

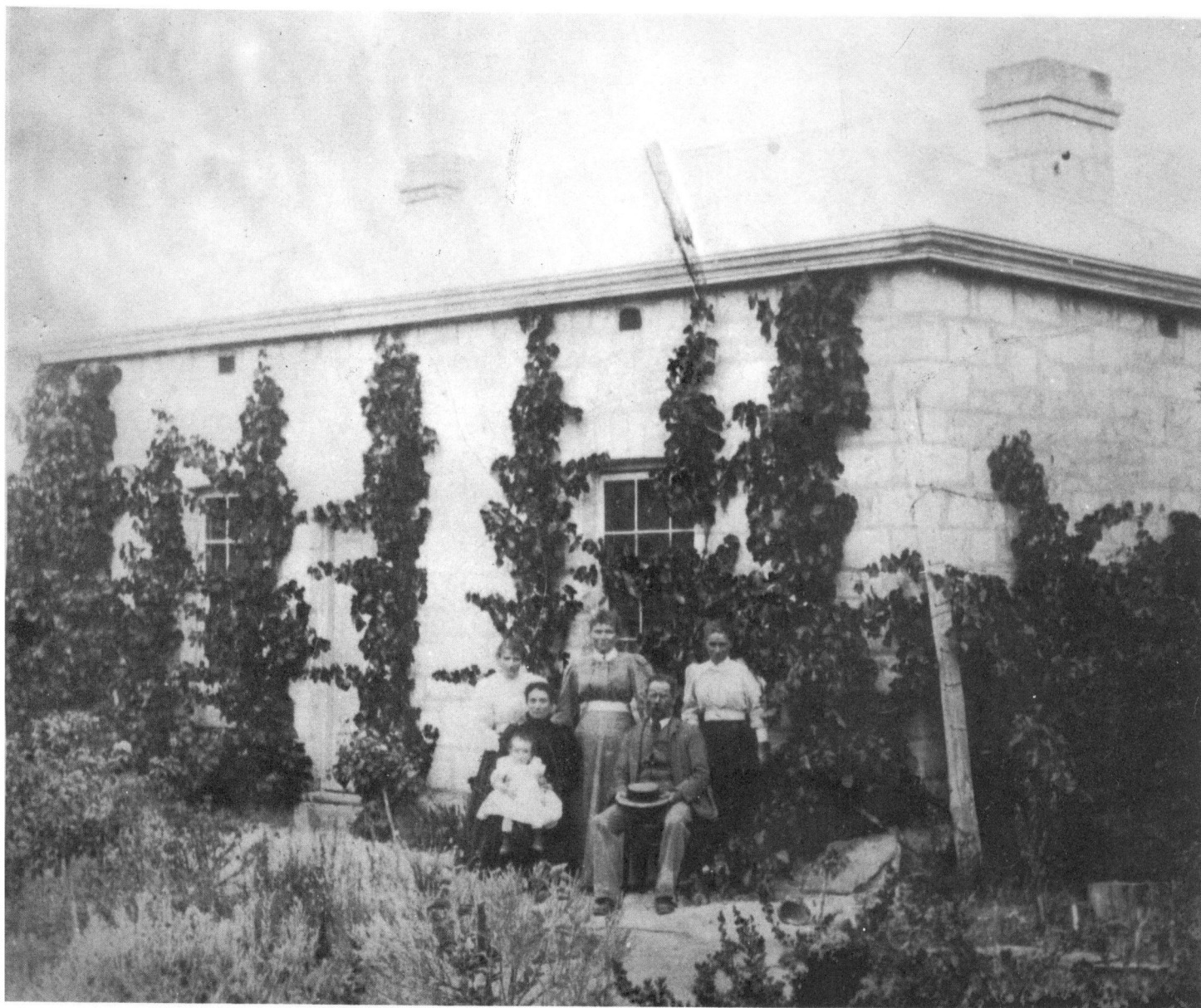


Cave Exploration Group

SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED
C/O SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM NORTH TERRACE ADELAIDE

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 22 No.1
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Issued Quarterly



WILLIAM REDDAN, CARETAKER,
Outside The Naracoorte Caves Cottage
1898

THE COVER PHOTO - WILLIAM REDDAN

In 1885 the house which you see on the front cover once stood on the present site of Russell Bath's house. This house was for the Forester in Charge who had the dual job of looking after the caves as well as the newly planted pines.

Mr. D. Battams was the first Forester in Charge and he stayed for about 18 months until Mr. William Reddan took over in 1886. A Government grant in 1893 for the further exploration of the Cave Range went to William Reddan and resulted in the discovery of Victoria Cave, which was named and opened to the public in 1897.

William Reddan's second large discovery was that of Alexandra Cave in June 1908 and he is credited with the discovery of at least 6 other caves in the area.

In 1919 William Reddan completed his term of office. It was certainly an important era as far as the Reserve was concerned. William Reddan arrived at a time when there was only one little known tourist cave and a budding pine plantation, he left at a time when there were 3 tourist caves, electric lighting and a beautiful tourist reserve.

William Reddan's tremendous concern and dedication for the Caves and the Reserve can best be illustrated by the fact that in 1916, when the reserve changed hands from the Woods and Forest Dept. to the Tourist Bureau, he resigned in order to become the curator for the Tourist Bureau and hence remain at the Reserve.

Information courtesy of the Woods and Forest Dept.

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PROGRAMME

THE 1977 COMMITTEE

President: Ed Bailey

Vice President: Graham Pilkington

Secretary/ Treasurer. Jane Wilson

Committee: Kevin Mott (Search & Rescue, and Quartermaster

Dale Arnott (Librarian)

Dot Peisley (Membership)

Athol Jackson (ASF Representative)

Jim Cundy (Editor)

Since Ed Bailey has been the Editor for the past 4 years it has probably become habit to send all articles to him. The new address for all articles is:-

JIM CUNDY

COOMANDOOK

S.A. 5261

and believe it or not, mail reaches me at "Coomy" quicker than any city address.

EDITORIAL

This is my first effort as editor, when I undertook the job I thought that my biggest problem would be getting articles. However I can't see what Ed always used to complain about as I was inundated with numerous articles from a large number of members. I trust this will continue - if not - beware of a raving editor breathing down your neck demanding those trip reports, but more of that later.

A letter from Rod Wells to the group tells of some footprints in the Fossil Chamber. Members of the caving group are only allowed into the Fossil Chamber at the kind grace of Rod. He is not blaming the recent footprints on CEGSA but would merely like it pointed out that it is only by his permission that anybody is allowed into the chamber. So please, if you intend to cross the chamber, seek his permission first.

There's a long-awaited Search and Rescue training weekend planned for about July - August. The reason for the long wait is due to the amount of organization and planning that is necessary to make the exercise not only successful, but meaningful and educational for those present.

