



NEWSLETTER

Cave Exploration Group

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EDITORIAL

NO! I haven't slipped and published the newsletter too early. There are now 5 issues of the newsletter per year. The dates of these will be found on page 19. This increase has been brought about as a result of the tremendous response I had to the plea for, more articles. Thanks, you've made me happy.

I'm also pleased to see that Linda Whaley has relieved some of the load from our poor overworked Secretary / Treasurer, Jane Wilson, Linda has taken on the job of Minutes Secretary for both General and Committee Meetings. This is a hard job with little or no thanks, and she is to be commended for taking it on.

I have often seen people not belonging to a caving group (tourists, visitors. call them what you like) who have taken it upon themselves to go, to a non-tourist cave. Their various forms of footwear,. clothes and lights as well as their lack of helmets, have alarmed me. Not for their safety, but for the fact that I might well be the one who has to rescue them as a result of their poor gear.

It is even more alarming when members of caving clubs, who for some obscure reason, go caving with poor or unsafe gear. Consequently it gave me great pleasure to print the article by the S. & R. Officer on page 20. READ IT ! !

While I'm on the topic of Search and Rescue, the S. & R. Exercise to be held on the 30th - 31st July is not to be taken lightly. Reference to it appears several times in this issue and I can add little to what has been said, except to say that I wish I could make it compulsory attendance for all cavers. It cannot be stressed hard enough, how critical it is that you attend this Exercise. Don't be embarrassed to come because you haven't got a clue what to do, neither have 90% of the cavers in this State. Please write the date in your diary and please be there.

The coming months promise to be active ones for CEGSA members. In addition to the S. & R. Exercise, cavers can look forward to the CEGSA-VSA Dinner on the 2nd July while their Wednesdays can be gainfully employed to produce maps and increase their knowledge at the "Mapping and Training" nights. The Wednesday of the 6th July is another important date. Elery Hamilton-Smith who is the Honorary Study Director of the National Heritage Assessment Study will be in Adelaide. He will lead a discussion about the Study which should prove to be both informative and interesting. If you don't know what the Study is all about then see Dale the Librarian for some info or just trog along to the meeting and sit and listen. Of course if you have anything to say about the Study then this is your big chance.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate Athol Jackson and Ian Lewis on being awarded Honorary Life Membership, it was well deserved in both cases.

JIM CUNDY

TRIP REPORTS

LOWER GLENELG RIVER - VICTORIA.

23rd - 25th April, 1977.

PERMIT NUMBER: 767/54

PRESENT: G. Pilkington (L), K. Mott, M. Meth, J. Burke, J. Young, R. Haydon, G. Parker, W. Parker, C. & T. Corey, L. Monteath and four visitors.

Fred Aslin, as usual, had a little job for us to do in the S.E. This time it consisted of siting a drill so that it would intersect the main pool in Upper Wet Cave at Henschke's Quarry, Naracoorte. We picked up the map Jim had hidden at Coomandook that covered the area, including the caves, and Kevin did the job on Saturday, twice. Well, it's like this, see; Mr. Henschke is going to drill the hole and his drilling rig can only reach down 12m but the depth to water was estimated at 17m. A site above the Lower Wet Cave's pool had to be chosen.

Meanwhile some did quick trips to Wombat and Cathedral for the benefit of novices while I enjoyed the scenery and set up the CEGSA Slide display in the Kiosk for the new set of 24.

Camp at McLennans Punt near 3G14 was set up in the afternoon, enabling me to shove everyone through that cave in the evening. Max led the way and at the point where the stream takes a side passage he paused to encourage everyone else upstream. I was holding the rear and on arrival went with Max the dry way. As an excuse for doing nothing when we got to the "terminal" chamber, I sat taking water and air temperatures. Max's conscience bothered him. He set off downstream to meet the others since they hadn't arrived and we couldn't hear them. That's when we discovered the liberty of the surveyor who had pictured the stream passage as two open ended wet sections, with air space, heading for each other. They sump! And not only that, I've since heard that Ian Lewis has examined the sumps by diving and found that the water travels through cracks too small for people. Re-surveys of the water passages are needed. Maybe we could get divers to go through the end collapse beyond the "terminal" chamber and survey that part of the cave beyond the reach of dry cavers. While I am in the water, I would like a permanent level-measuring pin installed at some convenient location so that water flow rates can be estimated from data easily collected by anyone. The cave air and water were both at 59°F at 19.00 hrs while the river surface and spring were 60°F and 59°F respectively at 17.00 hrs (read to 0.5°F).

The rest of the weekend was spent working in 3G4 at Curran's Creek.

Kevin and myself led a survey of a flattener side passage missed off the original map and which Kevin had found a few weeks earlier. Others re-surveyed a section of the main passage between the points where the side flattener joined it. Further minor errors elsewhere in the original survey were noted and corrections will be made to the map.

One of the major map changes necessary is due to the misalignment of the stream passage in the S.W. of the cave. It had been drawn as flowing from north to south whereas it actually flows from 290° to 110° magnetic at a lower level of the access passage and near parallel with the trend of the cave in the southern part of the cave. Max dug upstream into a further small chamber causing the cave stream to change to an orange colour - that of the mud. Efflux of this water into Curran's Creek from under a dirt bank was made unequivocal but must have given the people downstream a surprise as Glenelg River got its sundown tints at noon.

A dig in the surveyed flattener was discontinued after 4 hours had produced 3m more passage. It was beginning to head in the wrong direction - a low-level connection to the main passage as against the high level join at present.

I had most of the troops on their hands and knees going nowhere. Their task - to collect as much data as they could on the other inhabitants. The list includes lichen, moss, fungi, swallows, bats, wetas, 4 species of spider and a mosquito-like insect (a midge?) that covered the roof along most of the main run of the cave at a density of about 400 per m². However, many were dehydrated (dead and flattened against the ceiling) and some were covered in fungus.

As is to be expected, away from the entrances the number of living things and especially the number of different species diminished dramatically. Excluding the creatures associated with guano (none were recorded anyway), the only animals that I saw deep in the cave, i.e., the dark zone, were the "midges", which were mainly on the roofs in the inner reaches of the larger passages, and one species of web-spinning spider. The spider was about 4 mm long, reddish in colour and had short legs. Egg sacs were abundant (about 3 per spider seen) and hung from single silk threads about 80 mm long; colour ranging from a light to a dark brown with the sac near 5 mm diameter. The webs were very fine, symmetric, 200-300 mm diameter and always had guy threads all around them to rock no more than 300 mm away. Flatteners had few, if any, in the "open" sections; the webs tended to be in the rock enclosures -due to lack of side support for the webs?

A complete list of observations including more detailed descriptions has been put into the Records. The trouble with cave biology is that there are so few people conversant with the subject and so much that can be done that if our members were to take the initiative and write a full description for each item that SHOULD be observed then our Group would become the Australian 'experts' and our new editor would have to issue the Newsletter as a "Daily".

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

The CRG Grade 3 survey was of 3G12. 3G11 was not surveyed. The spelling of McLennans punt should be McLennans punt NOT McLelans punt.

KEVIN MOTT

ARKAROOOLA Easter Weekend

After a pleasant but uneventful drive our party rendezvoused with Vince Peisley at the Arkaroola Caravan Park on Friday evening.

