremoniously into the depths of the overalls. At overall bursting point, the bodies were dragged out and counted, the total was eleven. It was then CEGSA's turn. Somehow, Peter Robertson got sucked into the overalls by the rush of CEGSA bodies. Despite this, CEGSA bodies proved to have a better packing fraction, the count being CEGSA bodies 12, VSA, 1 (still breathing!) total 13.

Judging by the amount of electronic flashes seen, the contest was well recorded, and who knows, one day it may be featured on the front of the Newsletter! The overalls should now be surveyed and mapped to CRG Grade 6 and be given a 'U' number. They are now so well trogged that I suggest a grant be obtained from the National Estate to fund the gating of the numerous entrances/exits before this unique structure is completely vandalised. Some trog stuffing was also attempted in rather a desultory fashion over the week-end down less well known cavities, such as the Vic, Blackberry, Fox and Sand Caves.

Ed. Bailey

TRIP REPORT - FLINDERS - June Long Weekend 12th - 14th.

PRESENT: John Young, Rosemarie Haydens, Dale Hare, Craig Lindley, Malcolm Fitch, Dot Peisley (L) and various visitors.

After putting a new rubber band and other sundries in the 'bomb' I eventually turned up, almost a day late, to find a sea of tents and cars in Buckalowie Creek. The Manager of Bagalowie Homestead had apparently gone away for the weekend but kindly left the keys and Ian's group had taken good advantage of this to explore both Mairs and Clara St. Dora. A spot of abseiling was also tried down the small shaft of 'Clara'.

Most were reluctant to go to bed with yarns and jokes being shared around three campfires well into the night. Next morning we awoke to find a coating of frost over everything and the Mott thermometer registering -1°C!! In spite of the cold, people were up and moving well before 8 a.m. and Ian's group had all disappeared before 9 a.m.

After studying the map 1:50,000 Holowilena, the locations of the caves being marked on it, we made our way to Arcoota Creek first. The track proved to be much better than expected and the caves were found after walking over the hills. The entrance to F5 is a mine adit and sitting 'majestically' decorating the entrance are the mummified remains of a kangaroo.

The cave itself is a maze of small passages seemingly going in every direction. It is very dry with dusty floors and the passages are approximately 2 - 3 ft high on average. No water or 'live' decoration was found though old and damaged pieces were much in evidence. Some of the 'vague' or 'undetermined' passages drawn on the map were joined without too much difficulty and again a further survey needs to be done.

A small opening on the opposite hill proved to be nothing more than that.

Next we drove to Mount Sims (F7), located easily and had a short wander through, examining the very robust gate at the same time. A 'howling gale' was coming out of the gated section. We then went to the end of the track towards the Good Friday Caves. After tugging up we bushwalked along the creek bed, around the hills and up along the rise. With about a dozen of us scouring the hills and gullies we were unable to locate the caves and lack of daylight regrettably forced abandonment.

On the drive back my clockwork car played up with its beautiful b***** muffler falling off. Not to be outdone we came across a 'semi' broken down with its' starter motor axle gone. As the homestead was deserted a brand new Range Rover driver volunteered to tow him. In doing so he was nearly driven over by the semi once he got it going.

The rains started and seemed as if it was setting in though it didn't dampen our spirits any - anyhow at least it wasn't so cold! Guess who got a boot full of water by not shutting the boot lid properly? How about a wet trog suit decorated with cornflakes?

Next day after packing up fairly early we stopped further up Buckalowie Creek to visit F27 and F28. Both are little more than shafts with small (tiny even) chambers at the bottom and not very good prospects for digging.

After earlier obtaining directions to Orroroo Cave from Ian we found it quite easily about 3 miles out from the town past the hospital. The entrance had to be unblocked with a large metal trough barring access. It was an interesting little cave with a narrow, awkward entrance and a pitch of 9 metres to a chamber below. Several small offshoots led off but did not appear to 'go' and no breezes were detected anywhere. It was very humid and warm.

Back on top and re-blocking the entrance for the farmer our little band quickly packed up and disappeared in the direction of Adelaide after a busy and enjoyable time.

Dot Peisley

TRIP REPORT - BAKARA WELL CAVE - 21st February, 1976

PRESENT: K. Mott, P. Stace, Robyn Allum, J. DeGraaf, J. Young, R. Hayden,
R. Van der Berg, I. Lewis, D. Arnott.

With most cavers being somewhat masochistic and one character being sadistic as well, it was decided to spend a day at Bakara Well Cave.

After much grumbling about early starts, four of us climbed into Peter's car and headed off at approx, 10 o'clock to meet John and Co, at Nildottie. We eventually arrived at the cave in time for lunch only to hear John complaining that he doesn't like driving along roads, so it was a little dusty. John, Bob and Rose set out to map Bakara Well Cave while the rest attempted to navigate a car through a rock field in an effort to locate the other caves in the area. These are tied in to a windmill and a convenient spot in the nearby scrub. By using triangulation and interpretation from aerial photos quite accurate location plans can be compiled. During this surface survey a new cave was discovered between Bakara Well Cave and the windmill.

Ian and Dale rolled up when we were checking to see how John was progressing with his survey. As he had only explored the cave everyone spread throughout the cave dragging tapes and compasses with them. Rarely has a survey ever needed a traffic policeman to sort out tangled bodies and tapes. Unfortunately during the survey Peter's T-shirt buried itself beneath half a tonne of rock.