I believe that the Newsletter should serve three purposes:

- 1) As a source of news to other members and clubs.
- 2) A media by which a member of CEGSA may contact other cavers or voice his or her opinion.
- 3) A record of all the activities of the Group.

It is the third point which I would like to expand upon. In order to fully achieve a complete record of all activities then it is the leader's duty to write a trip report. Not only should a report be written for the Newsletter but also for the Records Officer, the latter being more important in some peoples eyes. I'm not going to voice my opinion on which is most important.

However, should you prefer to submit a report to the Records Officer then well and good, the information is still in the club. Whichever you prefer to do, you must agree that a record of your caving activities must be available to all CEGSA members. So get up off your rear end and write up your trip reports, it should only take you about 30 mins at the most.

The CEGSA Newsletter can boast a very wide circulation and is by no means exclusive to cavers. As a result there should be a slight difference between trip reports for the records and trip reports for the Newsletter. The major difference is with regard to cave locations; they should not, in any form appear in print. Often there are vague references to cave locations which appear in print from time to time. So if you find that there are minor deletions or changes to your trip report, then this is the reason.

I promise that these will be at a minimum so hurry up and get writing; you've only got two months to get those articles in.

JIM CUNDY

TRIP REPORTS

CAVE RESCUE PRACTICE - BUNGONIA

12th - 13th March

The Cave Rescue Group (C. R. G.) in conjunction with the N. S. W. Liaison Council held its 2nd annual Cave Rescue Practice at Bungonia, near Goulbourn, in N. S. W. on the 12th - 13th of March. The C. R. G. consists of approximately 35 cavers from various New South Wales caving groups who have come together for the purpose of improving firstly, their skills, secondly, the skills of others, and thirdly the equipment necessary for any form of search medical treatment and rescue.

Bungonia Gorge proved to be an excellent site for C. R. G.'s training weekend because:-

- (a) It is roughly central to Canberra and Sydney.
- (b) The area contains numerous caves within a small area while also providing a large area for camping.
- (c) The caves themselves had enough variety to cover most situations.

The total attendance for the weekend was an incredible 193 people from caving clubs, St. John's members, rescue group members, nurses and scouts. Of these, 128 cavers actually participated in exercises; the remainder being organisers, observers and patients. Four members from C. E. G. S. A., Ian Lewis, Linda Whaley, Jim Cundy and Kevin Mott attended the weekend. Those participating in the exercises were divided into groups of 5-9 with each group having to perform 4 different exercises each of 2 hours duration on the Saturday. Sunday was spent in debriefing, first aid talks and demonstrations of techniques.

Our group consisted of Jim Cundy, Kevin Mott, Ian Lewis, Judith Bateman, John Masala and Michael Smith, the last 3 being from Canberra. Linda, due to a recent knee operation was unable to take part in the exercises.

EXERCISE 1: Vertical Lift Using Stretcher

Serpentine Cave B 34.

While free climbing a slippery 12m entrance pitch the casualty slipped from a ledge halfway up. Injuries sustained were broken ribs and a broken humerus. The casualty lay directly below the entrance pitch. Although there was plenty of height and length, the width of the working area was only 0.7 m making it difficult to work on the patient and place her in a stretcher. The stretcher needed to be lifted vertically and as the pitch doglegged a person was needed halfway up to guide the stretcher. The stretcher, a McInnes stretcher, is designed to be lifted in a horizontal position.

EXERCISE 2: Horizontal Carry Without a Stretcher

Hollands Cave B 35.

While leading the party through the cave the leader tripped and fell, breaking his ankle and severely bruising his back. The passage at this point was 1m wide and 0.7m high. In order to get the patient out of the cave he had to be turned around. After immobilizing the fracture the patient was manoeuvred onto a rubber drag sled which another party member had been dispatched to obtain from one of the vehicles.

EXERCISE 3: Locate and Assess

B 50.

On the way to a cave the party is stopped by an hysterical person claiming that his buddy fell in a nearby cave and injured himself. Entrance to the cave is through a 20m deep fissure then a short squeeze into a chamber 24m by 10m by 5m high. The patient has fallen down a rockpile near the chamber entrance, cutting the abdomen. Intestines were protruding through the wall of the abdomen, the patient's vomit contained blood; he was in deep shock and had been sitting there "bloody hours".

In this exercise the party discussed what first aid could be administered to the patient and what means, if any could be used to remove him from the cave.

EXERCISE 4: Horizontal Carry Using Stretcher

Grill Cave B 44.

Patient fell down a 2m fixed iron ladder suffering a broken leg. As she fell her leg became caught in the ladder. The stretcher was an experimental stretcher by J. Bonwick designed for tight squeezes. In order to be placed on the stretcher the patient had to be moved over a muddy slope. The stretcher then had to be lifted up the 2m ladder, carried along a sideways inclined passage 1m high, manoeuvred over a floor hole and down a rock pile.

In conclusion we felt the weekend was an unqualified success due to both the effort and dedication of the organisers, and the seriousness with which we tackled the exercises.

JIM CUNDY & KEVIN MOTT**MELROSE**

12th - 13th March

A quick trip to the Lower Flinders was carried out a couple of weekends ago. The first cave visited was Orroroo Cave. Easy to locate and only a small cave but worthy of note. It is a 10m corkscrew pitch and the cave is very humid and warm. We visited the owner of the property to ask if any other caves had been known in the area. Unfortunately (for us) there weren't. Next we drove to Spring Creek to try to meet some others who were camped there.

We next drove to Mount Remarkable to locate the "Blowhole" and then up the track to Greys Hut Cave.

On the way home a few dolines were looked at but did not show any promise.

DOT PEISLEY

GLENELG RIVER

5th - 6th March

PARTY: Kevin Mott, Dean Davidson, Linda Buxton, Noeleen Buxton,
Allan Brown, Debbie Brown, Madeline Arnold.

This trip was arranged as a familiarisation, tourist cum work trip. Saturday morning we called in to Nelson to see the ranger to arrange permits to camp on the banks of the river and to inform him of our activities. We then had a look at G11 - a sinkhole filled with rubbish but shows potential if the rubbish could be removed. A survey to CRG Grade 3 was then undertaken. From the entrance a soil slope leads down at an angle of 45° before hitting water. The lake follows an extension of entrance for 5m before opening out into an 8m diameter chamber. This chamber has a roof height of 25' and water depth of 38'. After a luncheon break at Donovan's landing spent watching budding canoeists flailing around in the water Allan performed the good deed of the day by backing some jokers boat into the ramp as the owner couldn't reverse it himself.

Because we had some difficulty in locating McLelan's punt we camped at Little's Landing. While the others set up camp Dean and myself drove off and managed to locate McLelan's punt. That evening a tourist trip to G14 noted the water level seemed lower than usual. In a fit of madness we decided to walk the six miles back to Little's Landing.

