

NEWSLETTER



Cave Exploration Group

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

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THE COVER.

The cover photo was designed to emphasise the primary issue of this newsletter. That issue is Cave Search and Rescue, and an entire section of this issue is devoted to just that topic.

The photo was taken by Dale Arnott at the highly successful S & R Exercise at Naracoorte on July 30th - 31st. The photo shows one group successfully, and with all safety procedures observed, removing their patient from Stick Cave. The cover is special in that it is the first of many to be printed by the Subterranean Foundation in association with CEGSA.

The Foundation was established in mid 1976 exclusively by CEGSA members who wished to do more for CEGSA and caving than the Clubs Constitution would permit. Those members have incurred heavy expenses (both in time and money) in an attempt to fulfil their aims. These aims can be easily summed up as "To promote CEGSA and caving on a basis which no other club in Australia has been able to do". Already, in the short time this group has been working together, CEGSA has received some very good publicity in the book "Discover Naracoorte Caves", where CEGSA's name appears more often and with more praise than does the Foundation.

This is why it gives me a vast amount of pleasure to accept these covers from the Foundation.

JIM CUNDY.

EDITORIAL

Despite having to repeat myself I'll say again that I'm pleased with the majority of CEGSA members, those trip reports are still flowing in and I was very pleased to receive the supplement to the "S. A. Cave Reference Book". This publication is one all CEGSA members can be proud of. However, unless it is constantly amended and added to it will soon become outdated. Even if you only have two words to add, send them in, a permanent section of the Newsletter could be set aside each issue for just such amendments. I would also like to set aside a section in each issue for comments on interstate caving, overseas caving, book reviews etc. Anybody want to tackle this?

A lot of things have happened since you last heard from me. Some which make me proud to be a member of CEGSA, like the large turnout at the CEGSA-VSA dinner, and some which I'm not so crazy about.

Take for instance the S & R Exercise turnout, what's wrong with 80 people you might well ask. Nothing! Except that less than 1/3 of them were from CEGSA. Still not a bad number, until you compare them to the number that saw fit to attend the Dinner. Then it looks pretty pathetic.

Still I suppose all those members who attended the S & R Exercise gave themselves a pat on the back for performing well on the day. They deserve it, they did perform well. However, I can't help but think if things would be different in remote areas.

Lets face facts for a while. Fact 1. The majority of South Australian Caving areas are remote areas. Fact 2. The majority of South Australian cavers have insufficient first aid knowledge. Fact 3. The majority of cavers were lost when it came to a vertical lift. Fact 4. The majority of CEGSA trips carry insufficient first aid and rescue equipment. Fact 5. I personally know of 3 accidents and 4 very close calls which have occurred in South Australian Caves this year alone.

Put these together and what have you got? That's right! A potentially fatal situation. I just can't help but wonder who will be the first one in CEGSA to be hospitalized or even killed, as a result of our apathy.

JIM CUNDY.

TRIP REPORTS

MONBULLA

June 11th - 13th 1977.

PARTY: K. Mott, G. Pilkington, L. Whaley.

Not wishing to forfeit all the comforts of home we spent Friday night at the Naracoorte Hilton (the hut). Saturday morning we left for Penola to look up the owner of Monbulla Cave. After eventually locating him we managed to obtain permission to visit and camp at the cave. It had been rumoured that Mr. Umpherston was a difficult person to get along with but we found him quite co-operative. He seemed pleased to hear that the group that "young Jackson" was associated with is still interested in the cave. Any people visiting the cave should either see Mr. Umpherston or leave a message on going to and leaving the cave site.

After setting up camp near Wrecked Car Cave we trogged up and went for an exploratory look at the cave to determine where to commence surveying. A reference nail was placed in the largest of the entrances and surveying proceeded in a western direction from there into an area left open on the original map. The roof height progressively decreased from infinity to around 0.2m as you got further into the cave. Unfortunately as roof height decreased the number of rocks and pebbles on the floor appeared to increase proportionately. The dip of rocks in the entrance was quite noticeable. One *Miniopterus schreibersii* was found in the entrance chamber.

At about 6 pm. a halt was called to the day's effort as the cold dampness of the floor was starting to take effect and the promise of seeing the Penola Jubilee Bonfire was too great a temptation to miss. The exit from the cave proved to be a battle to avoid dozens of swallows flittounding around in the dark.

Having demolished tea we proceeded to the Penola pub to await the celebrated fire (it was warmer than standing around outside). No-one told us when the fire was to be ignited and there being no action in the pub we made our way to the site only to find the bonfire in its' death throes. Judging by the pile of wood we saw earlier it probably would not have burnt all that long anyway.

Sunday morning yours truly surprised and amazed himself by getting up early to wander around the area looking for surface features and frogs. On arriving back at camp I was greeted with the distressing news that our token woman for the trip had not prepared breakfast. During the morning a surface survey of all the entrances was made using dial and 30 m tape. The underground survey, continued in the afternoon, revealed that we were in another passage running parallel with the main passage. Returning to camp that night we suddenly found ourselves surrounded by lights. Somehow we wandered into the middle of a herd of cows. Both parties stood there confronting each other with stares for several minutes before the cows moved off.

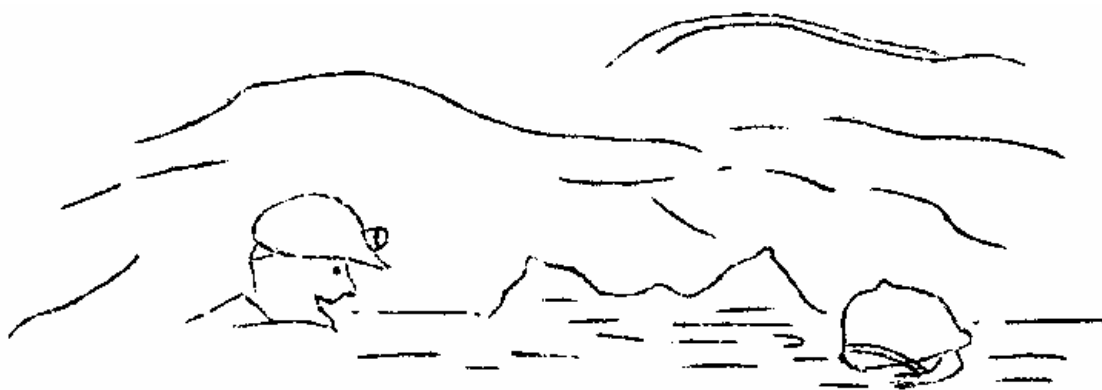
Somehow during tea my fork ended up in a cow pat.

Sunday night we wandered off to the Mount to visit Fred and have our numerous possum and rabbit bones identified. After feeding him this mountain of trivia we pulled our coup-de-tat; a big muddy bone. In one of the low sections it was desirous to remove some of the small mud-caked rocks to make life more liveable. One of these rocks was our big, muddy bone. Well! Poor ol' Fred nearly double back flipped and broke both feet with his jaw. It's quite a sight to see unflappable Fred go gaa gaa. After spending many minutes carefully washing and cleaning it he declared it to be a sthenurine type jaw. We also saw a real copy of the only ASF newsletter to arrive in S.A. for nearly six months.

Monday we collected several bat skeletons and a bee from Monbulla Cave. The bees, the common ordinary garden variety it turned out, have a hive in an entrance. We located the bat chamber but found only 1 *Miniopterus schreibersii* in it. The temperature of the bat chamber was markedly higher than the rest of the cave. A quick touristy trip to Wrecked Car Cave took longer than anticipated and we were amazed at the amount of contradiction in the cave. The floor is black, slimy mud that has stained everything within six inches of the floor. The decoration up higher is a pure white or as crystal clear as you could want it and the only thing I can't remember seeing is cave pearls. This cave runs along the dune compared with Monbulla which runs across the dune. Because of the contradictions within the cave and the lack of a wrecked car nearby the cave name has been changed from Wrecked Car Cave to Contradiction Cave.

After informing the owner of our departure we returned to Adelaide babbling about Blackberry's rival and complaining of sore knees.

K. MOTT.



I'VE HEARD OF NOSE GROOVING, BUT THIS IS
RIDICULOUS BUT INTERESTING !

Ed Bailey

PARTY: G. Gartrell, T. Burke, J. Burke, D. Hare and R. Smith.