While most of the party were in a small chamber I had the misfortune to place myself in the entrance whilst wearing a trog suit reeking of dead fish. It seems dead fish odour and a hot, dusty cave tends to bring out the worst in a caver. T'was the closest thing to a full scale mutiny I've ever seen.

On the way home Peter had a disagreement with two sheep as to who had right of way, much to the demise of one of them.

K. R. MOTT

TRIP REPORT - EASTER TRIP TO FLINDERS RANGERS.

April 16th - 19th.

PRESENT: Dot Peisley (L), John Young, Rosemarie Haydens, Len Dallow, Craig Lindley, Dale Hare, Rose Josephs, Ron and Malcolm Fitch.

THURSDAY: Set up camp in Parachilna Gorge.

FRIDAY: Because of the late arrival of some of the party we had just a quick trip to Narrina (F18). Location was made easily and with a good supply of towels and lilos we climbed the hill. The two locks were very stiff and we had to resort to the RP.7 to loosen them up. The gate was also very stiff and underneath we admired two very pretty geckos.

We roped ourselves in through the entrance and assembled the gear. We then made our way down to the water and those of us with better lung power blew up the lilos. A quick strip down to bathers, underwear in some cases and tested the water. It was cool but not quite 'brass monkey' as some wit put it. Those with lilos paddled out and began exploring. We were able to get through to only three chambers even though the water level has dropped approx. 4 ft (just over a metre). After a lovely swim, splash, paddle we made our way back to the bank. After drying and dressing an exploration was made of the dry sections.

The cave has some beautiful examples of phreatic action and pools of cave pearls, now dry. The decoration in the upper parts of the caves are 'coraline' covered stalactites, hard and knobbly.

We left the little geckos, closed the lids, locked up and made our way back to camp. It must be noted that the station manager plans to sink a bore through Narrina Cave and pump the water out. This will give greater access to parts of the cave reached only by diving at the present time.

SATURDAY: With very little to go on in the way of direction our little band set out early to visit Bunyeroo Cave (F13). From the Brachina Gorge Rd. (approx. 5.8 miles) take the track leading to the old homestead (0.5 miles) and over the creek. At 2.8 miles from the old H.S. is a gate, through the gate, and another creek crossing. 3.8 miles from the old H. S. track veers to right of a dam and continues to the left through two gates past two tanks. Approx. 2.7 miles from the old Brachina H.S. the track ends in a creek bed. Care must be taken when following this track as some of the creek beds are washed away at the banks and in parts the track disappeared altogether and scouting parties were sent out to relocate it. Park in the creek bed and the cave is just a few hundred metres in through the Gorge past a tank and windmill. The entrance to the cave is approx. 150 ft (50 metres) up the bank on the right hand side at the base of a sheer red cliff. It is a small hole situated in boulders and quickly drops a few feet to the floor of the first chamber. We took the survey gear with us and after a quick exploration of the larger parts of the cave we set up the dial. The cave mainly consists of one long passage ending in a chamber which has a beautiful crystal covered stalagmite. A quick scramble up the wall reveals that the cave roof is very high and after surveying proved to be about 23 metres high. We disturbed some very nervous bats who didn't take kindly to the invasion of their privacy and naturally there were guano droppings around.

With most of the afternoon taken up with the survey and exploration it was decided not to look for caves further up the Gorge. Incidentally, this cave, although small was well worth the visit with bats, cave pearls, and beautiful crystals covering parts of the floor and over some of the decoration plus a good climb up to the roof. A few photos were taken of the cave.

The way back was slightly better. We took the track leading past the old Brachina Homestead through to the Edeowie Homestead turning off towards the Leigh Creek Road. The track goes through some swamps and would probably be impassable after rain.

SUNDAY: The Easter Bunny called early and after some delay over transport we finally got underway. We followed a large tourist bus all the way to Sliding Rock eating dust that it ground up. It kept stopping to pick up its' fan belts which it threw off every now and then. It was nearly midday when we finally reached Sliding Rock via Beltana and followed the track through to Warraweena Station. Here we were met by one of the station hands and he informed us that both the manager and owner were away but may be expected back soon. With large KEEP OUT! signs on the gate we retreated and waited in the creek bed. After a short time the Manager, Mr. Nicholls came through with his wife and daughter.

We managed to obtain permission and some fairly good directions to the Warraweena Cave (F10). We were warned that a four wheel drive is essential and the track obscure. Mr. Nicholls was right on both counts but we managed to get quite a way with two conventional vehicles before we had to all pile out and pack into the Nissan Patrol 4-wheel-drive. In spite of the almost non-existent track which was very difficult to follow, with ten people in the wagon we couldn't get thrown around too much. In fact a couple of us faint hearted ladies couldn't bear to watch and closed our eyes when approaching creek crossings. Here again we found it necessary to leave the wagon and make it on foot until we located the track again. In one particular spot we tried to cross a run off and all piled out to take a 'piccie' of the outcome, which was, the vehicle perched precariously on three wheels at a very awkward angle.

We eventually found the hill with the cave on it and proceeded to look at it. Mrs. Nicholls told us the best way to find the cave was to fall down it and as no-one disappeared, we were disappointed to have to come away with out actually finding it. Back at the Homestead we spoke again to Mr. Nicholls and found that we must have walked over the cave at some stage and still disappointed at coming so near and yet so far, we arranged another date for visiting, this time with Mr. Nicholls as the guide.