On Sunday the party visited G4 to check an extension missed during the original survey. Due to lack of maps we found our way around the hard way. Even so we found many of the roads had been either shifted or closed. We compensated for our hard work during the day by catching 3 bream on metwurst yes metwurst!

Any future trips to the area should obtain permission to camp from National Parks Service (Victoria), 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne.

KEVIN MOTT

KEVIN'S CONFESSION

At the March Committee Meeting whilst discussing the problems of building a new toilet at Currumulka, Kevin Mott suddenly jumped to his feet his face beaming with pride and in a triumphant voice he exclaimed "I've got a toilet at home". Really Kevin? ? ?

EXCAVATIONS IN HENSCHKE'S QUARRY BONE CAVE 5U91 / 97

Introduction:

In 1969, operations in Henschke's Quarry at Naracoorte disclosed a small cave, where local youngsters soon found a quantity of bones. Word of this discovery found its way to one of the local school teachers and thence to Fred Aslin, who notified me. Together we arranged to excavate as much of the bone deposit as we could, before quarry operations destroyed the cave, and Fred organized parties of volunteers from Naracoorte and Mount Gambier to help. There have been many excavating trips over the past 7 years, and an estimated 15m² (or more) of cave silt has been removed.

After several years living with the knowledge that the cave would be destroyed, we had become rather blasé, as it had never seemed imminent, and our operations diminished in frequency. However, late in 1976, we were informed by Mr. Henschke that the cave was likely to be-quarried in the near future, and we accordingly organized a final salvage trip to get as much as we could, that was on December 4-5 1976.

Recent excavating trips:

Following the success of our December trip, another was made January 22-23, and a third on February 26-27. A fourth was organized for March 26-27.

On the December trip, besides Fred and Jan Aslin and myself, there were 8 or 9 volunteers including Allan, Brian and Owen Shepherd and David Laslett of Mt. Gambier. In January, we had about a dozen people; in including Fred and Jan Aslin, myself, Kevin Mott, Kerry Ninnies, and David Laslett. For the February trip, David Laslett was influential in getting quite a number of new volunteers, and we had 17 workers including Fred Aslin, David Laslett, Kevin Mott, Dean Davidson, Brian and Owen Shepherd and myself.

The volume of silt removed and sieved is so large that I have processed (washed and sorted) only a fraction of it. Consequently I have only a rough idea of the notable specimens we have recently found. Amongst them are specimens representing at least 4 or 5 individuals of the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus*) from the upper layers, and at least as many individuals of the "Cave lion" *Thylacoleo* from the bottom-most layers (some 2m deep). Most exciting has been the discovery of several isolated teeth that verify a suspicion I had six or seven years ago, based on a single tooth: the presence of the very rare giant "rat kangaroo" *Propleopus*. (This was the size of a small kangaroo, to judge by a jaw found in Queensland). Previously, it was known only by 4-5 specimens from the Darling Downs in Queensland and a very worn specimen from Lake Menindee, N.S.W. We have also found a few more fragments of a species first recognized from this cave, the giant megapode (mallee fowl) *Progura naracoortensis*. Henschke's Bone Cave is the most prolific site for this species (only a few specimens have yet been recognized from Victoria Fossil Cave).

Several years ago, I had two radiocarbon dates made. Unfortunately the charcoal samples were too small for good results, but the better of the two gave a date of around 32000 years BP (Before Present) (Details of this will be published later, with a full description of the fauna). Some good charcoal samples were collected for dating, on these last trips.

During the February trip, work resumed in digging out the original entrance tube - which showed as only a faint depression when we started several years ago. It is now nearly 5m deep, and leads into a new chamber in line with the first but on the other side. We have yet to prove conclusively a connection between the tube and the fossil deposit, but according to our surveys, the separation is only on the order of inches.

We are resigned to the loss of the cave, but we gratefully acknowledge the forbearance and help of Mr. Henschke, without whose assistance our operations would have been extremely difficult. (He helped us dig an access tube directly above the excavations). The reason we have been able to continue so long is that the presence of dirt reduces the quality of the gravel produced by the quarry, and no way has yet been worked out to overcome this problem efficiently. We don't know how much longer we have to work there.

NEVILLE PLEDGE
(Curator of Fossils, S.A. Museum)

CORRA-LYNN

26th - 27th February.

Eight trops attended this trip, too many for a Corra-Lynn party to be effective, hence I split the party into two teams of four. One for surveying and the other for pushing adjacent passages. We concentrated our efforts on the Upper level, north and northeast of the Big Stalagmite including the new section found during the survey trip run last May (Newsletter Vol. 21. No: 2, pp 19-20).

The exploration team (Max Meth, Dale Hare, Edwin Galbreath and myself) completed 380m of survey. Ian Lewis underestimated the "known but unmapped" lengths in this cave unless he included grade 1 sketches as mapped. But this is only academic now, anyway. I would estimate that over 500m of open passage still needs to be surveyed; including some vague areas sketched onto the map at grade 1. This estimate is not accurate and does not allow for the obvious, as follows.

As usual, by 2.30 pm Sunday the survey team needed a change, so again as usual we used our just completed survey to pick the best spot to make a breakthrough, which naturally we did (as "promised" last July). The newest section is again heading north of the Northern Floorhole but is east of the previous find. Max estimated a conservative 150m including the side passages on each side (we just kept heading north until stopped by digs). Lack of time prevented us from travelling down all those inviting places.

One of these days, survey work will catch up to discoveries, maybe.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

In the absence of our cheerless feeder Grunt Gutteral I shall attempt a short résumé of the trip to Kangaroo Island.

After a very smooth boat trip and a couple of days stopover near Seal Bay our party pulled in to the Caves Reserve at Kelly Hill. We set up camp well back in the trees and made ourselves at home. The first couple of days were spent locating and exploring numerous sinkholes and surveying them (see Neil Smith's report). Any feature worth noting in the immediate area was surveyed in too.

A couple of days were spent getting burnt on the fantastic beaches and soaking up the glorious weather before diving back down the holes. A large trip was led into K1 where even the kids went through and enjoyed themselves. K1 has numerous entrances (or exits) and some truly beautiful decoration. Some of the best shawl decoration is in K1. Nights were convivial around the campfire cooking jaffles, popcorn and potatoes and rousing, sometimes rowdy games of scrabble.

The highlight of the trip was a visit to K11, Frosted Floor Cave. To reach this cave means a bush-bash through the scrub for about a mile. Fortunately it wasn't too hot as our party of 9 set out. The ladder was rigged and we descended to the bottom to find the remains of many animals who had the misfortune to fall in and who were unable to climb back out. After we had collected various bits of gear we commenced through. It was easy to see why this cave was called 'Frosted Floor'. All through there were signs of where water had been lying and calcite crystals had formed. The water has long since gone but the calcite crystals still remain. It was very hard not to have to crawl over these crystals, so strict paths were followed in order not to disturb or destroy them.