The main purpose of this trip was to continue excavation of a dirt-filled sinkhole discovered near the end of the Christmas trip, about halfway between K1 and K11. Bob Smith joined the four mainlanders for a couple of days solid digging and bucket hauling, and by the time we were thoroughly fed up with digging the hole was over 6m deep with walls starting to show promise of shelving out. Much more digging is yet needed, but would be well worthwhile.

Bob was talking about pulleys and winches and motors and "rigging something up", but I daresay his cows will have other ideas.

A few kangaroo bones found buried 3m below the original surface of the sand in the sink including a lower jaw, were identified by Rod Wells as belonging to a Grey Kangaroo. It is not presently possible to estimate a date for the bones, and although belonging to a modern species, their age could still be anything from hundreds to thousands of years.

An entrance observed but not entered in a doline discovered at Christmas in the main sinkhole complex west of K1 was visited on this trip in the company of the Ranger in charge, Bruce Allen and his son Wayne. This cave consisted of a roomy single rockpile chamber about 25m by 10m with some excellent decoration and some tight leads going off. A red silt pile towards the back of the cave showed some surface bones which we left undisturbed.

The cave showed no signs of entry prior to our visit. In common with a number of other small caves in the area there seemed little prospect for finding accessible extensions.

A couple of days coastal exploration was carried out in the West Bay area of Flinders Chase, including a walk to the spectacular "blowhole" near Pt. Vennachar, which was apparently descended fairly recently by some members of the party investigating the wreck of the Loch Vennachei. Presumably they anchored their ropes to a vehicle, since a bulldozer track had been pushed through nearby to the cliff tops above the wreck. Other than that there is precious little nearby that would make a reliable anchor point short of driving steel droppers into the limestone rock, which isn't recommended.

Bad weather drove us back on a walk from Breakneck River mouth north to West Bay, investigating sea caves in the impressive cliffs. Nevertheless the walk was apparently successful in achieving its main aim, of locating the expected efflux of the West Bay Hollow Cave, in which are ephemeral stream sinks about ¾km. inland.

There was insufficient time this trip to thoroughly evaluate the possible efflux, which consisted of a small flow of water emerging from a series of rimstone pools within a rockpile at the base of low limestone cliffs perched on top of the underlying gneiss about 6m above sea level. No obvious way was found through the rockpile, but a longer and more careful look than we could give it on that occasion is well warranted.

GRANT GARTRELL.

GOUFFRE PIERE ST. CURRAMULKA
(known to the masses as "Town Cave")

16th July, 1977

Trip Members: Kevin Mott, Peter Stace, Barbara, Kram Smith and Dale Arnott (L).

Also at the cave were Domenic Williams and Rod Wells.

This particular visit to Town Cave was intended primarily as a touristry to visit the ends of the cave and also to dig anything promising. Although Town Cave and the word "promising" tends to be a contradiction of terms.

As it turned out, however, we spent very little time underground, as we were all keen to visit a NEW cave which we had been told about before we went underground. While we were underground we were highly entertained watching Kevin contort his way through openings (?) which were apparently size Kevin-minus-one. What seems to be the trouble Kev? I had no trouble at all.

The CEGSA utilized SRT in the entrance shaft. That is we abseiled in and jumared out.

Dominic, who is a post-grad paleo student, set up an electric light source powered by a small surface generator so that he could view the diggings near the Bedroom Chamber.

So, after a particularly lazy day we adjourned to explore this new cave. We were all fascinated by the new addition to the "Y" numbers, not only because it was new, but also because it had been discovered by the farmers' tractor wheel falling in to it while he was ploughing! The cave begins with a very narrow dirt solution tube entrance which elongates out into a long narrow crevasse, very much like the Corra Lynn crevasses only on a smaller scale. The whole thing is about 15m deep and ends abruptly in a flat silt filled bottom. Kram seems to think it will go with a dig, but the digger would have to be a desperate 5 yr old with a sand castle bucket. No-one else would fit.

DALE ARNOTT.

PARTY: Paul Richardson (leader), Trevor Gregory, Jim Cundy, Maria Tyszta, Ian Brophy, Gemma Girke, Kathy Litchfield, Denise Piggott, Sue Andre, Judy Kershaw, Andy Townsend and Wes.

Once again the good folk of "Coomie" have ventured forth to Naracoorte, this time under the watchful eye of Paul Richardson. Since some of the party were novices they started with the two tourist caves, Cathedral and Tomato-Stick on the Saturday. All went well, or at least they were still alive when I arrived on Sunday morning; and like all good cavers they were playing with a Frisbee.

My job was to act as guide in Beekeepers, Wombat and Blackberry (not the gated section). Although a guide wasn't really necessary for the latter two, he was appreciated for the former (see someone appreciates me). After wandering around the cave for a while I asked the party if they knew the way out. Only 3 did. So we sat back and let the others try to find the way. We enjoyed it, but they didn't. It helps to be a sadist!

JIM CUNDY.

NARACOOORTE

Sunday 3rd July, 1977.

PARTY: L. Whaley (L), R. Sprod, A. Bates (visitor).

As one might expect from relying on K. Mott's instructions as to the location of a possible cave, it almost ended as a wasted journey. (The actual location being at least a mile from where we were not!!). We were about to turn around and go off somewhere else to cave when yours truly (Fearless Leader) saw an interesting pile of rocks and enthusiastically began to dig. The result - Snail II.

If anyone is particularly interested to learn the derivation of this name, and has at least two hours to spare, I will be happy to explain.

However, we found an interesting little cave which has some live decorations, passages that probably can be pushed (some are low enough to be Mott proof) and lots of bones scattered over the silt floor.

I think that the Adelaide Childrens' Hospital trio were the only group to go caving following the CEGSA/VSA dinner -- what stamina!

Who says women shouldn't go caving!

LINDA WHALEY.

P. S. Snail II has subsequently turned out to be Crawfords Dead Sheep Cave.

CAVE SEARCH & RESCUE

S & R EXERCISE REPORT

Approximately 80 people turned up at Naracoorte on the weekend of July 30th - 31st to take part in the exercise. After registration on Saturday morning, participants were allocated groups. Following a general brief, groups were given a briefing for their particular tasks and despatched to their appropriate cave.

After the first exercise there was a lunch break and the afternoon was divided into two exercise periods. Each of the 7 groups therefore attempted 3 exercises during the day, one vertical lift, one horizontal carry and a locate & assess.

That evening a B.B.Q. tea was provided by the Naracoorte St John Ambulance auxiliary, followed by a first aid debrief, first aid film, and a demonstration by the St John Ambulance and S.E.S. of the extraction and treatment of victims of a road smash.

On Sunday morning a debrief of rescue techniques was held followed by an introduction to the Paraguard stretcher and its function. A discussion between the S.A. Police, C.E.G.S.A. and V.S.A. over a call out system took place on Sunday afternoon.

Although the exercise started late, the whole day ran quite smoothly, and the co-operation between Police, St. Johns and C.E.G.S.A. was very good, as a result the control and co-ordination of rescue groups went very smoothly.

C.E.G.S.A. provided the basis of the rescue groups plus liaison within the operations control van. Police directed groups to the various caves and maintained a log of the location of all groups. St John Ambulance provided observers for first aid and radio operators for the cave entrances so that the operations base could have direct communication with the various entrances. They also provided the caravan used for the operations base, and the patients for each exercise. During one exercise lighting was provided in Cathedral Cave for the vertical lift by the Tatiara S.E.S.

My personal thanks go out to all those people, both in and out of CEGSA who helped plan the exercise, helped run things on the day and participated in the exercises.

KEVIN MOTT.

DETAILS OF THE S & R EXERCISE.

EXERCISE 1:

Horizontal Carry Without Stretcher in Blackberry

Aim: To test the initiative of the party to remove a patient from a cave without the aid of a stretcher.

Summary: While exploring the cave a member of a party of 3 has an accident. The third member stays with the patient while the second member goes to summon help. After waiting several hours the third member realises something is wrong so he leaves the patient and goes to summon help himself. Due to stress and exhaustion he is unable to guide a rescue party.

Details: After searching the first chamber, party finds casualty at base of a rockpile. The patient complains of pain in left hand side of the chest particularly when he breathes deeply. His right ankle is sore and he is only able to walk on it with extreme difficulty. The patient is also bruised. The party must remove the patient from the cave without the aid of any stretcher.

EXERCISE 2:

Locate and Assess in Blackberry.

Aim: To determine whether the party can cope with an accident situation involving serious injury and a major rescue.