The cave was first located by Mr. Nicholls' father about 70 years ago when he poked his wooden leg into the hole and then pulled a rock aside to reveal the entrance. This was in 1906. The cave was then not located again until 1936, however some pieces of the decoration were taken causing some damage to the cave. The cave occurs in a band of limestone which outcrops between red slate material and is situated in the saddle of the hill and as far as can be ascertained there are no other cave entrances in the vicinity. There are other caves on the property however and Mr. Nicholls may be able to give us the location of some others at a later date.

Our trip back to camp was quite eventful as the trusty wagon kept stalling and at one stage the less confident of the group were making plans to camp overnight. However it proved not to be necessary and we made it back to where we had left the other vehicles. It was almost dark as we headed out and it would have been rather difficult making it out at night. We called back at the Homestead to pay our respects as we left. It was very disappointing not to have found the cave. It seems that the Port Augusta Group has also been active in the area in recent times although Mr. Nicholls could not supply us with any other information.

MONDAY: As most people wanted to make an early start back to the city it was decided to make a quick trip to Thunderdrum Cave (F29) on the Brachina Gorge Road. According to the location map the cave was just off the road and after driving back and forth in circles like Indians circling a wagon train we eventually located the cave in a creek bed some 200 metres from the road. We were able to drive to within 20 metres of the entrance. After tugging up we descended and found ourselves in a miniature Corra Lynn. There were several levels with the whole cave following the rock strata on a downwards slope. The cave occurs in a solid dark grey limestone with bands of aragonite and it is apparent that it is subject to flooding in times of rain with lots of silt and rocks being washed in. After a general exploration was made, several side passages showed possibilities and so a shovel was sent for. A dig was started and we managed to connect some smaller offshoots adding to the known cave. There are several parts that could be dug and can be kept in mind for further trips to the area. Of course, now that we have doubled the distance of known passage, another survey will have to be carried out. The digs would be rather muddy ones, you have been warned! A further cave search further down following the run-off turned up three other cavities in the main creek bed which should prove rather interesting. Guano staining in considerable quantities on the cliffs showed the possible presence of bats though we didn't have the time to enter and explore. (Another day!)

Most people had to rush back and pack up to make their way through the maddening crowds and so the party broke up after quite an eventful weekend.

DOT PEISLEY

NOTICE OF MOTION

NOTICE of intent to put the following motions of amendment at the General Meeting to be held at the S.A. Museum Lecture Room on 25th August, 1976 at 8p.m.

- A. Constitution 11.(a) add at end ", A.G.M. or E.G.M."
- B. Rules 1. alter the amounts shown in order \$3.00, \$5.00 and \$3.00 to \$4.00, \$8.00 and \$6.00 respectively. The amounts correspond to Associate, Full and country Full members annual subscriptions respectively.
- C. Rules 3. add after the word 'parent' the words 'or guardian'
- D. Rules 12 (a) delete the word 'Nylon'
- E. Rules 12 (b) replace '100' with '32 metres'
12 (b) replace '20c per pound' with '50c per kilogram'
- F. Rules 13 delete all and replace with 'All maps produced by the Group shall remain copyright of the Group and except with special exemption from the Committee no copies shall be given or sold. '

GRAHAM PILKINGTON,
Public Officer

TRIP REPORT – NARACOORTE / PENOLA - 15th - 17th May, 1976.

PRESENT: Trip Leader Athol Jackson, plus 5 members, 7 Associates and 3 Visitors.

SATURDAY, 15th Survey of V.D.C. Cave (U26) continued by Rod McDougal whilst all those not helping, examined the cave except for Athol and myself who had to organise the C.E.G.S.A. / V.S.A. Dinner.

Instead of joining the others immediately, Athol suggested that we take a look at the hill slopes just north of Naracoorte (I suspect he just wanted to walk in the pleasant sunshine) with an examination for caves being the object. We did turn up possible solution features near the old quarry but the quarry itself showed that only the top few metres were solid rock. This was a fossiliferous limestone with re-deposited calcite; definitely not travertine nor calcrete.

An investigation of the 'hole' that suddenly appeared right under the feet of a cow on Higgs property last year proved to be one that had been blocked by his grandfather. (The cow's grandfather, I presume. Ed.) Initial inspection gave me the feeling of entering a vertical grave - one way and a dead end. However, it turned out to be a respectable hole worthy of the appendix 'cave'.

Athol and myself also went to see the "Bear Caves" (as known by the locals) in the quarry face just north of V.D.C. cave and these, as noted by others recently, are worthy of numbering. The original high-level cave (there are three levels of cave shown in the quarry, an unusual feature for Naracoorte) consisted of at least one very large chamber 3m high and probably 50m by 15m before collapse and only 1 to 4 metres below surface level, while the others were relatively small. The hill behind the quarry is reported by Rod to be riddled with very small diameter holes, however, the land owner dislikes the idea of caves under his land.

The evening was passed by many in that C.E.G.S.A. delight - digging, or more correctly, excavation. The south-east end of Robertson Cave (U17) was tackled by a team of ten, a boat, and sundry gear to test the silt collapse. The level dropped 3m, and the wall has temporarily gone vertical. Future work will need to remove the unstable silt and enlarge the hole before sinking the level further, a major undertaking. More practical methods of hauling the boat up a steep slope will need to be devised than just dragging it up. Pseudo volunteers ceased to exist after an hour's work and a bucket brigade took its place - a much slower dirt removal process.

SUNDAY, 16th. This was Monbulla Day. After a late start and a split of forces (some trogs preferred Blackberry Cave (U8) even though they could visit there any trip) we managed to get to Monbulla Cave (L5) one car less than those that started out. It took $\frac{3}{4}$ hour to correct that error.