It was necessary to dig in a couple of places so that we could get through and in one particular spot the rocks in the roof seemed to be held in place by sheer luck. We had almost reached the end of our journey when tragedy struck. After crawling over a short flattener it was necessary to climb down a rock pile. Unfortunately for one of the party one of the larger rocks became mobile and in the time it took to blink he had one foot caught and the other badly knocked about.

It was obvious immediately that this was serious. First thing we had to do was to free the trapped foot and examine the wounds. One ankle began to swell so his boot and sock were removed. The other ankle and leg were badly grazed and bleeding. Both were washed and examined. The patient was given food and water (though he didn't really eat much) whilst a bandage was applied. It was suspected that a bone was broken and we had to plan how to get him out. The cave was mainly a crawling cave (apart from the entrance pitch) and having no stretcher it posed a problem. However the patient himself opted to take himself out with the help of three others. He was unloaded of all his gear except helmet and clothes (of course) and started his way out.

Because the cave was mostly flat it wasn't long before the entrance pitch was reached. The bulk of the party arrived shortly behind and we gathered at the bottom of the ladder.

The next problem - how to get the patient up the ladder. One of the party had a climbing harness and this was tied around the injured man and he was hauled up the ladder. Fortunately he was able to help us, using his arms. At the top he was strapped on to a motorbike and taken quickly back to camp. Back at camp a thorough examination was made and appropriate action was taken. The isolation of the cave in dense scrub could have made it more difficult if we had had to carry the injured party through the scrub.

The rest of the trip was fortunately uneventful and the boat trip back was very smooth.

DOT PEISLEY

P.S. It was found that a heel bone had in fact been broken.

LAKE CAVE

29th – 31st January.

On the January long weekend a large group of cavers, actors, and assorted helpers gathered at Lake Cave.

The event was another Sproductions filming weekend. This sequence of the film showed the four cavers abseiling down to the edge of the lake, getting into their diving gear and entering the water.

It was pleasing to see a large turnout by CEGSA members as their caving skills really proved invaluable. Large numbers of packages, bits and pieces, cartons, floodlights and cables had to be carefully carried into the cave and from there a chain gang was set up to transfer the gear to the final chamber. At the top of the chamber a flying fox was rigged to provide a smooth passage for the gear to the bottom.

The lighting necessary for the filming was provided by a generator at the surface. Four cables were run into the final chamber in order to carry the necessary current for all the floodlights. A telephone system was set up between the edge of the lake and the surface, this proved invaluable and saved a lot of knee wear and tear.

The weekend was a huge success and Richard Sprod was happy with the results. All those who sweated and toiled with various packages of different sizes and weights, time after time, in and out, day and night, were amply rewarded by the view of the lake and its surrounds lit up by 3600 Watts of light.

Believe me, it was one of the most stunning and awe inspiring scenes I have ever seen.

JIM CUNDY

A K.I. trip wouldn't be a K.I. trip without plenty of fishing and swimming and so forth. However, in between all this (and the string of accidents) we managed a bit of work. As a result, records now has two new maps, and a promising-looking dig is "in progress"

On our first day at Kelly Hill, Grant Gartrell whetted our appetites by pointing out a couple of cave entrances in the thick scrub on the ridge just east of the CEGSA campsite. These he'd located on a previous trip. With our zeal for exploration at a high point, we quickly rounded up about ten small entrances, even though the bush is so thick that you virtually have to fall down them to see them. One boasted a 4m entrance pitch (quickly! get a ladder!) and another required a ladder for a similar sized pitch inside. A couple of hours G-picking to push a squeeze resulted in failure (and, luckily, another half-hour's digging to enable me to reverse a squeeze that I'd passed with some difficulty in the other direction, resulted in success).

Enthusiasm for this group of caves began to wane after none yielded more than the entrance chamber, and that no bigger than 15m diameter. The best, perhaps, (lunch-time hole) we found by accident as we plodded wearily away from the area. Luckily, a few still had the energy to do a quick descent, as this cave has a respectable cluster of straws of about 1m in length.

Jonathan Burke and I eventually completed a dial-and-staff surface survey tying in the entrances (this got away to a slow start while N. S. tried to sight through the wrong end of the telescope). With various others I tidied up the underground measurements with compass and tape. All these caves are close together and with Naracoorte-style pushing could quite possibly be joined into one long string. But I doubt that the effort would be worthwhile. By the way, the use of dial and staff saved hours of work on the surface, even though the distances were small. Stretching a tape straight through that bush would involve more effort and more scratches and bruises than I'd like to incur.

After we'd seen the beautiful (and sporty) (and dangerous) Frosted Floor Cave (K11) our enthusiasm for exploration in that region was raised, and J. B. and I spent an afternoon thrashing around looking for more giant sinkholes like the K11 entrance.

Out here, the bush is even more evil (the infamous "bugger- bush"), Acacia Amara (?) is not the kind of stuff you push through unless it's obviously going to be worth it. After doing a big circuit, we managed to rediscover K11, and called it a day.

Later, on a tip from a previous Kelly Hill ranger (Rocky Berryman), a larger group looked around in an area SSW of the tourist cave. We didn't see anything answering Rocky's description, but we did find a pair of vertical solution pipes dropping 4m to a sand floor. Back to camp for buckets and shovels! Five hours and two tonnes of sand later, the vertical pipe began to shelve out horizontally, but unfortunately the sand was replaced by a rather hard clay and progress slowed to a crawl. The dig was adjourned sine die at dusk, and a trail was blazed back to the main track. O.K., all you keen diggers, away you go.

One further point. Looking back from Remarkable Rocks towards Cape Du Couedic along the 100m limestone cliffs, I saw some horizontal entrances about 30-40m below the cliff top. There are no natural anchor points along the top, but with a judiciously parked vehicle we could have an interesting SRT exercise some time. Remember the knot in the end of the abseil rope!

NEIL SMITH

NARACOORTE

5th - 6th March

Fourteen cavers attended this working trip including 4 Barrier Rangers who travelled 800km each way for one day's play at mining.

The party was split into 4 teams of threes plus two extras. The two teams worked one jackhammer each (one from each end of the tunnel between the Fossil Chamber and the Exit in Victoria Fossil Cave) while the others were either photographing in the Vic or Alex, or were resting, eating etc.

Progress was very slow at the Fossil Chamber end (half a metre at the most) due to the hard rock encountered, whereas two and a half metres of progress was made at the other side due to the softer rock and smaller pilot tunnel dimensions.