Summary: While exploring the cave a member of a party of 3 has an accident. The third member stays with the patient while the second member goes to summon help. After waiting several hours the third member realizes something is wrong so he leaves the patient and goes to summons help himself. Due to stress and exhaustion he is unable to guide a rescue party.

Details: After leaving first casualty with other rescue party this party continues to search the rest of the cave. Party finds casualty in a state of shock and exposure at the bottom of a crevasse, suffering from severe abdominal wounds.

EXERCISE 3:

Horizontal Carry in Cathedral Without Stretcher.

Aim: To test the parties ability to cope with a potentially dangerous, un-forewarned situation.

Summary: The party, while travelling through the cave finds another caver with severe lacerations to the hand.

Details: A lone caver slips while exploring the cave and severely lacerates his hand. He attempts to make his way out but due to shock and loss of blood is unable to make it. Rescue party must stop bleeding and remove patient from cave without the aid of a stretcher.

EXERCISE 4:

Vertical Lift With Stretcher in Cathedral.

Aim. To test the ability of a party to organise and conduct a major vertical lift.

Summary: A party member falls in the cave severely injuring himself and requires a major vertical lift after an easy horizontal carry to extricate him from the cave.

Details: Party member slips and falls down a rock pile in a floor hole in the second chamber of the cave. As a result of the fall he has sustained a fracture of the arm and consequently must be lifted 15m out of the cave after being carried from the chamber in a stretcher.

EXERCISE 5:

Search and Rescue in Cathedral.

Aim: To test the ability of the party to organise and conduct an intensive search of a cave and effect a minor rescue operation.

Summary: Lone caver has been reported lost in the cave for some hours with no helmet and limited light, food and has only light clothing. The party has to locate and rescue the tourist.

Details: Party must start searching after the entrance chamber. Tourist is eventually found in passage off chamber past "pop up". When found his torch is inoperative. In the darkness he slipped and hit his head and his memory of the incident is vague. He is in a highly nervous and confused state.

EXERCISE 6:

Vertical Lift With Stretcher in Stick.

Aim: To test the ability of party to organise and conduct a minor vertical lift from a cave.

Summary: A party member falls and injures himself while descending a rockpile and so is incapable of climbing the ladder.

Details: After venturing into the cave a member of the party slips and falls down a rockpile. The rockpile is near the entrance and wet and slippery. During the fall the patient broke his collar bone.

EXERCISE 7:

Horizontal Carry Using Dragmat in Stick.

Aim: To give party experience in transporting a patient by means other than conventional stretchers and to evaluate the effectiveness of dragmat.

Summary: A member of the party fell while attempting to climb some flowstone to investigate an upper level passage. The party has to remove him from the cave through passages of various height.

Details: While attempting to investigate the upper level the party member slipped and fell. In doing so he badly twisted his ankle and so has great difficulty walking. When he landed he broke his collarbone. The party must treat his injuries and remove him to the entrance of the cave.

EXERCISE 8:

Vertical Lift in Tomato Using Stretcher.

Aim: To test ability of party to undertake minor vertical lift using natural features around cave.

Summary: Following a fall in the cave a party member has to be carried out with an easy horizontal carry then a small vertical lift to remove him from the cave.

Details: Member of party slipped at edge of path then fell down a rockpile. He twisted his ankle, making it extremely difficult to walk, and suffered a compound fracture of the lower arm.

EXERCISE 9

Locate and Assess in Wombat.

Aim: To determine extent to which party can apply first aid and commonsense to a major rescue involving serious injury.

Summary: Party hears of severely injured person in Wombat Cave. Must find patient and assess injury, first aid treatment (both initial and secondary) and method of removal.

Details: Person fell down rockpile and has suffered severe abdominal injury. He is already suffering from severe shock.

FINDINGS OF THE S & R EXERCISE.

Most CEGSA members taking part in the rescue groups suddenly found they lacked adequate first aid knowledge to effectively cope with an emergency situation, and that they had insufficient first aid gear. It is no good assuming that somebody else will be carrying first aid equipment.

Nearly all cavers have at sometime hauled a rucksack or similar object out of a cave, however, no caver can possibly realise the difficulties associated with hauling live cargo. It was very pleasing to see that some cavers eventually overcame the problems and successfully removed their patient. The intention of the exercise was to make cavers aware of how incredibly difficult it may be, the number of ropes needed and the manpower necessary for such a task.

During the briefing by Police group leaders I did not take any notes or ask for any further details. Groups, after leaving the briefing for the cave, did not appear to treat the situation seriously, in fact, many of them wandered towards the cave while a fellow caver lay injured and in pain. Even though it was only an exercise it should have been treated as seriously as a real accident.

For their first task groups were not asked to elect a leader. Not all groups took it upon themselves to elect a leader. In any rescue situation the group MUST have a leader who is responsible for discipline and control of the group. At no time should the leader be placed in direct charge of the patient, this is first aiders job. The leader must be free to organize the group, prepare and organize the necessary gear, plan the removal techniques and supervise the entire situation.

The largest problem with regard to first aid was not the lack of knowledge (all group members generally acted with commonsense) but the inadequate manner in which the patient was checked for injuries. Most groups relied only on questioning the patient and upon finding the injuries did not trouble to examine them. In reality the questioning must be combined with a thorough head to toe physical check of the patient. Any injuries thus located or suspected should then have the clothing removed and be more thoroughly examined.

The patients once located or placed on the stretcher were not given enough attention. Being a patient in a cave can be extremely traumatic and a great deal of care is needed. This comes in 2 forms.

The first is that no patient should ever be left unattended lest his physical condition changes. The second concerns reassurance of the patient, as an agitated panicky patient is of no help to anyone especially himself. Reassurance is merely holding the patient's hand, speaking kindly and encouraging, and maintaining the patient in a calm, relaxed state.

One final point again concerns the patient's mental state. At no time should the rescue group step over or lean over the patient, don't shine your lights directly into his eyes and don't let any dirt get on the patient's face. Last but not least, the patient's condition and plans for removing the patient should not be discussed in front of the patient.

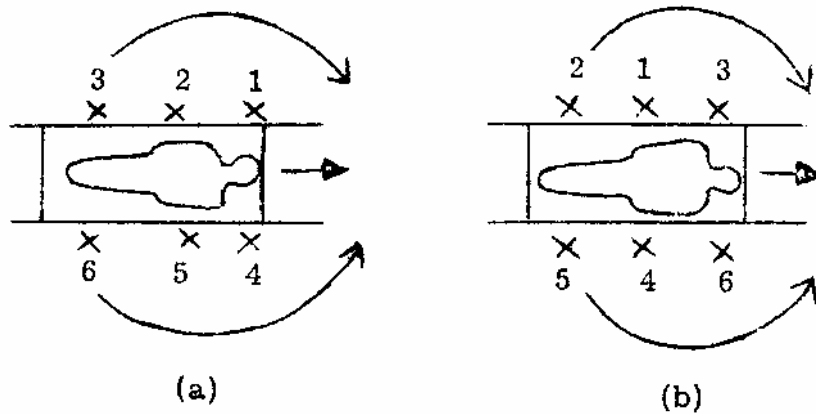
Although the exercise was successful on the day because people became aware of their shortcomings. In the knowledge of first aid and rescue it can only be deemed successful in the future if those who took part improve on their lack of knowledge by seeking training in those facets with which they are unfamiliar.

JIM CUNDY & KEVIN MOTT.

STRETCHERS.

During the exercise held on July 30th, 31st a great deal of difficulty was experienced by party members in handling the various stretchers available. Not many parties examined the stretchers thoroughly prior to placing patients on them and consequently had to shift the patient several times. If any doubt existed about the stretcher then the observer should have been asked for advice. It is easy to rearrange a simulated casualty but in a real rescue situation constant repositioning will cause undue stress and discomfort to the patient.