The main reason for the trip was familiarization. It seems that the cave has not been visited for so long that very few present C.E.G.S.A. members know of Monbulla Cave, even less knowing how to find it. Having located the cave and other smaller nearby caves, it was intended to commence high grade surveys, however, after one look at Wrecked Car Cave (L21) (which no longer has a wrecked car near it) and the true underground plan of Monbulla Cave (our 1957 map has walls drawn where the roof height drops below half a metre) the surveys can wait until someone has a few years to spare - these caves are similar to Balds and Furness's (L146) which means a lot to those who know them.

To produce some kind of good excuse to ourselves for not starting the above, a surface survey using a Miner's Dial and tape was made to tie Monbulla with "Wrecked Car" and also several dolines and one solution tube were tied in. Three of the dolines had very small horizontal solution features under 1m high rock ledges. After many attempts to enter a flattener at the bottom of the 1/4m diameter tube, Kerry Ninnnes managed the feat, sorry, head first. She said while wedged near the bottom of the 3m deep hole that it must be a cave - it was dark down there! After a triumphant tour of the cave her CRG grade 1 description was "average roof height 0.3m, single chamber 4m x 2m". We allowed Kerry to keep her samples from the cave, provided that she washed before returning to Adelaide.

The Blackberry party entered the newly found section off the Butterfly area and continued the exploration from where the survey team had stopped on the Easter trip. One more well-decorated chamber was discovered.

That evening the usual cave training exercises went on under and through chairs. Again a chair had to be ripped apart after an abortive attempt to get through diagonally. We also developed a slightly novel method for cleaning the cupboards, which is also useful for inspection of new furniture for quality of workmanship. Luckily that did not lead to more he-man wood-splintering tactics.

MONDAY, 17th. A surface location survey and tie was made for V.D.C. and Cow Drop caves by Athol and myself while most of the others stayed out of the rain trying to extend Cow Drop, which refused to budge.

Some sensible people had packed before going to V.D.C. and left directly for Adelaide, the rest of us had to pack in the rain.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

TRIP REPORT - CORRA-LYNN, YORKE PENINSULA : 29-30th May, 1976.

Attendance on this exclusive trip totalled 7, including a surface-only 3hr visit by Ian Lewis. But, as usual, the fewer numbers enabled some work to be done instead of just showing members around.

Max Meth had repaired and installed the Wombat Gate as his first act after arriving. The gate will need replacing with a more resistant one as soon as practicable.

Surveying was the object of the trip and much was accomplished on Saturday and Sunday with about 3% of the stated 6.4 km mapped. However, by 1.30 p.m. Sunday we were all ready for a change so I instigated a "follow-the-breeze fun run", starting from where we were - which just happened to have a leaning candle flame (our torches were being conserved). A quick check led to the startling conclusion that air was travelling to us from all directions and NONE LEAVING by observable passage. Slightly confused we did the next best thing, we followed the breeze coming from a dirt pile that my survey (just done) indicated there was no known passage behind. One hour and four weary trogs later (Max, Jonathan Burke, Robert Peterson, and myself) we entered an estimated 100m of new passage including both Upper and Middle levels to which the usual phrase "n squared digs" must be added, especially as we did not do a thorough exploration.

The area is north of the Far Northern Floorhole, Big Stalagmite Upper levels and has been named the Northern Cross from unusually perfect cross passages on the middle level. The Far Northern Floorhole no longer is that.

Remember, you too can join in these discoveries. Just come along on my next trip at the end of July or one of those planned for later this year.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

TRIP REPORT - GLENCOE - Easter, 1976.

PRESENT: K. Mott, S. Barrow, S. Roberts, L. Roberts, M. Smith, P. Smith, J. Rossiter, K. Ninnes, R. Bray, B. Shephard (Mt. Gambler).

Once again that annual pilgrimage to the haven of trogs, "The Glencoe Church Hall", took place over Easter with the usual aim of cleaning up the mapping work in the Lower South East.

Friday morning stumbled upon us with sad news that the bakery, through change of ownership, was no longer operating and as a consequence the usual copious flow of fresh, hot, hot-cross buns had ceased. By the time everybody had crawled out of their sleeping bags and fought their way through kitchen activities it was eleven o'clock before caving began. One party under the able leadership of Kram was detailed to do a surface survey over Considine's Cave. The group of pines normally residing around the entrance to Considine's have been felled and cut up for sleepers with remains being neatly bulldozed into and stuffed down the entrance tube. Sure beats locking a cave to keep vandals out. Due to inclement weather the party spent most of the afternoon surveying anti Pro Hart paintings. The rest, together with Brian Shepherd, decided to attack Widdison's Cave Hollis's Cave. Widdison's Cave was burnt out several years ago by G. Ninnes to remove rubbish but the owner has quite successfully managed to reinstate the pile which from all appearances (and smell) is held together only by three rotting cows. Several volunteers were eventually coerced into entering the cave to map it. The cave is approx. 14m in diam. and 9m deep with the rubbish pile climbing up the northern wall to 4m diam. window entrance. Hollis's Cave was visited for the purpose of checking the cross-sections.

A vital question arising out of the visit to these two rubbish filled caves is, whether due to the nature of a cavers environment they should be immunised against tetanus as accidents always do happen.