On Saturday morning we loaded our party plus 20 rock hounds into the three four wheel drives and headed for Yudnamutna Mine, calling at several other mines along the 30 long kilometre track. Upon arrival at Yudnamutna we jettisoned the rock hounds and aimed our vehicles along the upper reaches of Yudnamutna Gorge by the general process of keeping between the mountains.

We crawled approx. 10 kilometres up the very spectacular gorge with a halt at roughly 1 kilometre intervals for the keen young cavers to go scrambling up the sides of the mountains to investigate spectacular holes that went nowhere. Enthusiasm waned a little after a while and the convoy had dwindled to one vehicle by the time we reached the 10 kilometre mark. At this point we ran into two vehicles from the Landrover club who had intruded into our wilderness complete with CB radio.

During the course of a 1 hour political and environmental discussion over lunch we discovered that the leader of their expedition was a former Jackaroo (20 years ago) on Depot Springs and Umberatana Stations and knew of several caves which had been mined for Guano on the Depot Springs Station. Needless to say he was immediately interrogated and his name, rank and serial number noted for contact in the near future to arrange a trip to Depot Springs.

On the way out of the Gorge our Landrover colleagues enthusiastically stopped at several promising holes in the cliff face and led the way to investigate (unfortunately to no avail).

We intended exploring two other valleys but at this point we ran out of time. On the way back we investigated another promising hole above the Copper Creek bore which our torch beam showed went at least 6 metres and had traces of guano around the entrance. Unfortunately the passage was about half the size at which the smallest member of our party would be required to commence squeezing so we had to turn away frustrated, especially because the passage was in solid rock.

Vince Peisley noted a large colony of bats at dusk on his way past the Pinnacles, and when we next have a large party in the area this would warrant further exploration.

On Sunday our party set out towards Paralana Hot Springs via Barrabarana Gorge and East Pointer Gorge, enjoying the scenery but having no reward for the 20 or so openings we inspected out of the thousands sighted. No visit was made to Wooltana Cave as it was felt that our 50 feet of ladder would have left too big a step off the bottom rung.

The area has plenty of scope for further investigation but we felt that time was needed to tap the knowledge of the locals, and cavers in larger numbers were required in order to carry out an effective cave walk.

DAVID WRIGHT

CORRA - LYNN: 5Y1. 28th - 29th May, 1977.

PRESENT: G. Pilkington (Leader), L. Whaley, K. B., and one visitor.

Part of Saturday was spent surveying 150 m of upper level passage to the east of RDF's 6 and 8 and making a check traverse between RDF's 7 and 19 (all in the Crystal Chamber - Big Stalagmite area).

For the rest of the time we toured the older sections of the cave near the entrance, myself being the only one present who had been to the cave before. A search for a good location to push beyond Woodside towards Hawaiian Tub Hill failed. For some unknown reason the large size passages terminate along the Woodside boundary without any obvious blocked passages; mainly solid rock with the infrequent tight or blind joint. Possibilities seem to exist on the lower level where a weaker (?) horizontal zone has been eroded in places.

The job of surveying is nowhere near complete but at least I am still "catching up". Not including check runs and. Re-surveys of future work there are at least 5 survey-team-weekends worth to do.

N.B. No water; never mind toilet, was available at the camp site. The tank was empty.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

APOLOGY TO THE RECORDS OFFICER

After all my raving last issue, about handing up trip reports to the Records Officer I omitted to tell you who it was. Sorry one and all, your Records Officer for 1977 is the ever faithful Graham Pilkington.

JIM CUNDY

The good attendance of both old and new members of the club at the field day was particularly encouraging. Members of F.U.S.S. also attended. Several ladder, abseil and jumaring pitches were rigged on the short face. Those present were encouraged to try all three methods of vertical movement.

Several problems were encountered with the use of Reynella Quarry during the day:

1. Upon arrival no-one could gain admittance to Quarry as our keys didn't fit the locks. This situation was rectified when members of the Tea Tree Gully Rock Hounds turned up with a key, allegedly from the owner. Later on, the owner was visited and apparently no-one called to collect a key. He will, however, provide CEGSA with a copy of the new key.
2. Various locals make extensive use of the area as an adventure playground and Kerry Ninnies nearly had a rock, thrown by a playful youngster bounce off her head.

The group may have to investigate placing signs at strategic points to attempt to alleviate this sort of incident.

KEVIN MOTT

SPRING CREEK

On Saturday morning we set out in three vehicles to have a look for the entrance of Mt. Remarkable Blowhole. Having walked over the surrounding area for a radius of one kilometre and establishing that the cave, or no other caves were in the immediate vicinity, the main party hiked back to the transport. Being a stubborn caver I climbed the hill once more only to find that the landmarks we had found close-up, were meant to be seen from afar. Having discovered this fact I promptly stumbled over the entrance to F1. As we only had 50 feet of ladder, and due to lack of enthusiasm from a worn out party of cavers, we decided not to climb back to the entrance.

We arrived back at the cars to find a party of rock climbers who had been in touch with Dot and expected to find her at F1. Armed with new information we set out to find our leader, calling first at Melrose caravan park and then at Spring Creek. As Dot was not in attendance at Spring Creek we had lunch and then hiked to Goat Rock Falls. The party was so exhausted by this time that no effort was made to search the surrounding hills.

Sunday morning we set out to wind our way over the station properties at the back of Mt Remarkable and came to a halt 2 kilometres from F2. After a short hike we located F2 and then had lunch further up the creek at Greys Hut where the fruit trees were much appreciated, the figs were just ripe.

At this point our main party headed back to the vehicles while Roger Barnes and myself hiked the 10 kilometres to the head of the Spring Creek valley passing through promising limestone country and noting the access tracks for a proposed trip in May.

During this extended hike through sparsely populated country we passed over sheep tracks which the hallowed feet of our leader had trod. Apparently while we were at the top of Spring Creek, Dot's party followed a portion of our track. They were probably in F2 when we hiked past on our way back, commenting to one another how pleasant it was around the back of Mt. Remarkable with no people for miles (sorry kilometres).

One member of our party has a contact with a local property owner and so we hope to return in May armed with permission and further local information.

DAVID WRIGHT.

FLINDERS RANGES. 23rd - 25th April, 1977.

TRIP MEMBERS: Ian Lewis, Colin Reece, Jim Cundy, Linda Whaley and Dale Arnott.

The trip began as a disaster, with Jim holing his sump, and all of us seeing enough of Hawker to last a lifetime.

However we did manage a bit of caving. We spent a couple of hours at Arcoota Creek Cave on Sunday afternoon (Saturday was not worth a mention) while waiting for Peter Hocknell to arrive from Adelaide with his Range Rover plus car trailer to tow Jim straight back to Adelaide on Sunday night.

Now Monday, after we had rid ourselves of the Cundy nuisance, made the trip worthwhile (I think). The four of us decided that we should try to find Eyrie Cave even though we did not have any location whatsoever. So being logical as always we enquired at the Barytes settlement only to be told by the lady of the house that "Dad and the kids left for them not ½ an hour ago", moan.