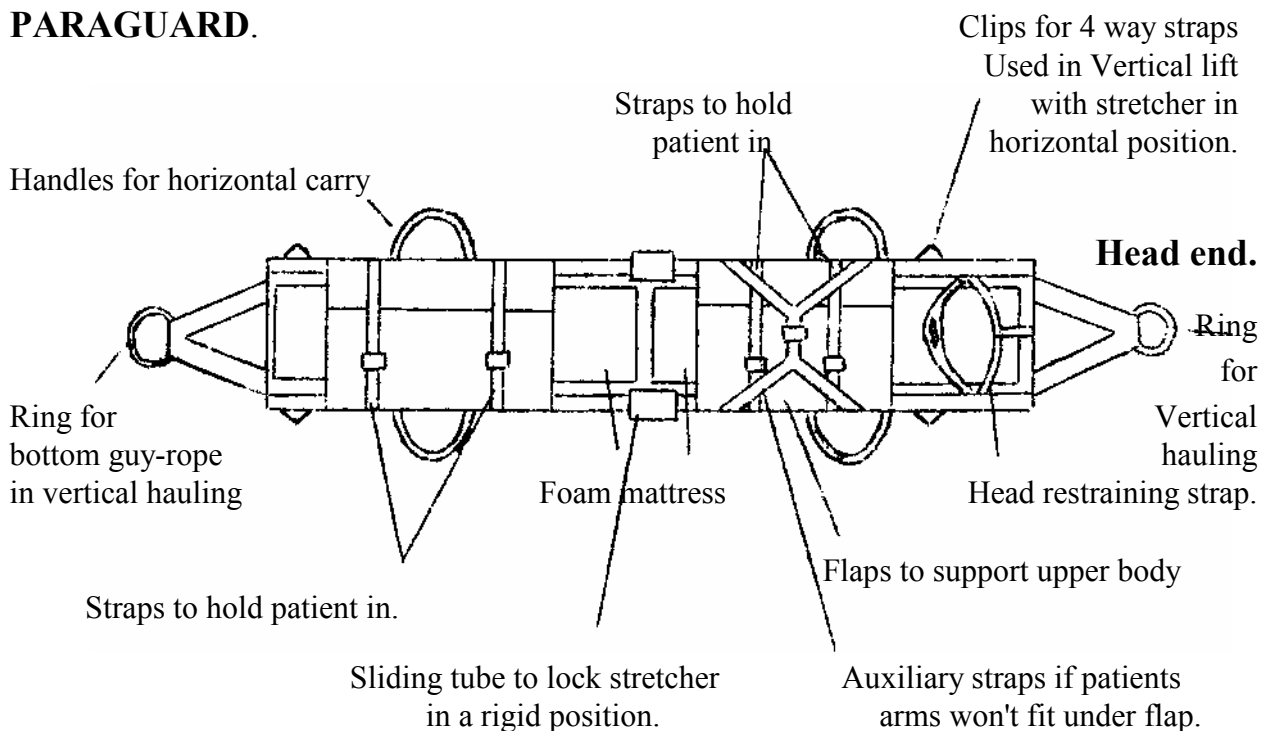
When moving the stretcher horizontally, one person must be in control of the situation. This leader is usually stationed at the head of the stretcher. When lifting the stretcher the leader should give a call, 1... 2... 3... lift, whereupon all stretcher bearers lift simultaneously with a gentle movement. Handlers should be in squat type position when preparing to lift and not standing bent over the stretcher. You can't carry a stretcher with a strained back. Forward movement should not be hurried and should only proceed a few paces at a time. This ensures smoother patient ride and gives the party ample opportunity to clear snags from the feet of handlers. Stretcher handlers should not all walk in step while carrying the stretcher as this can cause undue swaying of the stretcher.



Where the stretcher cannot be carried it must be passed from handler to handler. Six bearers take up positions 1-6 at the side of the stretcher. The stretcher on the command of No: 1 is moved forward so people 1, 2, 4 and 5 are taking all the load. Handlers 3 and 6 move carefully around the stretcher to head. When they are both ready the stretcher moved forward on command till 3, 1, 4 and 6 have the load, 2 and 5 then move around to the head. This procedure is repeated till the stretcher can be carried normally or the patient has reached his or her destination. Those moving around the stretcher should, where possible, keep away from the stretcher to avoid dislodging any rocks or debris from under the stretcher party. When moving the stretcher always try to keep it horizontal. This puts less strain on both the patient and the handlers. Patients must be strapped into stretchers for both horizontal and vertical movement. Checks on the patients condition, pulse, breathing, consciousness, well being, must be maintained at all times. The strapping holding the patient in may have to be loosened especially if the circulation of blood is impaired or the patient has difficulty in breathing.

KEVIN MOTT.

PARAGUARD.



SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES.

In any Search and Rescue there are 3 main cases which can arise:

- 1) Searching for and finding an injured caver.
(Points A - I)
- 2) Searching for and finding an uninjured caver.
(Points A - F, J)
- 3) Hearing of an accident and removing the injured party.
(Points A - E, G - I, K)

I fully realize that many of the procedures outlined below may change or be deleted for different situations. The notes below were written as a guideline and I am pleading for comments from any other cavers. Please send your comments or alterations to:

Jim Cundy,
Coomandook, S.A. 5261.

A) CONTACT THE POLICE

They are ultimately in charge of the whole operation. It is their job to:

- 1) Notify the ambulance
- 2) Provide communications
- 3) Provide and locate more cavers.

It is also the job of the Police to deal with the Press, not the cavers, although the Press will seek out a cavers comment, don't give one.

B) APPOINT A SEARCH COORDINATOR

It is his job to

- 1) Write down as much info, as is known.
- 2) Record all of the cavers comings and goings, to and from, into and out of the cave.
- 3) Remain on the surface.
- 4) Remain in contact with the Police.

This person should be an experienced caver and have a good deal of knowledge in S & R techniques.

C) CHECK PERSONAL GEAR

- Each caver should have
- 1) At least 2 light sources.
 - 2) A good helmet, overalls and boots.
 - 3) Spare food.
 - 4) A small first aid kit.

D) ORGANIZE YOURSELVES INTO GROUPS

Each group should be:

- 1) No smaller than 3.
- 2) Have a leader who is both competent and who will be listened to.
- 3) Have a First Aider - not the same person as the leader.
- 4) Should consist only of experienced cavers.
- 5) Made up preferably of cavers who know the cave.

E) ENTER THE CAVE

- 1) The group should be dispatched by the Coordinator who will record
 - a) Names of group members
 - b) Time of departure
 - c) Area of cave searching
 - d) Estimated time of return.
- 2) The group should observe all safety procedures.

F) SEARCHING

- 1) It is preferable to have a map and/or someone who knows the cave.
- 2) The group should conduct a coordinated and systematic search
 - a) one caver on each wall checking all corners, crevasses and short tunnels.
 - b) the remainder of the party should search the centre of the passage and keep the two "wall searchers" in contact.
 - c) in narrow passages the group should remain in close contact and single file.
- 3) In many caves it may be preferable to move quickly to the end of the cave and systematically work back.
- 4) Stop occasionally
 - a) to call out and listen
 - b) to tap with a rock and listen
 - c) to rest and check that all possibilities have been checked.
- 5) Write notes and leave them where they can be easily seen. These notes should tell the lost member or party that a search is in progress and that they should remain at the point and not wander any further.
- 6) The group must return on or before the estimated time of arrival, never after.

G) LOCATION OF INJURED PERSON

Once the person has been located the first aider is in charge of the patient.

The leader should then dispatch two cavers with details of the location, gear required to remove patient, first aid gear required, the number of helpers required.

Never leave the patient alone.

Discuss the patient's condition and methods of removal out of the patient's earshot.

If the patient is in great stress then it would be beneficial to allocate one person to do nothing but console and reassure the patient (manpower permitting) otherwise this will be the first aiders job.

Never step or lean over the patient.

Never shine your lights into the patient's face as he will prefer to see a friendly smiling face above him.

H) FIRST AID

This will not be discussed in depth except to say that in the event of coming across a patient it is extremely unlikely that there will be an immediate "death threat" situation*. Hence the first action will be that of friendly encouraging words a smile and a calm professional examination of the patient. Discuss with the patient how the accident happened, where the pain and discomfort is and combine this with a complete examination of the patient. Always watch for symptoms of Hypothermia, Shock.

* The exception will be when you are present at the time of the accident.

I) REMOVING THE PATIENT

The group should always know the gear it is using and know its limitations.

The leader

- 1) should be confident that the jobs he allocates can be done correctly and efficiently.
- 2) can dismiss any member from a party or call for any particular person from outside.
- 3) should think in advance of gear required, where it is required and if a pitch needs to be set up for hauling.
- 4) has complete control over all matters inside the cave.
- 5) should be prepared to accept advice from others in his party but not waste time in arguing.

Although it is not a race, the party should attempt to reduce unnecessary delays. Alternatively, too much haste may promote a hazardous and rough trip for the patient.