The photography was organized by Athol Jackson who had borrowed floodlights for the occasion. The aim being to expand CEGSA's slide set of the tourist caves. It should be interesting to see the variety of slides that come out of the project because several people were clicking while Athol slowly arranged the scene lighting for the angles and effects he was after. Athol was, of course, taking the same scenes with different exposures so that a high slide reject rate was inevitable from duplication. However, we know of no better (that is. cheaper) method to obtain the correct exposure for a slide duplication original (which is different to that for a good slide).

FOOTNOTE: Eight of Athol's slides have been accepted onto the CEGSA slide set (now totalling 24) and they will be on sale at the Naracoorte Kiosk at Easter.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

BAKARA OR BAKARA

At the moment there is some confusion as to the pronunciation of Bakara. Is it Ba-car-a or Ba-care-a ?

BLACK AND BLUE CAVING CLUB

23rd-24th October and 7th December, 1976

PARTY: J. G. Cundy, P. Richardson, B. Chapman, A. Chapman, VS. Tyszta, A. Themes, R. Thomas, T. Gregory, A. Townsend, D. Jones, H. Johncock.

Well, the Black and Blue Caving Club has struck again, and again; that's twice for those who can't count. Both trips have been to Naracoorte. The first was on the Eclipse weekend, when we visited Monbulla Cave on the way to The Bluff, where we were privileged to view the ultimate, never to be repeated in our lifetime, Eclipse.

The next day we felt it was all worthwhile, as we could only see these funny crescent shaped things.

The other trip was a flying visit to Victoria Cave on a Tuesday night, after all who wants to look bright and alert on a Wednesday?

Hopefully these trips will be followed up by more this year and 1977 could well see some new members in the vicinity of Coomie.

Your Coomie Correspondent

JIM CUNDY

HENSCHKE'S

26th - 27th March

As Neville Pledge predicted it, the trip to Henschke's on the 26th - 27th went ahead with a large team of 10 on the Saturday and 14 on the Sunday. As I'm not a paleontologist I cannot comment on the quality of the finds, except to say that Neville took back as much dirt as he could carry including several skulls and jaws. Kevin Mott also took back two boxes of dirt for Neville (although rumour has it that Kev's passengers actually traded Kevin for the dirt, and thought they got a bargain).

From my point of view (as a surveyor) the most important event was the breakthrough from the "Natural Entrance" Cave to the "Bone" Cave. This breakthrough was not only where the survey predicted it but added a lot of weight to the argument that the solution tube entrance is the natural entrance to the "Bone" Cave, and that that is where the animals entered the cave some 32,000 years ago.

JIM CUNDY

I TOLD YOU SO CONNECTION

Jim and Kevin have great pleasure in announcing the birth of a connection at Henschke's Quarry, exactly as they predicted it. Thanking those in attendance. F. W. Aslin, C. Laslett, and M. Struthers.

FUTURE-TRIPS

CHILLAGOE

I notice that several of our keeper members have been venturing as far as N.S.W. for a bit of caving lately. Well, how about something completely different again. Chillagoe, about 200km west of Cairns, North Queensland, has some extremely worthwhile caves occurring in limestone bluffs which tower above the surrounding plain, a phenomenon not uncommon in the tropics. (The initial issue of the Chillagoe Caving Club's excellent publication "Tower Karst" is in the CEGSA library).

From a cavers' point of view, the variety in the area is enormous incredibly good decoration, big vertical pitches, a lot of good underground rockclimbing, tight squeezes, no low flatteners to render surveys unsatisfying (Monbulla !!), bats, pythons, cave crickets, and unlimited exploration possibilities. Even a couple of caves intersecting the water table which require the services of a good diver.

There's a beautiful campsite and good waterholes in the creek for washing off the dust and sweat of the day. One so deep that one can do 10m dives off the cliff or a tree. A trip to Chillagoe doesn't have to be a self-contained expedition like a Nullarbor trip - the town has a general store and a butcher shop and two pubs - but it has all the freedom of movement associated with remote areas. Three days' driving would get us there, through interesting country (Birdsville Track, or Broken Hill, Bourke, Barcaldine).

I'm interested in hearing from anybody who may wish to go this year in July, August or September. My timing is fairly flexible at this stage - we could fit in before or after the rumoured Camooweal trip (Chillagoe would be one solid day's drive from there). I intend to take a Landrover but may only be able to provide a lift one way unless you want to stay 4-5 weeks. It's worth staying there that long - but even a 14 day trip (including travelling) would be really worthwhile.

Contact me at any CEGSA meeting, at 517 Marion Road, South Plympton 5038, or phone 223 4333 ext. 2893 during the day.

NEIL SMITH

MULLAMULLANG IN MAY

In May - or around about then - there will be an expedition to Mullamullang for the purpose of exploring and mapping Easter Extension. Cavers from W.A., Vic., N.S.W., A.C.T., and S.A. will be pre sent at various times during this period.

A car from S.A. will be leaving Adelaide on the 14th of May and returning on the 29th May. Alternatively there are coaches which can be taken either one way or both ways. For further details see either Kevin Mott or myself. But be quick!

JIM CUNDY

TECHNICAL AND OTHER ARTICLES

CORRA-LYNN - BRIEF NOTES AND OTHER SHORT STORIES

CEGSA has a long association with Mr. D. Correll of Curramulka on who's land is "Corra-Lynn" the longest cave in South Australia.

Major discoveries have been made by CEGSA members. The skeleton maze was found in February, 1962 by R. Davies. The gravity cavity area was found by Grant Gartrell in 1969.

To protect the cave (and some cavers), a gate was installed on the 1st May, 1971, keys being held both by Mr. Correll and CEGSA.

An additional maze area leading off the Skeleton Maze was found on the 8th April, 1973 by Graham Pilkington and Denis Burke. This new area contains a number of unusual features and decorations.

Two internal gates were installed on the 3rd November, 1973 to reduce traffic and protect this area - this action has been successful to date.

By mid '73 CEGSA realized that Corra-Lynn was one of the longest caves in Australia. Possibly only Mullamullang (W.A.), Exit (Tas.) and Johansen's Cave (Qld) were longer.

An embarrassing problem existed - the cave was not completely mapped - in fact less than half the known cave was on paper. The earliest known areas were mapped by Bob Sexton during 1960, 1961 and Grant Gartrell added a small part of "Bushwalkers". It was, therefore, late '73 when Ian Lewis set out to complete the map and by the end of 1974 a figure of 5 kilometres was being bandied about a bit.

However Ian's map was not complete, and it did contain a few misclosures in the surveying. Graham Pilkington had helped Ian correct some details with Radio Direction Finding gear borrowed from Peter Robertson of VSA (it just couldn't have been done without the help of those B...* Vics.).

Graham continued mapping and mopping up in 1976 & 77. In the process his mapping suggested ideal locations for three "digs" which each yielded about 150 meters of passage in the region north and east of the "Big Stalactite". This area overlays the Bushwalkers and Octopus area.