Dad and the kids eventually returned each carrying what only a few hours ago had been nice lumps of live decoration! At least we had accurate directions. The cave is situated at the top of a large hill and the view from the top, even though it involved an hour's walking is quite spectacular. Naturally no one brought their cameras.

The cave itself is basically one large silt-filled chamber with decoration (minus the above mentioned portions) and bats in very small numbers.

We considered that finding the long lost Eyrie Cave and getting rid of Jim all in the same weekend made it a pretty good weekend.

DALE ARNOTT.

MULLAMULLANG EXPEDITION. May, 1977.

The week from the 14th to the 21st was spent at Mullamullang Cave under the direction of Ian Lewis. There were a total of 18 cavers taking part from S.A., Vic., N.S.W. and A.C.T. The purpose was to explore as much as possible of the Easter Maze, and map it. No easy task, let me assure you. A full account of this week should appear in the next issue.

The majority of the cavers left on either the 21st or 22nd, leaving those intrepid interstate cavers, J. Cundy and K. Mott along with novice interstate caver, Kram Smith, to persevere with another gruelling week on the Nullarbor, so this article now becomes:-

NULLARBOR EXPEDITION May, 1977.

As a result of the strenuous and exhausting week at Mullamullang we decided that the ensuing week would be a leisurely one, spent looking at the Nullarbor's big name caves.

We started as far west as Cocklebidy and slowly worked our way back. It was not entirely aimless wandering. Our purposes were multiple. In fact just to prove it, we have listed them.

1. To draw some more accurate and up to date surface maps showing the more permanent features and cave entrances.
2. To photograph the cave entrances for the records (more of this in later issues).
3. To visit all of the large caves, "touristy" trips.
4. To photograph the caves themselves.

Just to prove that we were doing something; we took a total of 600 photos (approx.) for the two weeks. So you can all look forward to some long slide nights in the future.

We did manage to achieve our aims, although not completely, we were hampered by a broken speedo cable, gale force winds, bitter cold and driving rain (on the Nullarbor?). As a result there was a great deal of time spent in the car

driving around, in fact it could be summed up as; Jim Drove, Kevin Plotted and Kram Slept. The above mentioned are now declared to be the toasted ham and cheese sandwich experts of the Nullarbor.

We must however admit to one failure, we attempted as many have before, to find Capstan Cave, unfortunately we failed but so have many others before us.

Contrary to popular opinion we did not visit every Pub on the Nullarbor; we missed the Mundrabilla one, through sheer oversight. However, we did do some caving, below is a breakdown of what we did.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CAVES VISITED</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
20/5	Kestrel One	Location diag & photograph entrance
	Kestrel Two	ditto
	Spider Sink	ditto
22/5	Madura Pass Blowhole	ditto
	Moonera Tank Cave	ditto
	N-54	ditto
	Murra-el-elevyn	Exploration
23/5	Panikan Plain	Location diag & photograph entrance
	N-91	ditto
	N-93	ditto
	N-92	ditto
	Offset Blowhole	ditto
	Murra-el-elevyn	ditto
	Cocklebidly Cave	Exploration
24/5	Weebubbie Cave	Digging in S.E. end found a further 2m Photography using a magnesium flare.
25/5	Chowilla Landslip	Location diag. & photograph entrance.
	Winbirra Cave	ditto
	Kutowalla Doline	ditto
	Abrakurrie Cave	ditto, as well as photographs inside using magnesium flares.
26/5	Double Blowhole on Weebubbie road	Location diag. & photograph entrance
	Single Blowhole on Weebubbie road	ditto, as well as explore
	Warbla	Entrance photo, explore & emu parade to remove all rubbish.
27/5	Murrawijinie One	photographed
	Murrawijinie Two	photographed & explored
	Murrawijinie Three	ditto
	N-12	ditto

P.S.

I suppose a few of you are wondering why 18 Adult mature cavers would spend an entire week trying to find the smallest grottiest hole in the mainland's largest cave? Beats me! !

KEV MOTT
JIM CUNDY
KRAM SMITH

THE SPIRIT OF CAVING.

I was enjoying my Easter Weekend relaxing at Naracoorte until some mad fool suggested a trip into Saddle Cave. With great excitement I recharged my batteries in anticipation of a good day's caving for this was a 'new' cave for me (and for most of the others for that matter). Cheerfully, numerous bods piled into three cars and slowly dribbled down the road with great expectations of new adventure, digs and things

The fact that our Fearless Leader careered off way past the cave on dirt track, thoroughly bushed, with 'Yours Truly' tagging on behind trying to tell him that he was lost, was no indication that we had lost faith in his ability to lose himself (and us) underground, only that he was disorientated on top and needed his theodolite and compass to find his way around.

Eventually our Fearless Leader ran out of road and sadly realized that he had missed the turnoff point -- enough said -- we back-tracked and finally found the "Cave" which now, for his benefit, is marked by a plastic flag pole at the entrance (no compass required).

The magnificent 500mm entrance hole located at the top of a rockpile, was a twisting narrow-gutted tube causing each and every fool who entered to perform contortions similar to an Arabian Belly-dancer, and which gradually swallowed up half of the group before agonized calls were relayed back -- "No More!!" "Why?" was the reply -- a muffled answer issued from below "...because no bloody more can fit in - that's why!!"

Our No: 2 Fearless Leader (who's been there before -- why? wriggled and squirmed his way through a hole at the bottom of the rockpile and eventually called back to 'Yours Truly' "don't come down you won't make it -- it's too tight!"

Great! Oh, that was really great! Here I was in the middle of the line, bods piled up in front of me and others behind me, with one particular pair of clod-hoppers planted firmly on my left shoulder and on the back of my bash-hat, which were slowly but surely pushing me forward.

Inspiration -- Solution -- if Graham P. (Fearless Leader 1) can make it, so can I. "Hey Graham, you go first, after all, your supposed to be the leader." (He, he, he -- I'm no coward -- BUT). Body crushing and compacting exercise as our brave

cohort worms his way through the tangle of bodies and legs etc., to take the initiative. Through the small hole he charged and sent back a welcome cry - "Come on, you can make it!

So head down and through the hole, swing hard right and keep to the top of the wedge-shaped flattener, pretty tight -- but I'm nearly there. You beaut ... can't be far to go, when back comes a call "Keep coming, the tight spot is not far in front of you now". *B H...@**, no chance of backing out because I'm still going down hill, head first, and boy is it tight! Well, only one thing to do, force my way through -- thank the Lord I'm going down hill and can use my body weight to help me. A back-breaking twist under a knob and in through the hole, you beaut -- then it struck me -- how do I get out? (With great difficulty!!), for it is all up hill and nowhere to get much purchase and oh boy, for me, is it tight!

Well, great things were done, digs carried out and all that, but hanging over my head was the first two metres of that flattener. Eventually the time had come and with great encouragement from the group, hat and battery pack off and being given verbal instructions of where to go, (because with your head jammed in on the side, no way can you look forward), off I went. "Keep up to the top of the wedge, then swing down through the tight back-breaker, breathe out hard and keep going." (Wore the toes out of my B boots that trip). I'm through -- gee that wasn't so bad, only lost a few inches of skin from my chest, knees, back and no fingernails left and I'm sure I chewed a couple of hunks of rock out on the way.