Being in need of more plotting gear we detoured to Mount Gambler to borrow some gear. On the return to Glencoe it was noted with extreme consternation that the gravel on the bitumen was moving. You can imagine the relief when the jumping gravel turned out to be frogs brought out by the rain. Needless to say a grande frog jumping contest was arranged that night. This was eventually won by Kerry after a thrill packed final when one frog, a *Hyla ewingi* (brown phase) chickened out by leaping onto the wall and climbing up to the ceiling. Despite numerous incantations he refused to come down till a well flung towel hit him behind the tympanum.

On Saturday everyone ventured out to Gran Gran Corner. Cross sections were drawn for Graveyard, unnamed and Quarry Caves all of which were previously surveyed by mapper extraordinaire James Cundy.

Now when the maps of unnamed and Graveyard Caves were placed next to each other in the correct relationship the two caves appeared to connect. Upon investigating the appropriate area in Graveyard a breeze was found to be roaring out of solid wall. Well, Jim's map said it was solid, although a nameless member of the previous expedition was heard to remark "it didn't appear to go anywhere. " After establishing voice contact from un-named cave several hours of self sacrificing, tortuous, painstaking digging with a jemmy bar the connecting passage was made and surveyed in. Furthermore when coming out of Graveyard there are now two alternative access routes to the water section previously inaccessible in periods of high water level. Gran Gran Corner now has 2 caves instead of 4. I hope this simplifies your records Graham?

Meanwhile Kram was squirming, wriggling, inching and grunting his way through a narrow vertical fissure at the end of "The Bath Tub" in Gran Gran Cave to find another 50m of previously undiscovered passage with a lake at either end. One lake appears to be at least 3m deep and warrants under-water investigation. This extension has been called Crack Extension as it was untroggable to some of us slightly larger cavers. Several other suggestions raised as to the origin were:-

- a) you had to be cracked to go there in the first place
- b) only crack cavers were good enough for it (boasters!)

Unfortunately Saturday night turned out to be sad and sorry replica of the previous night with Kerry running rampage through the hall attacking every sleeping male in sight. How anyone could possibly lose clothes when sleeping in the church hall is completely beyond me. Eventually they were found "planted" at the bottom of Robby's sleeping bag. What with all this commotion carrying on till the wee small hours who could blame the Easter Bunny for being late.

On Sunday Brian Shepherd joined us again and crack extension was mapped. 5L90 and 5L88 were mapped. An attempt was made to map 5L115 but as the compass had filled with water the survey had to be abandoned. Two small caves in the forest south of Graveyard were relocated and mapped. On a historical note the original grave site at Gran Gran was accidentally re-discovered during a spot of grass clearing. This grave belongs to a station-hand killed in a horse accident at the Gran Gran coach station somewhere around the 1860's.

After cleaning the hall and an unceremonious dunking of Lesley Roberts in the waste water tank by J. Rossiter and R. Bray, the return journey to Adelaide was made. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the output of work really made the trip successful. For this I thank all those who attended.

Machiavellian MOTT
(The Loser of Caves)

TRIP REPORT - NARACOORTE - Easter Weekend, 1976.

Being keen troggers, we (the Peterson Family) decided to depart from Adelaide a day early so as to miss all the mad 'Easter Exodus' from the big smoke on Good Friday (not to spend an extra day under the ground as you all thought!)

The trip to Naracoorte was uneventful until all the oil drained out of the automatic transmission. This fact was discovered at Keith while refilling with petrol. Gloom descended upon us all, but, fortified with an over-full gear box plus 4 litres of transmission oil in a spare container, we ventured on leaving a trail of oil for the rest of the group to follow.

We arrived at the Reserve with half a litre of oil still in 'reserve' and no idea how we would get back home. The peace and tranquillity (plus several good slurps of brandy) soon restored our enthusiasm as we unpacked and set up camp.

And now to the nitty gritty - Friday, Max Meth, Jonathan Burke, Roberta Andrew and myself descended into Blackberry Cave to carry out a survey of the southern passages off the Butterfly extension, but must confess that most of the day was spent in exploring.

Saturday: (as per Robert's Diary) -

"Party - Max, Jono, Dad, Andrew and myself. Attempted to finish survey, but due to the following events, this was postponed.

While Max and Jono were carrying out the survey we had a look around the end of the extension. Andrew, after crawling through a hole found a small chamber. When Dad came in, he saw that it continued over the flowstone. Calling Max in we all agreed that it was worth a try at pushing it, so Max, after contorting himself similar to a rubber man, managed to squeeze in between two small columns. After about 3 or 4 minutes of belly raking and shaving suitable yardages of skin to permit passage, he saw fit to send back a message - 'mumble, mumble, groan etc.' "I think I had better go up" remarked Jono. Max was so far up it was now necessary to form a chain to keep in touch. While I was waiting in a massive 0.5 x 3 x 2m chamber I noticed a hole in the wall, so I kicked out two rocks and away it went! 100m of beautifully decorated chambers. A flowstone, crystal pools, black chambers and snow white formations. My first discovery!!"

Poor Dad at the rear of the line, could only hear shouts of such things as "it's going on! There's another chamber! It's big!!" etc. and all the time the voices were getting fainter. Everyone making valiant efforts to catch up to Robert, but how fast can you progress in a 300 to 400 mm high passage when new chambers have been discovered. Real fast! With great excitement we all eventually wormed our way into the new discovery, minus various pieces of skin from knees and hands due to our haste.

Five chambers were revealed within a few minutes of excited exploration. Two of these are of particular interest having black roofs and floors with white decorations. In one, the floor is dirt with a black deposit covering the surface while the other has black flowstone from wall to wall.