It has been noticed that the tunnel layout in the old Bushwalkers area is very similar to the overlying passages in the Big Stalactite area. The upper level passages now reach a point about 20 metres south of the most northerly point in lower level Octopus area. It may be possible to find some "missing" passages in the upper level because of the lower level symmetry.

MAX METH

* Benevolent

PARTY LOCATION BOARD - NARACOORTE

As every visitor/guest of the Naracoorte Hut in recent times has observed there has been numerous decorative features appearing out of the blue - all to make the lives of simple cavers easier. Well!, the phantom hut decorator has struck again; this time in the guise of the safety officer. Fixed to the eastern wall there is a new edition blackboard labelled "PARTY LOCATION". No, this does not tell you where to have a wild Sat'dy night in Naracoorte but it does tell you where your nearest friendly neighbourhood trog is.

Those who have dutifully been using the old blackboard (receive an elephant stamp) will know just how inadequate it was. Notable changes incorporated in the new blackboard are:

- 1) Party
 - a) separate columns for leader and members
 - b) more room to fill in details.In the event of an emergency this enables those in charge of operations to know exactly who is in the party involved.
- 2) Purpose. Used to describe nature of visit e.g. exploration, digging, survey etc. May help to determine nature of emergency, equipment available to those in the party involved.
- 3) Remarks. Used to describe more accurately location within large cave complexes or provide any extra information deemed necessary.

Every party entering a cave in the Naracoorte area MUST log their trip on the blackboard. Anyone failing to do so may be barred from leading further trips. If the hut is locked details of the trip should be placed in the box adjacent to the door. Details recorded should be similar to those that would appear on the blackboard. When recording time, allow a reasonable estimate for time of return. Search procedures normally commence 2hrs after estimated time of return.

Your life or safety may depend on others knowing where you are, so please RECORD your trip.

The southern wall has had the mirror removed to a more suitable (he. he, he) position and a map of Victoria Fossil Cave affixed in its place. The map, at a scale of 1:1000, is a general plan only and for detailed information the 1:250 map sheets should be consulted. Any additions you may find can be drawn on the perspex cover using chinagraph pencil (provided). When the additions are accurately drafted they can then be added to the map. Remember passages shown on the map may not be negotiable due to

- a) clean flowstone blocking the way
- b) passage impenetrable
- c) passage OUT OF BOUNDS e.g. Fossil Chamber & Ossuaries.

While speaking of hut innovations, SPARE element wire for electric jug elements are in the cupboard so there is now no need to conduct electrolysis experiments in the jug.

KEVIN MOTT

This is what the "new" Party Location Blackboard looks like:

PARTY LOCATION							
Date	Cave	Party		Time		Purpose	Remarks
		Leader	Members	Left	Est Return		
10/3/77	Unameit	King	Serf	0830	1730	Digging	somewhere
			Peasant			and	Chamber
			Page			exploation	

KEVIN MOTT

THE CONVENIENCE OF CURRAMULKA

At the committee meeting of 9th March 1977 a tender for the construction of a "LOO" worthy of a rightful place at Curramulka was accepted. The tender was submitted by Cundy-Mott Constructions of the Coomandook Country Club (Motto - Avoid Disappointment, Never Book In).

The new loo will be constructed so as to withstand high winds and blistering rain. Outstanding features included in this magnificent edifice will be:-

- 1) Highly polished glossy comfort contoured seat.
- 2) All purpose weather vane, proudly topped by a red rooster.
- 3) Genuine country styled gabled * roof.
- 4) Framed blueprints in case of unforeseen repairs.
- 5) Tie off point in case of rescue.
- 6) Genuine pull chain with hand crafted handle.
- 7) Battery pack rack.
- 8) Hat rack.
- 9) Graffiti blackboard (chalk included free of cost).
- 10) Door.

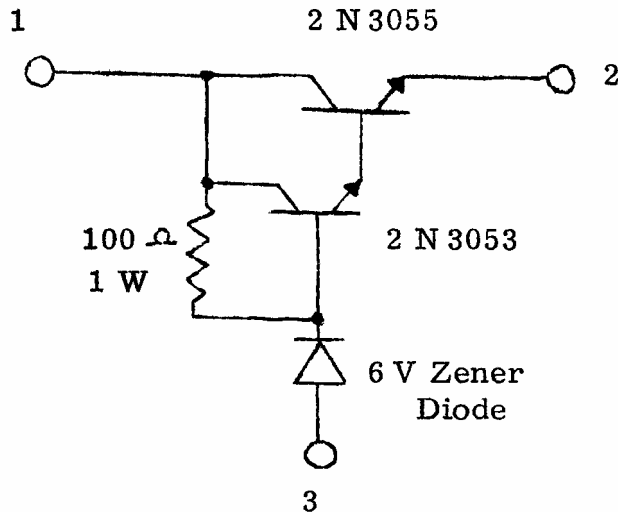
It is aimed to complete the construction by the middle of the year. Hoping you can wait that long.

* Not Clark stupid! This is a pointy roof - the point being closest to the sky

JIM & KEVIN

ADDENDUM TO BATTERY CHARGER

Some comments have been made since the article appeared in the last Newsletter. The main objection is that the LM 323 Regulator used in the circuit is too expensive. Although it is the best choice, an alternative is possible, but it has a larger component count and not quite as good regulation but is adequate. Here is the amended portion of the circuit which replaces the LM 323.



ATHOL JACKSON

CORRA-LYNN - SOME PROBLEMS (GATE, TOILET, BAR-B-Q).

1. The main gate to the cave cannot be opened if debris has fallen onto the bottom step of the entrance. This problem is bad this year after the dry season last year. Before entering the cave any such debris must first be shovelled clear, and preferably dumped at the top of the doline (where it can't roll back down).
2. One of the 2 bolts on the gate was cut off some time ago and has not been repaired. The gate has not been locked lately as a result (and also because of the debris). One lock would suffice, but before placing it on the door, check that Mr. Correll has a copy of the key.
3. The toilet - donated by the local council - has been destroyed, and that's not the whole story. Mr. Correll will approach the council to get a replacement. In the meantime, the top of the "toilet hole" could be shored up so that the new toilet can be securely attached to the ground (it was the lack of support that was the downfall of the old toilet). (All of these points have been taken into account in the construction of the new LOO Ed).
4. It would be a good idea to throw some insecticide in the "toilet" hole occasionally to kill the Red Back spiders. Some of this wouldn't hurt around the locks on the main gate for the same reason.
5. It appears that someone has driven their car over the bar-b-q. I wonder if someone could repair it as it's efficiency has been reduced somewhat.
6. Please plant a native. Tree, eucalypt even. This will help stabilize the soil and rocks in the doline., and will certainly improve appearances.