Well if I made it once, then I can do it again -- might have another look at Saddle Cave on my next trip and take down a group of beginners just to show them what the "Spirit of Caving" is all about. Grotty little hole!!

GORDON PETERSON.



HEARD RECENTLY.

Heard recently in Murra-El-Elevyn: Aunty Kevin - what can I do when cavers keep laughing at my pretty pink socks? Reply - change to fluffy white shorts.

CAVE CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

The following discussion on cave conservation in South Australia is a précis of the talk given by Grant Gartrell to the 7th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation in 1967. It takes up 25 pages of the Transcript of Proceedings, copies of which are available at a miniscule price from the Librarian.

CEGSA was the host club for this conference, which was held at Graham's Castle, Goolwa. At this time Grant was president of CEGSA. He began active caving in the early sixties, was, president of CEGSA for a number of years and may still be seen trogging in South Australian caving regions, especially Kangaroo Island.

Conservation is a contentious point and - as caves are only really important to cavers - I think it is necessary for us all to have some form of arguing knowledge in defence of our sport, or one day there may not be any caves left.

If you have any comments, criticisms or points to add, the Editor would be glad to accept any Great Works of Prose (or illiterate scribbles as the case may be) offered to him.

DALE ARNOTT

CAVE CONSERVATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The term CAVE refers to a natural feature, usually accessible to man and usually with a dark zone inside it, commonly formed by solution or erosion of rock. The rock is commonly limestone, although significant cavities may be produced in other materials.

Caves may be destroyed in a much shorter time than it takes for them to form and, once destroyed are irreparable, so any threats to cave conservation are an immediate and urgent problem.

As the population grows then so do those agencies which tend to destroy caves, or have a conflicting interest with them.

These agencies fall into a number of broad categories, a few being:

- a) Commercial interests and civil authorities concerned with quarrying, road building and so forth.
- b) Certain farmers and landowners.
- c) Casual vandals and souvenir hunters.
- d) Entrance dynamiters.

Points b, c, and d, only will be discussed as other speakers will consider point a.

Casual Vandals:

An interesting point from history: In the days of English poet Alexander Pope it was the fashion to have a concrete grotto, bedecked with genuine vandalized stalagmites, in the backyard. Modern day vandals are less imaginative but just as destructive.

Entrance Dynamiters:

The entrance Dynamiters are usually well-intentioned but misguided. They close the cave because they consider it dangerous. A better solution would be the installation of a gate, capable of withstanding onslaughts by modern safe-breaking apparatus, preferably with a key which could be wielded by a responsible person. Some landowners dynamite entrances because they consider they might be liable if a caver were to injure himself in the cave.

Reasons for the Conservation of Caves:

1. Caves are natural wonders of limited occurrence which must be saved if future generations are to enjoy the same pleasures that we get from caves today.
 - a) Tourist Caves. It is generally recognised (even among cavers) that one of the most effective ways of protecting a cave is to make it into a Tourist Cave with a lock; however, there is more to the protection of a cave than just a gate. Such things as airflows from unnatural entrance's which kill formation; algae growth from lights; interference with cave fauna; and the physical rearrangement of the cave from its natural state (to name a few) all help to destroy the cave.
 - b) Some caves should be preserved as "Underground Wilderness areas" to cater for those with a deeper (pun? D.A.) interest in caves than tourism. Speleology as a hobby or relaxation, and even the sport of underground mountaineering are pursuits equally as valid as their surface counterparts.

A wilderness area is a place where man is only transient where he must take to his feet and come to terms with his surroundings rather than regiment them. The idea of underground wilderness is just as fundamental as that of surface wilderness and, equally important, probably ten times as hard to convince the disinterested persons about.

2. The second main reason for protecting caves is that they are a distinct and different part of our environment, with their own populations of insects, micro-organisms, fish, crustaceans and so on. There are well over a thousand species to date discovered in caves alone, and a number of these have only ever been observed in one cave. They probably evolved in their own cave and have never been able to move outside it.

Studies of these creatures are still in their infancy but have already yielded some interesting results and have raised many more questions than they have answered. Although relatively little sophisticated scientific work has been carried out in Australian caves to date, the potential is definitely there, and all that is required is the people and time to do it. Systematic exploration is, of course, the first stage of scientific study, and a necessary basis for all further work.

Certain farmers and landowners:

This group was mentioned briefly earlier, but should be extended to include some civic authorities as well.

Caves are generally formed by water action and cave drainage patterns generally trap and divert surface water underground. So, when the surface water or the drainage regions become polluted then so does the ground water. A particular example is the South-East where the water table varies between zero to 30 metres below the surface (on average around 10) and, where the area is densely populated.

Over the past decade or so, due to the great (? ?) South Eastern Drainage Scheme, the average South-Eastern water tables have dropped by amounts near 3 metres. This represents an enormous volume of water through the highly porous rock. The population has increased during this time and will probably continue to do so. Practically all water supplies are from bores or else the Blue Lake. However, Blue Lake water has been found to have an alarming increase in its bacterial count, and is good stuff to drink if you'd like a bit of gastroenteritis. Although public health measures have been implemented, nobody will get up and go to the source of the problem. Even in Mount Gambier itself the storm and town street drains run conveniently into the Town Hall Cave.

Many farmers and others, not having an E & WS sewer passing the house, just drill down until they find a cavity. Some don't even have to drill. When sheep or cattle die, it isn't necessary to bury them - there are plenty of holes to throw them down, along with your old fence wire, household rubbish and anything else you've got - perhaps the old car even.

Perhaps it is not generally realized that in the South-East the degree of joint enlargement through water action is as great as it is. Where water in other areas might be filtered by gravel beds and passages through a reasonable quantity of rock, the cavernous and porous nature of the South-Eastern limestone is such that water may pass for any conceivable distance through it with almost no purification at all.

Pollution of a cave system is almost guaranteed to destroy any natural community that may have been able to survive there previously. The constancy of cave conditions lends itself to the support of delicately balanced ecosystems to a degree probably unmatched above ground; and any change in those conditions will usually have a disastrous effect upon all members of those communities, whether directly or indirectly.

I will finish off by telling you a secret of human nature. Tell enough people often enough how good you are and they will, despite themselves, start to believe, you. Cavers are on the whole a quiet bunch, who only make loud noises late at night when they are not appreciated. We cannot hope to interest many people directly in caves themselves through education, although we will score a few converts. Our greatest hope is to sell to people the idea that we are the experts, and that caves are interesting to some and have value for all, even if they themselves are not particularly interested in them. I believe that we can get this message across much better. Many are only too pleased to leave the decision to others, if only they know the others are there to be approached.

Even if we, as amateur groups, are at a disadvantage, we must keep trying to do our best for caves. Never give up. Your efforts will not be entirely wasted. As the President of the National Speleological Society of America said in regard to conservation recently:

“If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.”

GRANT GARTRELL.

précis prepared by Dale Arnott,
printed with the permission of Grant Gartrell.

CEGSA hit by air strike, but strikes back OR

The stifled meeting gets a fresh airing.

The wind is blowing in the right direction for the National Heritage Assessment Study, but unfortunately the plane did not come with it.