A very excited and happy but thoroughly exhausted group eventually emerged just in time to prevent a search party being formed.

The following day another visit was made to the new extensions, but no further chambers were found, although the breeze coming out of the cave indicates that somewhere there could be more chambers and passages waiting to be discovered. Oh well, perhaps next trip.

Thanks to some very good advice from Russell Bath, I poured a can of transmission conditioner into the workings of the car and lo and behold, no more oil leaks. A very pleasant trip home concluded a wonderful holiday.

GORDON PETERSON

OUR RATE OF DESCENT.

During the June long weekend several trips were run to the Flinders Ranges. One of these visited Mairs Cave (20m pitch) and Wooltana Cave (60m pitch).

From the time taken for people to enter these caves it is obvious that we need plenty of practice in vertical caving techniques. Although most of our caves are horizontal many have vertical entrances and a Full Member should be proficient in all caving techniques.

Many people did not know how to tie a bowline, a knot one should be able to tie whilst blindfolded. A chin-strap was worn by only one person. The need for a chin-strap was visibly demonstrated when the helmet of one caver decided that laddering was too slow a procedure. Helmets damaged by such a fall should be replaced. Before beginning S.R.T. check that screw gates are done up on karabiners and that rappel racks are fitted properly. Extra equipment should not be carried if it is likely to become entangled in ropes or ladders. Long hair should be tied back to be free of ladders. At no time should anyone disconnect themselves from a ladder or abseil rope unless connected to a safety line. All too often many of us have sat back while one or two people set up a pitch. The only way to learn how to set up an abseil or ladder pitch is to help DO it. If wombating unknown tunnels always set an estimated time of return, no matter how small the cave, and stick to it.

Enough griping and a word of praise. The speed and co-ordination with which the Wooltana pitch was de-rigged in the dark was a commendable effort. Everyone set about coiling 70m lengths of rope and neatly bundling 8 lengths of ladder while perched on a rock ledge in the dark and cold. If such enthusiasm can be applied in such circumstances, surely we can be motivated to apply the same enthusiasm in setting up pitches during the day. The less time spent setting up a pitch means more time spent productively underground.

KEVIN MOTT

TRIP REPORT - NARACOOORTE - 16th - 26th April, 1976.

Rather than give a résumé of each day's happenings in chronological order, I will give one under each heading shown, with minor work and simple "tourist" trips omitted. Parties operating outside the Naracoorte area will report elsewhere, except for my one day trip to Robe.

APPLEDORE, U7.

Not many people visit this cave nowadays and I think that it is in a strategic location between the Vic. and Cathedral. Several trips were led to familiarize willing trogs with the cave and its potential for expansion. The areas that were blasted (to the south) to provide access to minor extensions a decade ago all look very terminal or, at least, for blasters only. A few possibilities still exist with, in my opinion, the north end having the slightly re-cemented rockpile with the dirt and gravel fill coming from the almost sealed northern entrance. The dirt is very dry and dusty but the passage has a significant funnel depression along the wall opposite the entrance and is very similar in type to the location of the southern drop from the high to the low level passage. On two trips material was excavated from the site and the level dropped 2m and looking good but no air space encountered. Breezes can be felt at the site, which in all probability originate from external wind movements cycling air between entrances.

A surface location survey was done to tie southern entrance into the new network. A depression a few hundred metres north looks a promising dig site but is just off the Reserve.

BLACKBERRY, U8.

This has been the spot-light cave for the last year after the series of discoveries following the removal of blockage which had a breeze coming from it. It again stole the limelight at Easter by an independent discovery of well-decorated black and white chambers leading off a decoration choke in the southern passages off the Butterfly extension. Credit must go to Max Meth with a little help from Robert Peterson for these delightful new scenes.

The reason they were there was to survey that little-visited part of the cave with a view to establishing where the breeze that comes out into the Butterfly Chamber originates. I am still not satisfied that the new discoveries solve the problem. Due to the limited time available before Max had to return to Adelaide, we did not complete the survey that was started, but we did manage to do most of the "new" stuff with help from Jonathan Burke and Gordon Peterson. A full exploration was held off pending finishing the survey so that needless destruction of decoration could be avoided. As hinted, the passages continue, but straws and columns block the way. A possible connection with the other "new" section has a high probability.

The entrances and most of the R.D.F. points were surveyed in on the surface using a theodolite and staff.

V.D.C., U26 AND NEARBY FEATURES.

Rod McDougal continued his survey of V.D.C. Cave, completing the central part of the cave and most of that to the north.

The survey party also visited the "Bear Caves" in the quarry just to the north of V.D.C. and investigated the possibility of cave entrances on the property behind the quarry. The report is that the rocky paddock has numerous solution tubes too small to enter, but that the presence of the large "ex-cave" at the quarry gives prospects for a cave as excellent.

A hole in Higgs' paddock to the west of V.D.C. was noted as good cave potential.

CARTER'S HOLE, U60.

A theodolite surface location survey was made to tie into the Victoria Fossil map -- essentially an up-grading of a Miner's Dial surface survey done previously.

A new CRG grade 6F map was done to replace that done by Maddock in 1971 prior to the pushing of two side tunnels off the single chamber. The original map naturally did not locate these tunnels.

U50.

This is a solution tube to the south of the Vic. (U1) and SE of Little Vic. (U44) and next to U49 which is a small high-level rock-filled cave.