The patient should be handed over to either the waiting doctor or St. John Ambulance as soon as possible after reaching the surface.

J) LOCATION OF A LOST PERSON

Upon finding the caver

- 1) Reassure him and sit with him, he may not only be lost, he may need confidence to tackle the return journey.
- 2) Give him food and warmth, even if he says he doesn't want it.
- 3) Don't move until he is ready.

On the way out

- 1) Move slowly, or as fast as he wants to.
- 2) Rest often.
- 3) Keep him in the centre of the party.
- 4) Provide him with a light if his is not working.

K) RETRIEVING AN INJURED PARTY

Find out as much as you can before entering the, cave about the person's condition. Determine

- 1) Person's position in the cave.
- 2) Person's condition.
- 3) Medical gear needed.
- 4) Rescue gear needed.
- 5) Extra food, water, lights etc. needed.

JIM CUNDY.

His Lamp Goes Out
He Shiver With Fright
He Forgot Two Other
Good Sources of Light

BURMA CAVE.

- from "NSS NEWS " March 1977.

??? PARTY LOCATIONS BOARD ???

I often wonder why our dedicated S & R Officer (Kev Mott) ever bothered to design and erect a Party Location Board, not many people use it.

Take for example the CEGSA - VSA Dinner weekend, in spite of the large turnout of cavers there is usually very little caving done, however there was only one trip recorded. That was a trip on the Saturday by I. Lewis to Lost Cave. During the weekend I personally heard of 2 other trips. The first of these I discovered when I was asking after one person only to be told "I think he's in Cathedral with some others." In reply to the question "What others?" I was answered "I don't know".

I won't waste my time to tell you how stupid they were.

The second trip was on Saturday morning and although other cavers etc. knew of the trip it should still have been recorded. Even worse was the conversation I overheard,

Caver 1 (as he saw a party walk past) "Where are you going?"

Caver 2 (one of the tail-enders who stopped while the others went on without knowing) "Blackberry".

Caver 1 "Can I come?"

Caver 2 "Sure, but hurry".

Caver 1 "But I've only got a Dolphin with one battery, how long are you going for?"

Caver 2 "About 8 hours but it might do, just turn it off every now and then."

They then both merrily trotted off to the cave. I'm not sure if the leader ever discovered that his party had increased in size, and I'm sure he didn't know that the newest member had only one totally insufficient light source. I wish he had found out and given those two the good quick boot up the arse they deserved.

I can think of only 3 reasons why leaders are not using the Party Location Board,

- 1) They genuinely believe that it is an unnecessary and time wasting procedure. (Because they never get lost).
- 2) They are so completely stupid that they don't know of its existence. (There's been one in the hut for as long as I can remember).
- 3) They are just too bloody lazy to walk a few feet and write about 10 words.

IT'S JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH!!!

JIM CUNDY.

CALL OUT FOR CAVING EMERGENCIES - NARACOORTE.

The call out procedure detailed below has evolved from several meetings between C.E.G.S.A., Naracoorte Police and St John Ambulance held at Naracoorte during July, 1977.

Any incident involving "non Cavers" will normally be reported directly to the Police. If members of C.E.G.S.A. are involved they must follow the procedure outlined below and NOT attempt to execute a rescue by themselves. For any incident in the Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park, the Ranger, if available, should be notified.

CALL OUT PROCEDURE

When an emergency situation involving lost or injured caver arises it must be reported IMMEDIATELY to the Naracoorte Police.

1. Notify (a) Police
(b) Landowner. (if practicable)
Meet Police at a definite location. Do not wander off till they arrive.
2. Upon notification Police will:
 - (a) despatch patrol to scene
 - (b) alert
 - i) St John Ambulance - travels to scene.
 - ii) Mt. Gambier Police - who will alert a cave rescue unit at Mt. Gambier.
 - iii) Adelaide Police - who will alert CEGSA
 - iv) Harry Baker 2 Handyside St. Naracoorte
(cave locations)
 - v) Graham Carter – Lucindale
 - vi) Jim Cundy – Coomandook
 - (w) Yumali 733007
 - (h) Yumali 733118
3. Naracoorte Police on arrival at scene:
Make detail assessment of situation and if emergency still exists
 - (a) call out
 - i) Graham Carter
 - ii) Mt. Gambier
 - iii) Jim Cundy
 - iv) Melbourne Police - to alert
Victorian Speleological Association
IF NO-ONE available in Adelaide.
 - (b) notify landowner if applicable.

4. Initial call out personnel arrive at scene.

In consultation with these personnel a reassessment of the situation is made. Police then:

- (a) request special equipment.
- (b) call out Adelaide or take Adelaide off alert.
- (c) request maps or additional information from Adelaide.

If Adelaide is called out they stop at:

- i) Murray Bridge Police Station for situation report.
- ii) Keith to phone Naracoorte for situation report.

If major exercise constant review of situation with regard to calling out extra personnel such as Victorian Speleological Association.

5. The first competent caver to arrive at the scene becomes the search co-ordinator and retains this position until he delegates his authority to some other person.

August, 1977.

KEVIN MOTT.
Safety Officer.

FIRST AID COURSES.

St John first aid courses are continually being run, and information on these courses may be obtained from St John Headquarters.

ATTENDANCE AT THE S & R EXERCISE.

CEGSA	25
Mt. Gambier Cavers	21
St John Ambulance	18
Tatiara S.E.S.	12
VSA	2
FUSS	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>79</u>

LATEST S & R NEWS.

Rumour has it that the two VSA representatives to the S & R EXERCISE were so impressed that they are now planning their own exercise for later this year. Good luck to them.

QUOTE:

"We don't have to actually go underground for this exercise - do we?"

SIMON BARROW.

OTHER ARTICLES

CONSTITUTION NOTICE

NOTICE of motion to alter the Constitution of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc. to be voted on at the General Meeting of the Group, to be held on Wednesday September 28th, 1977 at 8 p.m. in the S.A. Museum Lecture Theatre.

MOTION: That the Constitution be amended by inserting a new sub-paragraph 4 (g) to read:

4 (g) Any matter brought before the Committee shall not be dealt with by the Committee but referred to a General Meeting, if any two Committee members so insist.
Matters prescribed as Committee business by this Constitution or expressly delegated to the Committee by a General Meeting form an exception to this rule.

NEIL SMITH.

CEGSA TEE-SHIRTS

Terry Reardon informs me that he now has a screen made up so that he can print the CEGSA symbol onto clothing. If anyone wants the symbol printed on a tee-shirt or the seat of their overalls then see Terry. You could even make a small CEGSA flag to adorn your car.

JIM CUNDY.

WHAT IS CAVING ALL ABOUT.

IS IT the thrill of being dragged down, down, through the mud, into the dark depths of the earth.

getting bruises on bruises 'till the pain doesn't hurt any more

squeezing through minute holes that scrape the skin off your hips

following a fellow caver down a passage, on your stomach, and then finding their boot in your mouth.

finding a new cave ...

and disappointment when someone says they knew it was there already.

Yes this is caving.

IS IT the mad chase after a lunatic who just took your favourite beany

planning a weekend away caving and ending up burrowing under hospital blankets

ending up glowing like a lobster after a birthday presentation

being stuck down a cave with a guy who doesn't agree with women cavers

being sweet-talked, bribed and finally conned into writing for the Newsletter.

Oh well, this is caving.

ANNETTE BATES.

IAN LEWIS - OVERSEAS

CEGSA's representative to the International Caving Congress in England is the one and only Ian Lewis. A recent postcard from Ian informs me that all is going well and he says "Regards to all."

He also gives an address where you can send money, cheques, or letters.

The address is: Ian Lewis,
C/- Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia,
ALDWYCH,
LONDON, WC4B, 4 LN.

REPORT ON THE ASF NATIONAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
STUDY MEETING.

6th July, 1977.

The Australian Speleological Federation is, at present, compiling a report on the National Heritage Assessment Study. Through the National Heritage Commission Act 1975, the Federal Government has proposed to compile a register of important features of the National Estate which it defines in the following terms:

"For purposes of this Act, the national estate consists of those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community."

The ASF have produced a draft outline of the final study report which they have circulated around Australia in an effort to promote discussion. The Honorary Study Director, Elery Hamilton-Smith, has held or is holding meetings in all States to discuss the study and to gauge the opinions of those interested.