It seems that the meeting due to be held on Wednesday, 11th May had to be called off due to some foul air strike, a problem us South Aussies have only come across rarely before and never to the extent that the Trip Leader couldn't even get to the party.

A rescue attempt will be made on Wednesday 6th July at Ed Bailey's: 2 Boorman Avenue, Pasadena at 7.30 p.m., led, of course, by Elery Hamilton-Smith. All volunteers and bystanders are asked to attend promptly as much prior discussion is envisaged. First Aid and other resuscitating methods should be near at hand and will be of obligatory use. Hard hats are NOT to be worn as they get too thin for safety that way.

For further information, or to obtain a copy of the proposed National Heritage Assessment Study submission to be made by A.S.F. on behalf of all its member groups, contact :

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

POINTS TO PONDER FROM THE MINUTES

One of the most interesting items arising from the Minutes recently was the Search and Rescue exercise which will be held on the last weekend in July (30th - 31st) at Naracoorte. I think that this is a must for every caver, no matter how frequently or infrequently he visits the subterranean. Although I was unable to take an active part in a similar exercise held at Bungonia, N.S.W., earlier this year, I learnt a great deal both from listening to informal discussions between participants and from the formal debriefing which was held on the day succeeding these.

One of the most important aspects of these exercises will be to ensure that the injured party is not further harmed by unskilled handling - how many of us have any first aid knowledge.

These exercises should teach us how to work as a team if such an emergency should ever arise and perhaps each one of us should bear in mind that the next person to be involved in a caving accident could be YOU. Wouldn't you like to know that your fellow cavers were proficient in getting you to medical attention as safely and as quickly as possible?

I am pleased to see that mapping evenings are recommencing, and a call has been put out for volunteers. These evenings, as well as trying to catch up on the backlog of unfinished maps, are aimed at teaching various aspects of, speleology of which actual caving is but one. Graham Pilkington and Kevin Mott are willing to give up some of their valuable time to widen your knowledge on surveying and other topics, so no matter if you can only spare a couple of hours a month, come along and help out. After all for CEGSA to be a successful group it needs people who are willing to help out. What is the use of being a member in name only.

The last item I want to mention is the proposed new filing cabinet for map storage. I believe that the price for this will be around the \$650.00 mark which no doubt many of you think is rather expensive. However, in terms of the number of long hours involved in digging new extensions and surveying and mapping them the price seems more reasonable if we want to preserve these maps for a long time. This new cabinet will provide easy access for those who wish for a copy of the map for a particular cave. Perhaps the last word should come from those who spent many long hours in Victoria Fossil Cave working hard to earn the money to buy this item.

LINDA WHALEY.

A MESSAGE FOR ALL BREEZE ADDICTS.

The CEGSA motto " If you find a BREEZE - follow it " needs some clarification for the inexperienced. I have no intention of discussing the safety of digging or pushing after a breeze, all I wish to do is to remind and explain numerous occasions when a breeze is not a BREEZE.

Take a trog and shove it into a hole. Result: displaced air moves out causing a breeze of very short duration. The victim never notices this type of air movement but a candle flame at the entrance to the hole will flicker (due more to turbulence than anything else) sometimes causing "outsiders" to have the BREEZE SYNDROME.

Others then follow the fool down the dead end. Result: more displaced air but by now another effect has also commenced - heating of the remaining air. Further Result: a more persistent breeze emerging from the confined space due purely to thermal expansion.

By now careful monitoring of the breeze has been established. The effects of displacement and heat expansion have been ignored -after all the breeze is still there after several minutes, long after the possible temporary breeze would have disappeared. Why? Simple! These bods are still warming the air, which rises and flows out of the enclosure to be replaced by cooler air flowing in at a lower level. If roof cracks are present no obvious "hot" air outflow is noted, the whole of the entrance supplying replacement cooler air (or visa versa under some conditions).

At this stage burrowing is underway, which gives us the "fresh air" goader. This trick is used by caves which have dirt, clay, etc. blockages to tire out crazy trogs without giving up their secrets. It goes like this:

‘ the dig commences at a "likely" spot and the site quickly builds up carbon dioxide levels. The excavator then finds that the "new" air released from the dirt's small pockets of trapped air freshens up the stale air where he is. The deduction? “must be a small breeze!” After all, doesn't the air get fresher as you approach the work face?!

But wait, what if the breeze was detected PRIOR to skinning a trog? More cave tricks! We all know that caves "breathe", but many people seem unaware that small caves are very prone to surface pressure fluctuations (e.g. wind gusts) causing brief air movement within the cave. Other charades are done by multiple entrance caves. They not only have wind velocity differences at their entrances, they also have elevation differences which makes the cave act like a chimney. Still another goody is the temperature differences between parts of the cave which sets up convection currents e. g. the temperature of the rock roof of a high dome that almost reaches to the surface will fluctuate much more than that of the floor beneath, hence air convection can be initiated. Deep caves also have the geothermal gradient (temperature increases downward at about 1°C every 100 metres) to accentuate the convective drafts.

I therefore request all trops who are trying for their worm badge to HEED THE WARNING:

The SYNDROME can seize us,
Can garble and tease us,
When twisting through squeezes,
Or don't you believe us?

Oh nothing could please us,
As much as the queazies
Obtained from such breezes
That quiver and freeze us!

But beware the sneezes
From caves that would ease us
Down paths that should cleave us
Yet which lead us nowhere.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir.

It was with extreme anticipation that I read of the construction of a loo at Curramulka.

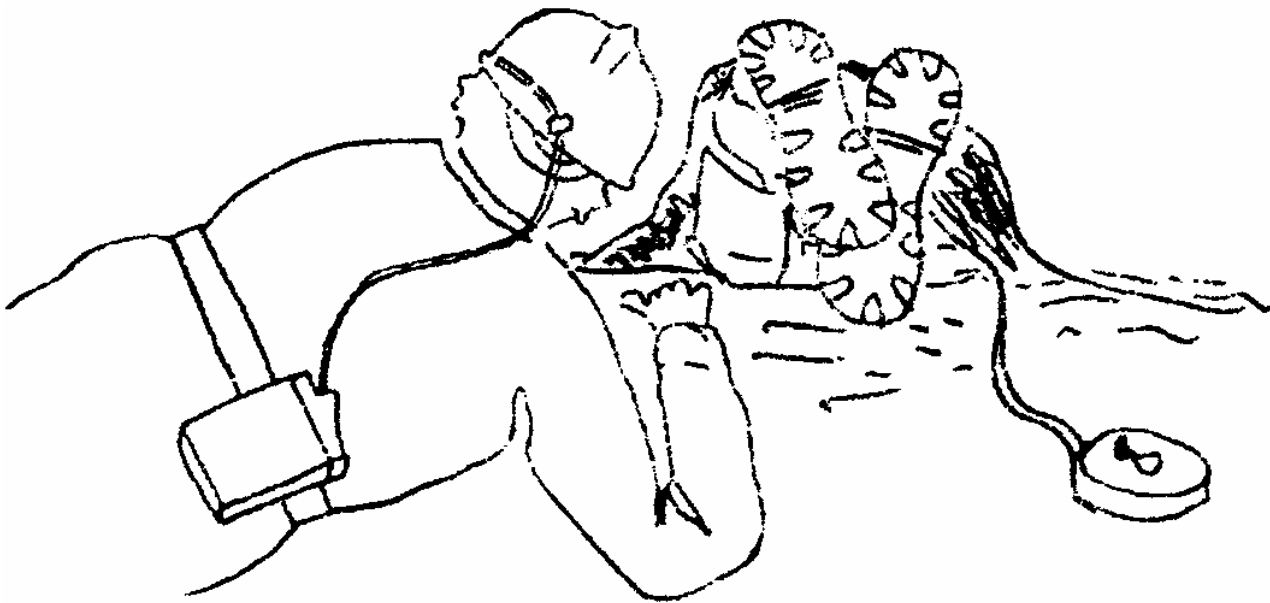
Whilst I was fascinated with the list of marvellous features and improvements, may I make a few suggestions myself.