The Records are not clear on this, but it is possible that U50 was open in 1970 and described as a "15ft tube leading to a single chamber with a huge rock pile. " Unfortunately, at that time U49 had the same number (S107) and although only 18m away, was shown on a location sketch together with U50 and even though it had an easy access, was apparently not even mentioned. U49 has a walk-in window collapse entrance, does not yet join U50 and does not fit the 1970 description. However, even though U50 fits the old description, when it was unblocked by Ian Lewis and party on the ANZAC week-end, no trog marks were found in the cave. It is doubted that all, if any, marks would have vanished in the intervening 6 years. It is just possible a thorough exploration was not made at that time. (I bet the Records are still not clear, I know I'm not! Ed.)

SANDFUNNEL, U72.

Kevin Mott and Jim Cundy have commenced a survey of this cave to replace that started by Peter Chappell. The original was only in rough survey form and did not include the interior detail that we now map. Only the "entrance chamber" was done on this trip, the cave being large.

Ian Lewis in an out of character mood left everyone else to do the surveying and promptly dug into passage beyond the "fresh" collapse chamber at the previous end of the north tunnel from the four-way chamber.

A Theodolite surface survey and levelling was done by Kevin and myself to locate the cave and tie it in with U99 and U100.

BOTTLENECK, U99 and nearby features.

This cave is still accessible and easily located by eye now that the land has been cleared. It has a significant surrounding depression perhaps 50m by 30m in size with further "drainage" lines beyond that. The tree that had a root down the entrance has been removed but the root has established new healthy suckers at present about 4m high.

U100 has been blocked by Hugh Crawford, the owner, with rocks but it is possible that only the top tube (3-4m deep) has been filled. A shallow depression still exists.

A hole blocked by Crawford's father with rubbish and since ploughed over was located by Hugh and we triangulated the position to tie in with the Theodolite traverses we did.

ROBE SEA CAVES (South).

Caves at Robe, including a bat cave, have been noted (but not yet numbered nor properly described) by others. These are in the sea cliffs to the north of Robe and thereby classed as U caves under the new region system.

Since only the Pilkingtons stayed at Naracoorte between the Easter/Anzac long weekends, we took the opportunity to visit the beaches and sea at Robe, (to the delight of our daughter!) and while there I explored the cliffs just south of Robe before the sand dunes again stretch to the horizon, (as they do to the north). Two arches at high-tide level and up to five "caves" also at high-tide level were noted. Most are within 100m of the southern extremity of the cliffs which also happen to be the highest there at 10m. The features are very small, low and temporary, have wet sand floors and penetrate 6m into the cliff entrance. Roof heights reach 3m. The cliffs are interesting geologically, showing several thin independent (that is, in the correct jargon, "disconformities") each with its own novel characteristics. One has calcified plant roots forming, on weathering, a peculiarly cave decoration like appearance to parts of the cliff. Another has solution (?) tubes typically 0.3m diameter and rim-hardened starting at its top and ending just as abruptly at its base. The others you can see for yourself.

THEODOLITE SURFACE SURVEYS

As mentioned elsewhere and including some that have not been, I will just list the caves etc. that were added to those accurately located for the new Naracoorte maps:-

Sandfunnel (U71) with Bottleneck (U99), U100 and a possible filled entrance south of U-99.

Blackberry (U8 and U9) with Wombat (U-58) and most of the Blackberry R.D.F. surface markers.

Specimen (U35) with a series of small solution features a few hundred metres south. Carters Hole (U-60) and Appledore (U7).

Anderite (U48) tied to U1

U49, U50 and U51.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This year has been quite a busy one with people coming and going and moving around the State or overseas. I often have people dashing up and thrusting pieces of paper at me saying "That's my new phone number, etc., " I end up with many scraps of paper with bits of scribble on them which get lost or are plain undecipherable. So to avoid further confusion, I would like everyone who receives a Newsletter to fill in the form attached to the back of this Newsletter, and then return it to the Membership Officer, Cave Exploration Group of South Australia Inc., C/- South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide, 5000. Those who attend meetings can give them to me or they can be posted. If I don't hear from you before the next Newsletter I will presume that you don't wish to receive the Newsletter.

At this time we wish to welcome the following new associate members:-

LEN DALLOW	TERENCE REARDON	NOEL RAWLINSON
CRAIG LINDLEY	ROSEMARIE HAYDEN	JOHN NAYLOR
DALE HARE	MALCOLM FITCH	KERRY NINNES
STEPHEN EMERY	GLEN WEBSTER	
MEREDITH REARDON	REGINALD WOODLANDS	

And congratulations to Mark SMITH now a Full Member,

DOT PEISLEY.

PLEASE NOTE

The form to be filled in and returned to me appears at the back of this Newsletter!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Coomandook, S.A. 5261.

Dear Sir,

I would like to add to the article "Refrigerator Fund" CEGSA Newsletter Vol. 21, No: 1.

Thanks should also go to Ron and Robyn Allum who transported the fridge to Naracoorte, and while the rest of us were enjoying a "Trinity" double at the Drive-in, they unloaded it themselves.

Thanks Ron and Robyn.

JIM CUNDY.

TROG SPARES.

In an effort to keep the eternal yellow flame of blissful brilliance alive in my ever faithful carbide lamp (beard type pricklers being no longer effective) I decided to purchase some new jets. After trying what I thought would be logical suppliers I succeeded in getting only the good old run around. Ian Lewis eventually came to the rescue by supplying the name of the local distributors, A. Noble & Son.

The trauma of the above experience set me thinking; yes THINKING! How many cavers, both old and new, know where to obtain the various knick-knacks, spare parts and assorted paraphernalia associated with caving and caving equipment?