MAX METH

A 'THANK YOU' TO CEGSA

At the Annual General Meeting held earlier this year I was nominated and voted for an Honorary Associate Membership. This came as a very pleasant surprise and I would like to say a special 'thank you', to the Club members for bestowing this honour upon me.

I felt a little guilty about this Honorary Membership because I really have not done all that much for the Club, mostly typing for the Newsletter and for a few individual members etc., so I thought that perhaps I should try 'caving' for the very first time and become an active trogging Honorary.

This occurred on the Easter Weekend at Naracoorte and the cave that was chosen for me was Wombat. The drop into Wombat was made quite easily, although I was rather nervous descending the ladder, but I reached the bottom safe and sound. Once inside I had a good look around, enjoyed what I saw and thought 'this is great'. Then I was told that there was another chamber at the end of a short passage that was more interesting and that it had some very attractive decoration. On hands and knees I began to crawl into the passage but all too soon I had to lie down and inch my way through, and that is where I failed. Half way into the passage I realised that I could not make it - not that there wasn't enough room, there was but I suddenly began to feel terribly ill, and I had great difficulty in keeping my breakfast down, I was perspiring profusely and I just knew that I had to get out.

Once out of the passage I began to feel a little better, so I just sat down in the dark and waited for the rest of the party to finish exploring before we climbed out into that glorious fresh air. But, I'm not going to give up next trip to Naracoorte (in May, hopefully) I'm going to try again. Must find out if I suffer from claustrophobia or just plain 'nerves'.

JAN PETERSON

C.E.G.S.A. NEWSLETTERS

10 Years ago

In Athol Jackson's editorial of May 1967, he claimed that there were enough unmapped caves in the records to keep surveys going for the next 10 plus years. Does that mean that we should be almost finished? Athol also pleaded with all cavers to submit a trip report to the Records Officer, much the same as this edition.

A list of "Terms Recommended for General Use by Australian Speleologists" was begun and went from Aven to Claustrophobia, and included many definitions which are now taken for granted.

20 Years ago

There was not a Newsletter (as such) 20 years ago but instead there was a news sheet which came out often but at irregular intervals. The news sheet of the 26th June 1957 reports of a new Naracoorte Hut (is this still the same one we use?), numerous mapping trips to Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula, the Flinders, the Nullarbor and Naracoorte; what more can you ask? There is also (believe it or not) a plea by the editor for trip leaders to submit a trip report to the Records Officer. This is followed by a recommended layout of trip reports.

EASTER TRIPS

"A HOLE WEEK At MOLE CREEK"

(well not quite)

That famous trio of Jim Cundy, Kevin Mott and Ian Lewis, together with those familiar grotty regulars Dale Arnott and Terry Reardon decided to "do" Mole Creek for this year's interstate jaunt. All except Ian flew in from Adelaide to Melbourne on Easter Thursday, while the continent spanning Corolla aqua-planed down the Hume Highway from Canberra through the biggest wet and cold front of '77 so far.

Several Ansett delays later due to hail, blizzards, storms, earthquakes etc, we arrived in Devonport at 6 a.m. in EXCELLENT weather conditions. Would you believe that for two Easters successively in Tassie we have missed our first night's sleep. We met up with a party of scruffy Vics. (yes - the V.S.A. type) who kept us awake at night with their rowdy, bawdy singing, filled by their various forms of fluid intake. Significantly, on the day we left, the rain started coming over the ranges, so we left our Vic mates to weather it out (meteorological pun there).

But I'm getting ahead of myself, where we left them was the Wet Cave Campsite. This consists of a beautiful grass paddock next to a flowing river, with the Western Tiers towering 1,000 metres above us as a backdrop. The river emerges from Wet Cave one hundred metres from our tents, and disappears into Honeycombe Cave approximately 300-400 metres away.

The Friday afternoon we (5 SA's plus Brian Franz from Vic) decided to tackle the Western Tiers. Bushwalking in Tassie is different to anything in S.A., it's almost tropical, with its thick undergrowth, ferns, moss, and last but not least the leeches. We didn't make the top but high enough to clear the vegetation and look out on the plains below.

Those Mole Creek Caves are something else! We managed to see three of them - Lynds Cave, Marakooa Cave (a "touristy") and THE Kubla Khan Cave.

Lynds Cave is much more than we expected. From a small slit opening about body size, on the edge of a river bank, we plodded along a freezing streamway for some distance over very black rocks coated with slippery mud. In a very short distance the cave opened out into an impressive passage with a knee-deep river bordered by various forms of speleothems.

The river eventually lost itself in a rockpile, however, a moderate amount of fumbling around in the rockpile overcame this obstacle to find another 600 metres of similar passage. The feeling of wandering down such a passage (sometimes wading through the water) to the sound of trickling water, with your light shining off the numerous crystal facets and reflecting in the water; is something which cannot be explained to anyone who has not experienced it.

We eventually emerged, cold, hungry and wet, from the cave after sundown, and hastened to join the Vics in a small sip of Port (actually it was our Port) before heading for the Mole Creek Pub.

The next morning Ian, Kev, Dale and Terry partook in a "touristy" of Marakoopa Cave, complete with swift-flowing river and glow-worms, before heading off for Kubla Khan.

Kubla Khan has a mixture of everything for the caver. We entered the cave by abseiling and then stumbled and fell down the rockpile of the entrance chamber. So immense was this chamber that it was of Nullarbor proportions. A rather difficult crawl at the bottom of the chamber (easy if you wanted to get wet) saw us at the beginning of a high, narrow river passage. In order to traverse this passage (and stay dry) it was necessary to act like mountain goats. The traverse consisted of crawling along ledges, climbing up flowstone, swinging from stalactites, hanging from stalagmites, and jumping from one side to the other ten to thirty feet above the river. The completion of this traverse was "stalactite shuffle" which was a hand-over-hand swing with no footholds. (Actually the handholds were columns).

If this all sounds rather severe on the decoration, don't worry "Kubla" had plenty of it, and besides which, it was worse on our nerves.

We then emerged into a chamber of rather extreme dimensions which made you wonder if your light had gone out. Fortunately it hadn't as it was here that the Pleasure Dome began. This area was strictly boots off and we were soon to find out why.

The entire floor of the 60m by 120m dome was covered by rimstone pools varying in size from a few millimetres deep to 1½ metres deep. A totally mind boggling experience and this chamber would surely rate as one of the most impressive I've ever seen, and due to obeying the boots-off rule, the chamber is totally void of any trog marks.

At the end of the chamber (of rather extreme proportions) was a 60ft wall of flowstone up which it was necessary to climb in order to continue. Of the party of six only Jim Cundy and Ian Lewis went further. And after a pleasant stroll along a passage which had one hundred per cent decoration on the floor, roof and walls we emerged into the chamber which housed the 'Khan'.