1. An "occupied/vacant" sign for the outside door.
2. Door Catch for inside (burglar proof?)
3. Brand new nail for holding "toilet squares".
4. 3 nice walls to enclose all (there was no mention of these most important necessities).
5. Mirror (for adjustment of trogsuit).

With the addition of these special refinements I'm sure we will be the envy of one and all.

In fact I offer my services to "launch" this edifice and crack a bottle of bubbly to declare it "open".

Yours in ANTICIPATION,
Lady Loo Loo W.C.



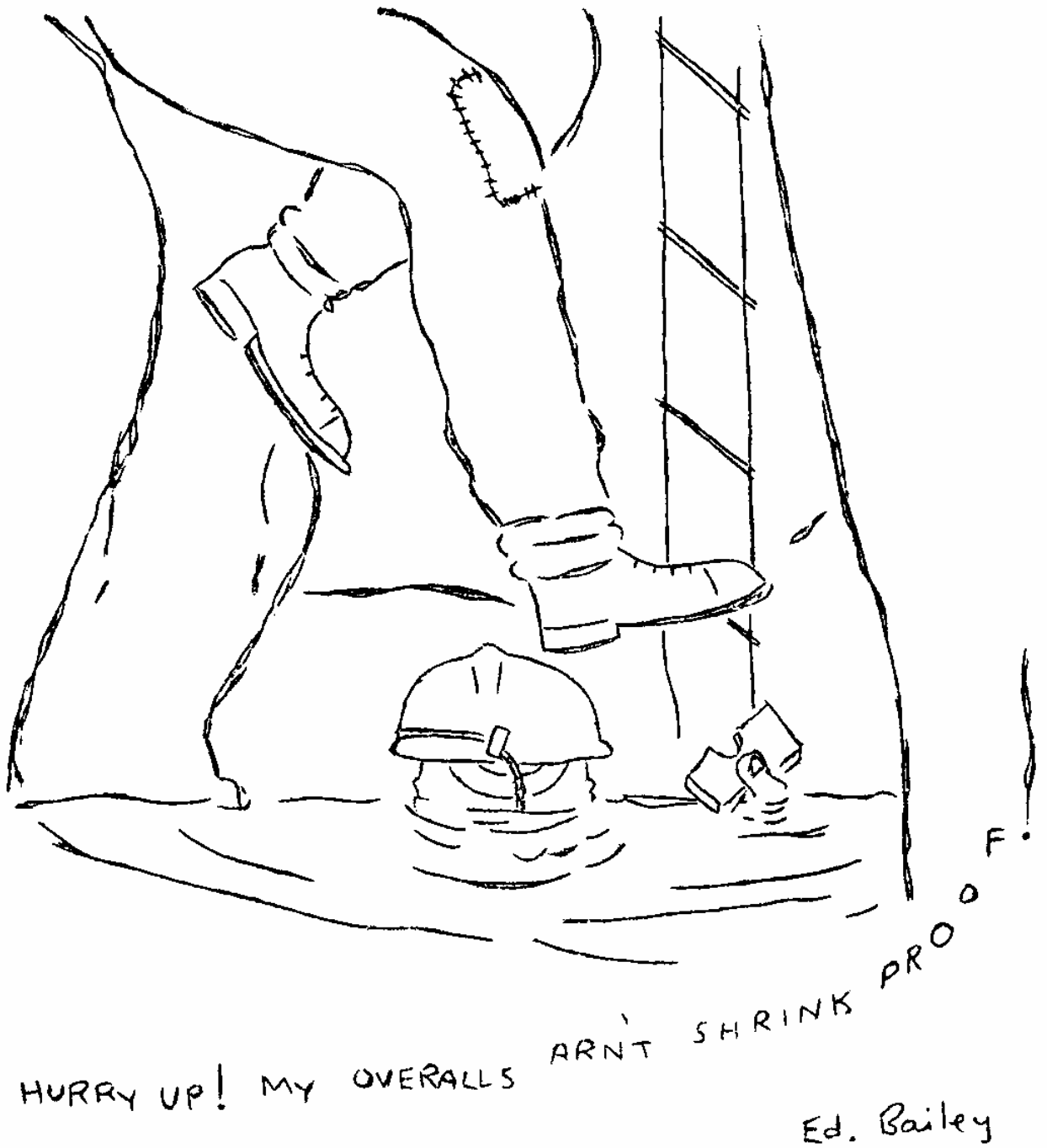
IF IT'S TOO TIGHT TO PULL THE TAPE THROUGH,
JUST QUICKLY PACE IT OUT!

Ed Bailey

EQUIPMENT LOAN.

During the past few years it appears little record has been kept of equipment used. As equipment is obtained it is given a distinctive identity to enable a history of its use to be maintained. As each item of equipment is borrowed it will have to be signed for. When the equipment is returned to the Q.M. store, the receipt for the equipment should also be returned duly filled in to show what use was made of the .equipment and any remarks about the equipment.

KEVIN MOTT.



INCREASED NEWSLETTER FREQUENCY.

As a result of a committee decision, it was decided to increase the number of issues from 4 per year to 5 per year. The five issues will be May, July, September, November and February. Hence:

Vol. 22, No: 1 (May) appeared on April 27th

Vol. 22, No: 2 (July) appeared on June 22nd

Vol. 22, No: 3 (Sept) will appear on August 24th

Vol. 22, No: 4 (Nov) will appear on October 26th

Vol. 22, No: 5 (Feb) will appear on January 26th

JIM CUNDY.

HARD HATS or SOFT HEADS.

A hard headed person can be defined as one who does things his own way without listening to the advice of others. If you are one of these then this article is aimed at you.

To date there has been no accident in caving to cause serious injury or lengthy rescue operations. Because of this we have become complacent and all too often disregard safety precautions and cave using dangerous equipment and techniques. It is often sickening to see the idolatrous sentimentality some people have for their equipment, particularly helmets. The older and more unsafe the helmet the greater the reverence. People who have this stupid regard for helmets would be better off caving with a mirror, as helmets are there for protection, not the boosting of one's ego or promotion of good looks. Helmets are designed to reduce the effect of a blow to the head, either by a rock or object falling, or you falling and hitting your head. A small rock landing on your head, or merely banging your head on the roof, can quite easily cause brain damage.