I propose therefore, to compile a list of caving requisites detailing manufacturer, distributor and approximate cost. The cost can only be approximate as prices continually change so are correct at time of compilation. Such a list would undoubtedly be of great assistance to new cavers.

Any one with suggestions as to the content of the list should let me know as the list's completeness depends solely on the information made available. Always remember this MOTTICISM. - "WHO KNOWS BETTER WHAT I WANT THAN MYSELF! "

KEVIN MOTTFOOTNOTE

Thanks Kevin! I for one, think that this is a splendid idea. I know for certain that my family would welcome this information as we are 'new cavers' and we find it difficult to know just where to go to purchase the very necessary equipment that is essential for 'safe caving'.

Jan Peterson.

TRIP REPORT - JUNE LONG-WEEKEND - McDUGAL's FLINDERS TOURS.

(It would have been I. Lewis's, but he was late!!)

Leave your inhibitions at home, and your stomach somewhere between Blinman and Arkaroola. Yes, don't be a reject all your life -- become a COMPLETE WRITE-OFF! Come on a McDougal's 4-day tour, cleverly designed not to fit into a 3-day weekend.

Travel with other vehicles which you probably won't find until well after you are supposed to. McDougal's cleverly conceived plan of disasters and other minor excitement will keep you on your toes -- tyres sneakily designed to blow out between the hours of 12.00 midnight to 7.00 a.m. Minimum caving-by the time you find the cave it will be time to go home. But if you do get there in time the odds are that the others have gone to a completely different cave 100 kilometres away!

Yes, throw your cares to the wind, grab your Ricecream, Sausages and Vegetables and Stomach Powder come listen to the nerve-chilling scraping and grinding as protrusions not resembling wheels meet the road on creek crossings; then hear severe sump grinding followed by even worse crankshaft knock, culminating with the staccato note of Bitumen-Piston-Slap.

Yes the thrill can be yours --- motto-crossing in the mountain passes, returning to the road seconds after a quick lap around 2 Gum Trees and numerous bushes, not to mention the white posts. This sterling effort would have taken out the "Kombie Van Off-Road Class" with ease. Rescue Cortinas which have gone motto-crossing down banks and be faced with a night on the Copley Dump.

The whole weekend could even be topped off by a panoramic sunrise, set off by the magnificent view of the Port Pirie salt flats from the Mobil "By-Pass" Roadhouse as you wait for the second flat tyre to be fixed.

Yes, go all the way! Make it as a fully-fledged Gumby, mix freely with this year's twits, hear jokes you can't understand, suffer horrible puns. Yes, travel in class and make your Big Mistake.

Be yet another Mistake on a McDougal's Flinders Tour. And remember THE FIRST ONE THERE IS A ROTTEN EGG because he will have to wait several hours for the rest to show up, and if it's the right cave you won't be able to find it anyway. And if you do find it, everybody will decide to go somewhere 100 kilometres in the other direction or do a complete engine rebuild on Lewis's car, not to mention the wiring.

OR IF YOU ARE LUCKY, they will crawl into their trogsuits and stumble towards the cave muttering something about an extension or aralditeing gravel onto the knees of their overalls to stop them from wearing out. — BUT — you haven't seen anything until you see one of them try to abseil UP the rope from the top of the cave! an effort going a long way towards this year's "FOOL OF THE YEAR" Award.

It's not the trogging, it's the getting there, or getting home as the case may be.

KRAM SMITH

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.

Programme for August to October, 1976.AUGUST

July 31 – 1st Aug	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
7th – 8th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
Wednesday 11th	Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.	2 Boorman Ave, Pasadena
14th – 15th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
14th – 15th	Mount Gambier (L) Kevin Mott	Surveying
21st - 22nd	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
Wednesday 25th	General Meeting 8.00 p.m. Museum Lecture Room	Slide evening
28th – 29th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project

SEPTEMBER

4th – 5th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
Wednesday 8th	Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.	23 Dorset Street Brahma Lodge
11th – 12th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
18th – 19th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project
Wednesday 22nd	General Meeting 8.00 p.m. Museum Lecture Room	Resume of the Special Project
25th – 26th	Naracoorte (L) Athol Jackson	Special Project

OCTOBER

9th – 11th	Trip to Flinders (L) Dot Peisley	Warraweena
9th – 11th	Northern Flinders (L) Rod McDougall	
Wednesday 13th	Committee Meeting 8.00 p.m.	66 Eyre Cres, Valley View
23rd - 24th	Mount Gambier (L) Kevin Mott	
Wednesday 27th	General Meeting 8.00 p.m. Museum Lecture Room	Police Rescue Squad

PLEASE NOTE: All persons going to Naracoorte on the Special Project trips MUST contact Athol Jackson AT LEAST ONE (1) WEEK BEFOREHAND so that insurance can be arranged.

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TRIP CONTACT LIST

Athol Jackson,	6 Hudson Avenue, Rostrevor - (h) 337-8759 (w) 259-6795
Dot Peisley,	23 Dorset Street, Brahma Lodge - (h) 258-9917 (w) 262-2521
Kevin Mott,	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham - (w) 227-2704
Rod McDougall,	7 Alexander Street, Largs Bay - (h) 49-4457 (w) 50-3269

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Kevin Mott,	see above
Ian Lewis	12 McLachlin Avenue, Glenelg North - (h) 295-6582
Bernie Dunn	4 Parsons Road, Reynella - (w) 282-2722