On July 6th, the South Australian meeting was held at the home of Ed Bailey. Those present were E. Bailey, K. Mott, L. Whaley, D. Arnott, A. Jackson, J. Cundy, G. Gartrell, F. Aslin, R. Allum, R. Wells (CEGSA), and R. Gobby (N.P.W.S.). It was, perhaps, disappointing that so few attended this discussion evening as the conservation and preservation of our caves should be very much in the thoughts of all speleologists and it is imperative that the future of caves and karst features in general be safeguarded so that future generations may have the same access to them as we now enjoy.

The evening stimulated much discussion and Elery Hamilton-Smith was able to inform us on the progress made in other States on the compilation of data for this register and also the ways in which other societies are tackling this task.

Some of the questions raised are as follows:

What is the value of registration?

The register is basically a list of caves and karst features which may be classed in terms of local, state, national or world importance and which will be open to change. This may seem necessary due to variations in opinion as to what is important now and what may be important in the future.

How stable would this register be?

As can be expected from any politically motivated plan an alteration in the governing party can bring about an end to that plan. The National Heritage Commission Act 1975 and subsequent National Heritage Commission Amendment Act 1976 are a part of the Federal policy of the present government, who are leaving the various State Governments to execute these acts.

What will we gain from this register?

Hopefully, better protection of caves and karst features, especially in maintaining the delicate balance of the cave ecosystem which can be disrupted all too easily. The important bat maternity regions in the South-East, S.A. are a good example. The survival of these bats is crucial to the positioning of the boundaries there if an area is to be registered.

Will this register be available to all?

This question, I think, is uppermost in the minds of nearly all speleologists. At the moment, we have enough problems with non-cavers of many types visiting non-tourist caves for a multitude of reasons, many of which are, to say the least, disturbing. The thought of "rockhounds" and vandals, for example, having a field day in some of our "Special Caves," using the register as a handbook, would give any caver an ulcer.

However, if a large area of land is registered as a reserve, then finding a particular cave without explicit instructions would be nigh on impossible. In Tasmania, for example, some rock paintings of archaeological importance have been registered by reserving a large area of forest, and someone would need to be extremely determined, and dedicated, to find them.

How many caves are to be registered?

This issue tends to lead to quite a lot of contention. Should we register all of the known caves and karst features in case some of those which are not of significant importance now may be in the future or should we just register the ones which are of importance at the moment? Of course, the latter point could mean that without forethought a cave may become "over-trogged" and misused resulting in, say 50 years time when something of extreme importance about the cave is discovered, it may be very well too late!

This list is meant to be ongoing which means a gradual registration of features of varying speleological importance. A similar register was begun in Austria some 80 years ago and it is just now that the list is nearing completion. This tends to point out that this will definitely be a long term project in Australia, which is a great deal larger than Austria.

What will the general public gain?

It is hoped that they will come to understand the importance of the conservation of caves. These days, in tourist caves pretty speleothems tend to be thrust upon the general public as though they were all that the cave had to offer. Perhaps we may be able to teach them the diversity of beauty found in a cave.

A point to remember is that some tourist caves are the best protected overall.

How difficult will classification be?

It could be difficult to classify a single cave as it perhaps has features of varying importance some of which may be of local significance as well as some of national or even world importance.

In the draft outline of the ASF final study report they list categories of pseudo karst, karst in non-carbonate rocks (both after Grimes 1975), and a schedule of cave characteristics.

"5.4 Each characteristic would, in turn, need development of a more detailed sub-classification, similar to the various examples which we have listed. In addition, a basis for rating of significance is necessary for each characteristic. These have been developed to some extent in previously circulated discussion papers and commentaries, and will be collated and hopefully expanded in the final report.

Some of these characteristics and rating principals will also be applicable to other kinds of caves. As an obvious example, all matters relating to cave contents are equally applicable to non-karst caves."

How many caves have been registered?

There has been a gradual submission of requests from notably Western Australia and Tasmania; no application had been received at the time of this meeting from South Australia.

The proper method of application is to have printed a notice of intention to register in both the Government Gazette and the local newspaper (e.g. "Advertiser"). Before registration is accepted, a time period is allowed for objections against that particular registration to be lodged as a proposal of deletion.

It is reasonably easy to register national park cave areas, but in cases of caves found on private land it can be a different matter. Of course, some landowners may be only too happy to register but probably the majority require strategic manoeuvres by speleologists to come around to our way of thinking. This has occurred to some extent in the Buchan area of Victoria by members of VSA, who would like to register as many of the caves in their region as possible.

This is just an outline of the evening's proceedings, but I hope that what you have just read has stimulated thought in the minds of those who were unable to attend the meeting and who still wish to contribute to the final report. The ASF would welcome any views on this and these can be expressed by sending them to:

ASF National Heritage Assessment Study,
C/- C.P.S. Services,
P.O. Box 93,
CARLTON SOUTH, Vic. 3053.

LINDA WHALEY.

A NAME FOR THIS PUBLICATION?

At the August committee meeting, I mentioned that I would like the Newsletter to have a name, and I asked the Committee's permission to run a popularity poll on the idea. They approved.

My reasons were that I had noticed a certain pride with which other clubs had spoken of their Newsletter and actually referred to it by a name. I would like to give our Newsletter an identity, something we too can be proud of. 'Newsletter' has never officially been the name of our publication, our publication is the Newsletter of CEGSA and does not have a name. Let's give it one!!

Please pass your feelings on to me either verbally or written. Do you want:

- a) The official name to be "Newsletter"?
- b) Another name of your choice?
- c) The publication to stay as it is?

Any suggestions of a new name would be appreciated.

JIM CUNDY.

Heard Recently:

In Wrecked Car Cave:

"Thank goodness there's no decoration in this bit."

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "S.A. CAVE REFERENCE BOOK"

- E 12 Proper Bay Cave (Sleaford) - Branched cave developed E & W from central entrance 40m from sea. Entry to each by squeeze over rubbish pile. Roof height 1m average by 4m wide. Small salt pools at far end of West Ext. may be sea level. Total length 60m.
- E 14 Tractor's Rest - Sinkhole 7m diameter x 5m deep in dune limestone with small cave. Tractor wreck sitting comfortably at bottom. Natural hives.
- E 26 Stumpy Tail Cave - Small shallow collapse sinkhole 3m deep; bells out to 5m.
- E 27 Unnamed doline - 18m wide x 3m deep. Small caves formed under edges.
- E 28 Crescent Cave - Crescent shaped collapse 10m across, 4m deep. Cave formed in 2 locations inside collapse. Walk in entrances; large column, old flowstone, natural hives, 5 degree dip?
- E 29 Cowcatcher - Collapse doline 4m deep. Opens out to 5m across; old columns; many bones.
- E 30 Triplex Cave - Shallow flattener type cave 10m x 13m wide not exceeding 3m deep. 3 entrances.
- E 31 Pantania Cave - 2m wide roof window in middle of wide conical doline leads to 9m diam. chamber 6m deep. Live formation, old flowstone, good ferns, many small skulls, various snails and spiders.
- E 32 Operculm Cave - Single chamber 4m deep x 5m wide entered over rubbish pile. Large flat rock partially blocks entrance. Many small skulls.
- E 33 Unnamed sinkhole - 8m wide rockfilled depression with small shallow cave formed at edges.
- E 34 Unnamed doline - Part of Cobbler Hill Sinkholes - shallow depression 15m long x 4m wide with overhanging ledge one side, rubbish dump.
- E 35 Unnamed doline - Part of Cobbler Hill Sinkholes - shallow depression 26m x 10m wide x 2m deep, ledge one side.
- E 36 Unnamed pots - Part of Cobbler Hill Sinkholes - 3m deep formed in
& E37 hard rock.

- E 38 Scribes Cave - 4m deep chamber entered via 2m roof window, small aven, degraded shawl; thick moss on floor. Raking flattener to lower level not explored.
- E 39 Unnamed sinkhole - 6m wide doline close to E 38 small shallow cave one side.
- E 40 Unnamed pot - 3m deep pothole with passage leading away. Not explored. Beehives.
- E 41 Unnamed doline - Irregular shaped collapse doline 3m deep at one end.

J.W. DeGRAAF.

THE SPIRIT OF CAVING.

The Search and Rescue Exercise was not only a great experience but an education in just how little most of us knew on this subject.