- 1) Do you know when you purchased your helmet? [Yes]
- 2) If so was it less than 5 years ago? [Yes]
- 3) Is the lining still in good condition and in compliance with the latest safety codes? [Yes]
- 4) Is the shell dented, deformed, or badly mutilated? [No]
- 5) Have any modifications been made to the helmet that alters it from the original specifications? [No]
- 6) Have any petroleum products or corrosive fluids been carried in your helmet? [No]

How many people can safely and HONESTLY answer the above questions to agree with ALL those answers in the brackets. If not then you NEED a new lid. If you are contemplating doing vertical work or working on or near vertical faces then a chin strap is a MUST. If you failed the above questions and still cave with a dangerous helmet your suicidal tendencies may soon convert your hard head to a soft head. If the driver of a car neglects to observe safety precautions and maintain his vehicle he may be held criminally negligent if he causes an accident involving damage and injury. While you are caving you are responsible for your safety and the soundness of your equipment.

The trip leader also has responsibility for the safety of party members so should, and is perfectly within his right, to refuse persons with unsafe equipment permission to enter a cave. In the event of an accident causing injury, the leader may thus be sued for being criminally negligent for allowing dangerous equipment to be used.

Most forms of outdoor activity have some element of danger associated with it and proper attention to safety precautions greatly reduces this element. When an accident involving a fatality or serious injury occurs considerable publicity is given to the sport, particularly if faulty equipment is used. Such publicity has an adverse effect on promotion of the activity.

Do you wish to promote caving or degrade it!

KEVIN MOTT.

S. & R. EXERCISE.

The S. & R. Exercise to be held at Naracoorte on the 30th - 31st of July this year will be the first major exercise in cave rescue to be held in S.A. for many years. This exercise will be modelled on similar lines to that held at Bungonia in March this year by the N.S.W. Cave Rescue Group.

Very few people caving in S.A. at the present time have ever been involved in any form of caving rescue or accident. The emergency groups of S.A. have stated that they don't have the experience or techniques required. Consequently, should there ever be an accident involving cavers or non cavers, you can be sure that cavers will be called upon to execute the underground side of the operation.

This exercise has been designed to cover as many different situations as possible and give groups as wide as possible experience in all aspects of cave rescue. Those taking part will be involved in transport of the patient horizontally with and without stretcher, vertical lifting, searching, and first aid. It is only through this form of training that experience in patient handling and appreciation of the difficulties involved may be gained. Although every situation is different, lessons learnt from previous experiences may be gainfully employed in future situations.

It is your duty as a caver to attend the exercise, someone's life may depend upon you knowing what to do.

KEVIN MOTT.

CEGSA - VSA DINNER.

In spite of the humiliation suffered last year, the V.S.A. are hosting this years annual dinner. Rumour has it that they are already gathering their forces. For too many years the "dinner" have been dominated by V.S.A. members. So let's back CEGSA, be at this years gala event. Believe me, its well worth the trip.

JIM CUNDY.

CONSTITUTION NOTICE.

NOTICE of motions to alter the Constitution and Rules of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc. to be voted on at the July General Meeting, 1977.

MOTION A:

That Constitution 3(b) (i) and Rules 4(c) are both altered by replacing "16 years " with " 15 years".

MOTION B:

That Constitution 5(e) (viii) be altered to read the following:

"The Publications Officer shall prepare, in collaboration with appropriate officers, an information bulletin containing a program of meetings, trips and social events, to be submitted to the Committee for approval before issue, at no greater interval than four months."

MOTION C:

That Rules 1. FEES be deleted and replaced by the following:

1. FEES.

- (a) Annual subscription shall be:

Associate Membership	\$4.00 per year,
Full Membership	\$8.00 per year,

except under the conditions laid down in the other paragraphs of this section.
- (b) Honorary members pay no annual subscription.
- (c) Full Members permanently residing more than 80 kilometres from Adelaide shall pay an annual subscription of \$6.00.
- (d) Any person joining the Group after the 31st August shall pay half fee for that year.
- (e) Associate members transferring to Full Membership shall pay the balance of the Full Membership fee.

MOTION D:

- 1(f) The Committee is empowered to waive the necessity for any member to pay that year's annual subscription, or to reduce the amount to be paid that year, providing that the Committee is satisfied that the member
 - (i) is non-active
 - (ii) has previously contributed to the functioning of the Group.

MOTION E:

That the following Rule be added:

- 1(g) Family Membership may be taken out by any member. A Family Membership has the following conditions:
- (i) Payment, in addition to their own annual subscription of a fee equal to that of Associate Membership.
 - (ii) The member obtains no more rights.
 - (iii) A Family Membership covers a member's spouse and their children under 18 years of age.
 - (iv) The member's family are classed as one Associate Member except for RULES 4.(c) which must still be obeyed.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

"DISCOVER NARACOORTE CAVES"

"Discover Naracoorte Caves" is the name of a newly released book which is now on sale at the Naracoorte Caves Kiosk as well as numerous other shops around Adelaide.

It is written principally for the tourist and contains a mine of information about the caves at Naracoorte, their history, the history of the area, special features of the caves, as well as numerous photographs.

The book is written by Ian Lewis for the Subterranean Foundation and contains many months of research by a large team of people. No caver should be without a copy. Buy one at the next caving meeting.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Person A -sets up a pitch; either ladder or abseil and person B descends that pitch without checking that A has rigged the pitch correctly using proper equipment, correct knots and in the case of ladder, safe belay position. Person B then fall off the pitch, severely injuring himself.

Who in this case would be held criminally negligent in the event of a law suit for damage?

CHEAP OVERALLS.

Are you sick of paying a lot for overalls that only last a few caving trips? Then trog along to Trims. At the moment they have second-hand overalls for less than \$2. - all sizes and colours.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

Last year was a good year for the club and our membership list continues to grow. It's pleasing that our Full membership is continuing to grow as these numbers usually make up the core of the active members. We welcome the following Associate members:-

Anthea Jackson	David Tilley
Stuart Hill	Kingsley Blenkiron
Keith Polley	James Tweedie
Jon Burke	Trevor Earl
Ray Koffman	Richard Sprod

The following people are now Full members:-

Neil Smith	Linda Whaley
Joy-anne Smith	Meredith Reardon
Terry Reardon	Dale Hare

Two members, Ian Lewis and Athol Jackson, have been awarded Honorary Life Membership of CEGSA. This is the highest honour, awarded only to those cavers who have provided a long and truly dedicated service to the club.

A brief history of each, caver is outlined below:-

ATHOL JACKSON:

Athol has been a member of CEGSA for 20 years, and has served on committee for half the club's history. As a result he has held most positions on the committee, the most important of which must be President, a position which Athol held for a record 5 years. Athol has organized a large number of caving, trips and is responsible for a wide variety of surveys which include extensive surface surveys around the Naracoorte area. He also held the position of "Surface Leader" for the Mullamullang 1966 Expedition. Athol is still actively caving around Australia, and he has also applied his technological skills to the sport and produced battery chargers (including the large unit in the Hut), rappell racks, wire ladders and a large portion of the CEGSA Slide set.