The 'Khan' is an extremely impressive stalagmite which stands 60 ft high and overlooks the chamber around and below him. I can't help but say "him", he had an identity, a certain mystique which defied your senses their right to picture him in his entirety. He was so impressive you almost felt you should bow down to him.

We all eventually emerged from the cave 12 hours after entering it and slowly packed up. The reason why we were slow is because we were trying to stand around a fire and eat toasted marshmallows at the same time.

We eventually arrived back at 3 a.m. (1½ hours ahead of the Vics who had gone to Herbert's). The entire trip, from start to finish was one of the best ever; and I urge you all to join us for next years Easter Trip to Tassie.

JIM CUNDY & IAN LEWIS

NARACOORTE

PARTY: G. & A. Pilkington, G. & J. Peterson, M. Meth, T. Burke, D. Hare, C. Linley, R. Peterson, A. Peterson, G. Beaumont, R. Doeke and D. Goode.

Caves Visited: Alexandra, Cathedral, Cave Park, Saddle, Sandfunnel, and Wombat.

Exploration - that means excavation when you're in CEGSA. - was the order of the days. Only one vague attempt was made at different occupations when a night-time trip was made into Alexandra for photography and surveying, but the survey never eventuated.

Minor extensions (nearly all of which were dug) were made in most of the caves visited with the exceptions of Wombat, in which no progress was made, and Cathedral in which Gordon's crew created the cave's first circular tour by linking the inner silt chamber back to the tunnels next to the pop-up. Two small decorated chambers were found in the process and more silted-up tunnels with small breezes. A 7 am trip was made to confirm, the source passage of the air movement and 9m of tunnel were excavated. A further 4 m can be seen but the air space is less than 0.1m high and 0.2m wide (with fortunately a sandy floor). Oh Well, next trip...

N.B. Saddle Cave was crawling with young wetas, I hope none were hurt by our intrusion; "they can keep the cave" was the typical reaction of the fools who followed the trip leader's suggestion to go there.

At least the crickets now have skin to eat.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

CHASING BREEZES IN CATHEDRAL

PARTY: G. & J. Peterson, R. Peterson, A. Peterson, G. Beaumont, R. Doeke and D. Goode.

Prelude: January, 1977.

Last January Jan and I took a group of teenagers (11) plus two teachers from the Oakbank Area School to Naracoorte for a week's caving. One of the caves visited was Cathedral and while the group were exploring various passages etc., I searched the perimeter of the Sand Floored Chamber looking for a breeze. At one end of the chamber I discovered a small cavity approximately 6" high at ground level which contained some decoration. After 10 minutes of vigorous digging, a small hole appeared and suddenly I felt a cool breeze hitting my face. With great excitement and anticipation the serious task of digging began. Four (4) hours later I could see into a small chamber and I realized that 15 to 20 minutes more digging would be needed to break through.

At this stage my enthusiasm spread to other members of the group who then came to my assistance. Some of the lads took over the digging to give me a break (with the threat of murder hanging over their heads if they went in first).

Finally the boys opened the hole and with the true spirit of caving, backed out to let me have the privilege of being the first one in. Two small chambers were then discovered which were immediately filled with bodies as the rest of the group scrambled in. The first chamber was approximately 3m long by 2m wide by 1m high with a dirt floor and a small amount of minor decoration the second chamber was approximately 4½ m in diameter by 2½ m high. This also had a dirt floor but a more reasonable amount of decoration.

Further investigation of this chamber revealed another small passage with a breeze! Excavation commenced immediately. Unfortunately after digging out only 3½ m of dirt and limestone, activities were suspended as it was time to pack up and go home. But before we left we carefully concealed the entrance to the first chamber to preserve the dig for a future trip.

EASTER, 1977

We arrived at Naracoorte late afternoon on Easter Thursday, set up camp, had a quick meal and then down into Cathedral. Reopening our 'dig' we set about furthering our excavation and after four (4) hours digging that night we had extended our tunnel by only a few feet as we were now into limestone.

Friday morning we were back again and by lunch time we broke through. Disaster! All of our expectations crashed to rock bottom as we gazed, bitterly disappointed, onto a well trogged passage (would you believe Heartbreak Passage?) We had looped the loop. Now Sand Floored Chamber (?) has two (2) entrances. (After the episode in Blackberry, I hope I don't get a Leather Medal for this one!)

But, like true troggers, not to be daunted, we started excavating another prospective hole (with a breeze!) in the second chamber, only this time we had help from Graham Pilkington and Max Meth.

By the end of the Easter break a further 9m of tunnel had, been excavated - hopefully, it will lead into something much better.

Good luck to anybody who wishes to carry on with the dig.

GORDON PETERSON

PROGRAMME

MAY

Wednesday 4th	Committee Meeting - 8. 00 p. m.	10 Gordon Terrace. Rosslyn Park.
Sunday 8th	Reynella Field Day	Kevin Mott.
Wednesday 11th	National Heritage Assessment Study	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View.
14th - 29th	Mullamullang Trip	Jim Cundy.
Wednesday 25th	General Meeting - 8. 00 p. m.	Museum Lecture Room Speaker to be decided)
28th - 29th	Curramulka - surveying	Graham Pilkington.

JUNE

Wednesday 8th	Committee Meeting - 8. 00 p. m.	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham.
11th - 13th	1) Flinders 2) Monbulla - Glencoe	Dot Peisley. Kevin Mott.
Wednesday 22nd	General Meeting - 8. 00 p. m. (Talk by J. Cundy on Vertical Caving Techniques)	Museum Lecture Room
25th - 26th	CEGSA - VSA Dinner (probable date only).	

JULY

3rd	Ladder making	23 Harcourt Road Payneham.
9th - 10th	Curramulka - surveying	Graham P Pilkington.
Wednesday 13th	Committee Meeting - 8. 00 p. m.	6 Hudson Avenue, Rostrevor.
16th - 17th	Town Cave.- exploration	Dale Arnott.
Wednesday 27th	General Meeting - 8. 00 p. m. (Slide night - so bring all your slides)	Museum Lecture Room

NOTE: The National Heritage Assessment Study meeting on the 11th of May is a follow up to the recent survey carried out through A.S.F. Elery Hamilton-Smith (Honorary Study Director) will be flying in for the one night only. So please, if you are in the least bit interested, come along and listen or have your say.

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TRIP CONTACT LIST

Kevin Mott	23 Harcourt Rd, Payneham - (w) 2272704 (h) 425540.
Jim Cundy	Coomandook - (w) Yumali 733007.
Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Cres., Valley View - (w) 2725711 (h) 2642598.
Dot Peisley	23 Dorset St , Brahma Lodge - (w) 2622521 (h) 2589917.
Dale Arnott	26 Jetty Road, Grange - (h) 3567244

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SEARCH AND RESCUE

South Australian Police Force.