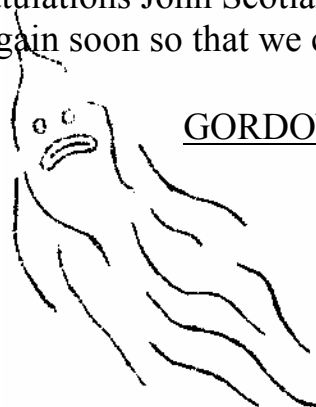
Any person in CEGSA who missed out on this exercise not only let themselves and the club down but, perhaps, one day, a fellow caver. Of course, they can look at the, bright side and consider that if they have an accident then a caver who has gone to the trouble of learning first aid and attending search and rescue courses can help them.

Don't be selfish and think that "I'll be right mate", the others can look after me. You just might end up in a group in which none of them know as much as you and then won't you be in trouble. NOW is the time to do something about it - now is the time to learn some first aid - now is the time, to learn search and rescue - now is the time to show some of the "Spirit of Caving".

Congratulations for a fine effort to ALL those who organised and helped in the Exercise including those who attended.

Although the Venturer Scouts (Mt. Gambier area) in my group had very limited experience in caving they showed exceptional initiative, consideration and co-operation to the duties they were given during the exercise. Not only that but their conduct at the campsite and the condition in which they left same was a credit to the Scouting movement. So congratulations John Scotland to you and your group. Hope to see you and your Venturers again soon so that we can all do some caving just for the fun of it.

GORDON PETERSON.



THE DINNER SPIRITS.

It was certainly heart warming to re-read the last issue of the Newsletter after the CEGSA-VSA Dinner and find that the spirit of caving does indeed still exist.

Having been associated with most of the eccentric types that seem to be attracted to that great underground magnet (CEGSA) I thought I was beyond being shocked. Now my adrenalin level rises to peak heights every time a certain trio of apparitions appear on the scene.

The dinner started off as orderly and quietly, as do most of these gala occasions. It was when we were herded into the fully carpeted dining room that the trouble started. Whilst recovering from the sight of the dining room this trio of seemingly angelic apparitions suddenly revealed their true Jeckyl & Hyde format. The incessant nagging grew into a tumultuous crescendo at an exponential rate. Do this, do that, don't do this, don't do that! The array of cutlery, looking somewhat reminiscent of King Arthur's armoury, was not even allowed to be admired or taken away for scientific dating. Here is where their bombshell was exploded, cunningly timed you will notice, to upset my already delicate ravenous appetite. Two of them had booked into a MOTEL for the night. How will we ever hold our heads up again amongst those humble Victorians.

As copious amounts of demon drink were consumed at an increasing rate they proceeded to flit from tabletop to tabletop flaunting and flinging themselves at every male still conscious. Later in the evening these uncharitable lovelies then callously turned away poor, helpless, frozen, destitute and drunk travellers from the motel room which was complete with coloured teeves and lecy blanket, into the bitter cold of a Naracoorte winter's night.

Come Sunday justice at last prevailed. Realising the error of their ways they offered a peace offering of a new cave. This turned out to be an old road-works quarry so in retaliation they refused to hand the map over to CEGSA. So much for Snail I. After miss-following directions they found another cave and called it, believe it or not, Snail II. This turned out to be Crawfords Dead Sheep Cave (He! He! He! He!)

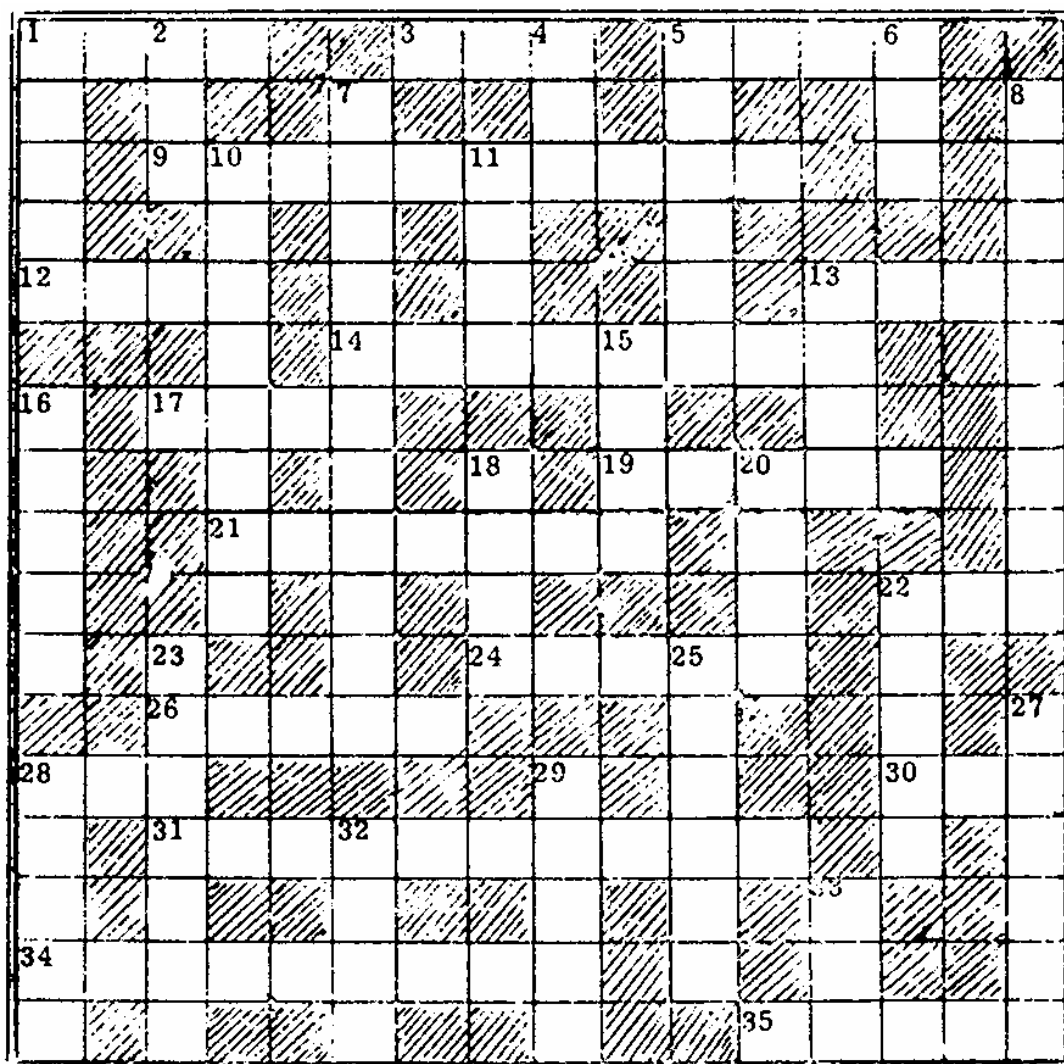
As one of this buxom two-some is a new member and the other a prospective member perhaps we should review membership applications with a more critical eye, if only to prolong my life.

ANONYMOUS.

Heard Recently:

In Penola township:

"Do you belong to the same group as YOUNG JACKSON"?



DOWN

1. Type of decoration.
2. Some people think cavers are... ?
4. Vertical shaft open to surface.
5. Richly decorated room in cave.
6. Name of a cave. (N11).
7. Cavity under overhanging cliff.
8. Link of steel used in climbing.
10. Opening to a cave.
11. Vert. shaft not reaching surface.
13. Name of a cave. (L30).
15. Hells Cave.
16. Vert. developed opening in cave.
18. Long narrow opening in floor or roof of a chamber.
20. U/ground body of standing water
22. Negotiated on hands and knees.
23. Breeding naturally only with each other.
25. of the Fence Cave.
27. Direction of horizontal line in a bedding plane in dipping rocks.
28. To attach in this manner.
29. A thin walled stalactite.
32. Royal snake. (species).
33. Jam ... Cave.

ACROSS

1. Joint from which cave extends submerged in unknown fashion.
3. Angle at which beds are inclined to the horizontal.
5. Double name of a cave. (L60).
9. Name for pretties.
12. Name of a cave. (U34).
13. Cave insect.
14. A depression on the surface.
17. What every caver NEEDS after a hard day's digging or caving.
19. Glucose (sweet - common name).
21. Main constituent of limestone.
22. Wrecked ... Cave.
24. Short length of wire with fasteners used with wire ladder.
26. Decoration found in and around shallow holes in cave floors.
28. keepers Cave.
30. Name of a cave. (rather damp).
31. Rock wedged between two walls of a passage in a cave system.
34. Naracoorte Tourist Cave.
35. Unwelcome visitor to cave. (Bites)

MISUSE OF EQUIPMENT DURING EXERCISE.