IAN LEWIS:

Ian has been caving for approximately 12 years, the last 9 of which have been with CEGSA. He has established himself as one of the few cave divers in this State. The numerous trips he has run have seen him surveying and exploring in all areas of the State and most of Australia. A total of seven Nullarbor trips and a great deal of study have seen Ian emerge as a Nullarbor Caving expert. Ian's major achievement must surely be the writing of Occasional Paper No: 5 (CEGSA's best). Ian's surveys have always been highly regarded, - in both quality and quantity, and include S.A.'s longest (Corra-Lynn), as well as Victoria Fossil Cave and Koonalda Cave, both of world renown.

DOT PEISLEY and JIM CUNDY.

NEWS FLASH!!!

Just to hand, we have the Provisional Results of the MAD PERSON OF MULLAMULLANG Competition. This year's competition was held from May 14th to 21st at Mullamullang Cave, and was well attended by 17 hard core cavers from 4 States, and Kevin Mott (Masochist & Sadist) from Payneham.

First place was taken by Derek Hobbs a prominent N.S.W. Speleo from MUSIG for his attempt at being the fastest thing to travel along the Madura air strip, and not take off! Derek said "we were going fine but were hampered by cross winds and back seat driving." Mr. Neil Smith, man on the spot, when asked about the attempt said, "I didn't really see much, I was too busy trying to get my seat belt out from under the seat".

Second was Jim Cundy for his valiant attempt to photograph the whole staff of the Madura Pub. He made a good effort by getting shots of the cook, the kitchen-hands and one waitress before being stopped in his tracks by the second waitress who suspected his motives (who didn't). A comment from the man who knows what cool is all about, Terry Reardon, "That was COOL".

Third was Neil Smith who attempted to get to the railway line during daylight while he had Ian Lewis in his party, the party arrived the usual 1½- 2 hours late after surveying some grotty hole, carelessly described as a cave.

Other noteworthy efforts were: Terry Reardon's "I crossed the Nullarbor on one headlight" effort. Neil Smith's "I got defected across the Nullarbor", 4 blowouts certainly proved that the police weren't all that far wrong. John Masala proved himself defective by driving from Canberra to Mullamullang (approx. 1,500 miles), going caving for half a day, then returning to Canberra. Never mind, he probably makes Mobil Oil very happy. Max Meth's attempts to catch a Goods Train to Port Augusta, and Mr. Ian Lewis's attempt to skull a Schooner of Beer, before being foiled by a burp.

The most Impossible Category was won by Adrian Davey's attempt to convince S.A. cavers that digging should not be carried out in caves. He is not the person to ask about how to set a gelignite charge.

A noteworthy late entry was Mr. Kevin Mott's attempt to map the Eucla Rubbish Dump, this attempt failed due to a broken trip meter. He made a valiant effort though, by producing for records, two fully noted maps to 1:250 of the Cocklebiddy and Madura rubbish dumps. These will probably be filed under the new categories of Refuse-1 and Refuse-2.

These points were just a few happy, moments out of all the good times had on another I.D. Lewis expedition.

KRAM SMITH.

PROGRAMME

JULY

2nd	CEGSA-VSA Dinner	Naracoorte
6th	National Heritage Assessment Study Meeting - 7.30 pm	2 Boorman Avenue, Pasadena
13th	Committee Meeting - 8.00 pm	6 Hudson Avenue, Rostrevor
16th - 17th	Town Cave – exploration	Dale Arnott
20th	Mapping and training evening	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham
27th	General Meeting - 8.00 pm (Slide Nite - so bring all your slides)	Museum Lecture Room
30th - 31st	S. & R. EXERCISE – NARACOOORTE	Kevin Mott.

AUGUST

3rd	Mapping and training evening	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham
10th	Committee Meeting - 8. 00 p. m.	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View
13th - 14th	Curramulka – surveying	Graham Pilkington
20th - 21st	River Murray	Kevin Mott
24th	General Meeting - 8.00 p.m. (Talk by Ross Gobby, Field Superintendent for N.P.W.S.)	Museum Lecture Room

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TRIP CONTACT LIST.

Dale Arnott.	26 Jetty Road, Grange - (h) 356 7244
Kevin Mott,	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham. - (w) 227 2704 (h) 42 5540
Graham Pilkington,	66 Eyre Cresc., Valley View - (w) 272 5711 (h) 264 2598

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

All articles are to be sent to : Jim Cundy,
Coomandook,
S.A. 5261.

- By AUGUST, 5th

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SEARCH AND RESCUE

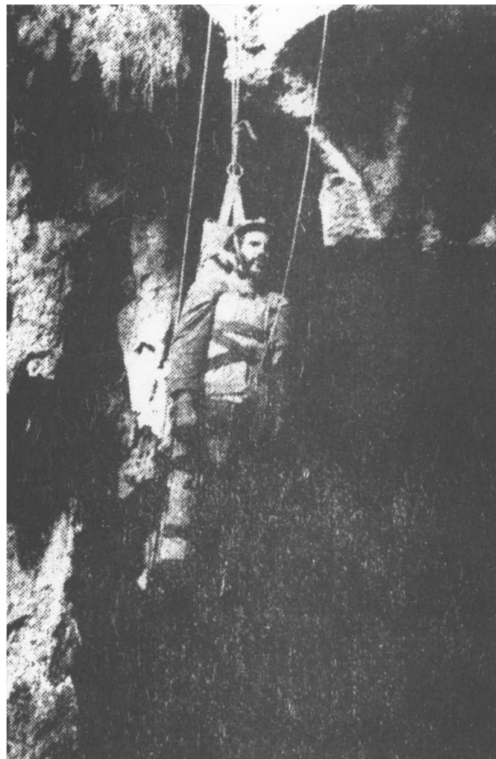
South Australian Police Force.

C.E.G.S.A.

S & R EXERCISE

Naracoorte

30 - 31 July 1977



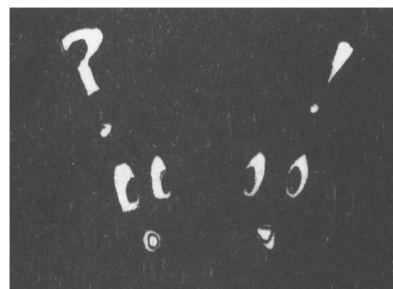
An S & R exercise will be held at Naracoorte, on July 30th, 31st, to enable cavers to learn more about rescue techniques and to appreciate the difficulties involved. Participants should have caving experience. Upon arrival at the area participants should check in at the Naracoorte Hut.

Saturday will begin at 8.00 a.m. with a briefing, then each team will undertake three exercises. There will a ½ hour between exercises with an hour for lunch. Exercises will involve horizontal carry with and without stretcher, vertical lift and rescue. A debriefing will be held on Sunday.

Bring your caving gear and tent as accommodation in the hut will be limited.

Services in attendance will include -

1. S.A. Police Force.
2. St. John Ambulance.
3. National Parks and Wildlife Service Officers.



Oh! I thought you had the spare torch.

To facilitate organisation please complete the attached form and mail it to Kevin Mott,
23 Harcourt Road, Payneham, S.A. 5070 or phone Kevin Mott an 425540 by 4th July, 1977

S. & R. EXERCISE 1977

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____