The state in which equipment was returned to the store at the end of the exercise was deplorable. Ropes were not coiled but loosely bundled together and ladders although rolled up were not finished off so became unrolled on the way home. Even though it was the end of the exercise there was no excuse for dropping standards in the care of equipment. Nobody wants to borrow equipment that is knotted and tangled. When coiling ropes please remove the knots.

If anyone finds a triangular bandage labelled S.E.S. in a corner would they please return them to the Q.M. These bandages were loaned to us by the State Emergency Services and surely they are entitled to receive back the same number they lent us.

KEVIN MOTT.

DO YOU REALISE

- 1) That the acid that may leak from your battery pack is extremely detrimental to caving ropes. Most people do so and they keep them separated in the car.
- 2) That any leaked acid may remain active in the car for several weeks. Consequently it would be well worth your while to put aside a special area of your car for battery packs only, and keep the ropes well away.

JIM CUNDY.

"DISCOVER NARACOORTE CAVES"

That highly acclaimed publication "Discover Naracoorte Caves" is still being sold at a rapid rate. At the present moment copies have been sold to England and America while Ian Lewis has taken some copies overseas to spread the good word.

Have you got your copy yet?

"ASK THE LEYLAND BROTHERS" REVIEW

Our on the spot reporter critically analysed the section on 'Naracoorte Caves' by the Leyland Brothers.

After a period of deep thought during which he looked at all aspects of the programme, his comment was "Not worth a cracker, mate!"

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It is good to see more people penning articles for the CEGSA newsletter. All too often in the past it has been up to the same one or two people to formulate the newsletter. With more people writing articles we don't have repetition of literary styles so the newsletter becomes more interesting to read. Many members, due to family and other commitments can't always attend trips and functions but they still like to be informed of what is going on. One or two people can't remember everything.

I hope these new authors will continue to write articles without having to be continually chased by the editor. The new layout of the newsletter makes it easy to find articles. I did not realise so many different articles appeared in the newsletter. The cartoons were a pleasing addition and perhaps we could expand this and have some puzzles.

The cover of the last edition, a radical change from previous issues, was excellent and I am sure was well received. Congratulations to the editor. If the number of contributions keep coming in at the same rate we might have to increase the number of issues per year. I daresay the committee would favour an increase as they would not have to then plan so far ahead.

King Newsletter Worm.

Oh, great wondrous "King" your wish is my command. This very issue of the Newsletter contains a puzzle! Ed.

Dear Sir,

Re: Bakara. The writer would suggest the correct pronunciation is ba-ka-ra without emphasis.

A local example is pa-ra-la-na hot springs in Northern Flinders and not para as the natives had no ability to pronounce 'r' and the original sound could have been 'ga', 'wa', 'ka', 'ma' or plain 'a' not 'ra'.

The locals; pronounce it as para-la-na which tends to emphasise the above point.

FRED SANDERS.

Dear Sir.

As a relative newcomer to the caving world of S.A., I watched with interest the Search and Rescue Exercise held on the 30th and 31st July at Naracoorte. Those of us who ventured to the southeast for that particular weekend, whether to participate or observe, each discovered something of ourselves in relation to our abilities and those of our fellow cavers.

After conversing with several participants and listening in on several debriefings and the odd conversation about the effect of the exercise, I have formed together a few ideas which, I think, could possibly be looked at in the future.

FIRST AID: This was outstanding by its absence. Time and again we heard the St John's people mention that very few people actually knew how to deal with an injured person. Should we then not do something to ensure that every active member of CEGSA completes a First Aid course, followed by refresher courses, so that in an emergency each one of us can help constructively instead of merely looking on.

CAVING TECHNIQUES: This heading covers a broad spectrum, but I believe it is essential to know even simple techniques so that we may become better and hence more responsible cavers.

The use of ropes was a big feature of the weekend. I could not help but notice a difference between those people who knew how to use them and those who only thought they knew, sometimes endangering others as well as themselves. It would seem true then that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing'. I would therefore suggest that some time be taken in tutoring members on the types and uses of various ropes, knots and their applications.

Belaying and laddering were other areas in which the inexperienced were conspicuous. Possibly these two techniques could be incorporated into the above suggested rope-work sessions.

Although not a technique as such, the outfitting of each caver could be a feature of their safety precautions. I was pleased to note that all participants in the exercise were wearing hard hats and some form of suitable footwear. One thing I did mark down though was that some people were minus a light source - a must for underground work. Thankfully those few without some form of light seemed to realise their limited use underground and remained on the surface.

Having dealt with the outstanding points from the Search and Rescue I would now like to put forward a few suggestions to be considered by caving parties in the future:

1. At least one member of the party be an EXPERIENCED caver.
2. At least one member of the party be EXPERIENCED in first aid.

3. Notify someone above the ground that you are there and what time you expect to return from underground each day.
4. Any spare time could be spent in exercising your knowledge of caving techniques or search and rescue.

Finally I would like to congratulate Kevin Mott and Jim Cundy for a very well organised and run Search and Rescue Exercise. I feel that most of those who attended would agree with me in saying that it was an invaluable experience for us all - not showing us how great we are, but showing us what we have to learn. Thanks is also due to the Police and St John Ambulance from Naracoorte for co-operating in the exercise. Thank you.

ANNETTE BATES.

Reply to letter to the Editor (Vol. 22 No: 2.)

Dear Sir.

I read this letter with a great deal of interest as it is a matter in which I am close to the seat of the problem.

For convenience I will deal with the suggestions entertained by the Honourable Lady Loo Loo W.C. in the order in which they were raised.

1. An occupied/vacant sign has been incorporated in the design since the original article went to print.
2. A door catch for inside has similarly been thought of. Burglar proof! Is this meant to be burglar while the loo is occupied or vacant? The manufacturers say you may only lose something if you are occupying it.
3. Brand new nail for holding 'toilet squares'. Very commendable; we apologise for this gross oversight.
4. Walls. These are standard equipment with edifices constructed by the esteemed firm of Cundy-Mott Constructions.
5. Mirror (for adjustment of trogsuit) of course. A valuable suggestion that will be given the utmost consideration.

Appropriately the LOO is to be launched, christened or baptised; call it what you may with a bottle of P.I.S.S. (UNSWSS Potent Inebriating Speleo Special that is). The manufacturers appreciate Lady Loo Loo's offer to launch the loo.

KEVIN MOTT.

on behalf of Cundy-Mott Constructions,
Coomandook Country Club,
Coomandook.

Dear Sir.

Recently, I led a trip to Naracoorte for a group of Swinburne Explorers Club cavers. One of the caves we visited was Robertson's Cave where I had been told a reasonable size colony of bats is living.

Our visit revealed a total lack of bat life and only a few swallows made their presence noted. Strewn all around the place in the entrance chamber were many bales of hay, squares of coloured cellophane, cigarette packets and so on. Talking to Jim Wesley-Smith I found out that the cave had been used as the venue for a series of cabarets.

Admittedly, I don't know all the facts surrounding this use of Robertson's Cave as a cabaret venue or the figure for the bat population in the cave. Nor do I want to alienate the local authorities over this issue, but I feel very strongly that as bat populations (certainly in some Victorian caves and presumably in S.A. too) are declining in numbers, perhaps through general trogging or maybe through natural measures, that we should not hasten this decline in any way or form.

Therefore, in no way can I condone this outrageous use of one of nature's most beautiful assets to the detriment of one of nature's most unique and fragile creatures and I most strongly protest against the use of Robertson's Cave for any activity of this nature.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID SMITH

Vice President V.S.A.

Caving Rep. Swinburne Explorers Club.

Dear Sir.

I would like to comment on the Search and Rescue Exercise Weekend July 30-31st. Although not a participant, I was nevertheless able to pick up many valuable tips by observing techniques used by various teams, especially in the Tomato and Stick Caves exercises.

It became very obvious that there is a great lack of basic knowledge of first aid, climbing methods, and even the tying of simple safety knots within our Group. I am able to comment on this because I must admit that I am also guilty of a few of these crimes. In some cases, poor equipment and lack of adequate safety measures could have put some of the rescue parties in a jeopardous position; in fact, with the possibility of one of them becoming another patient.

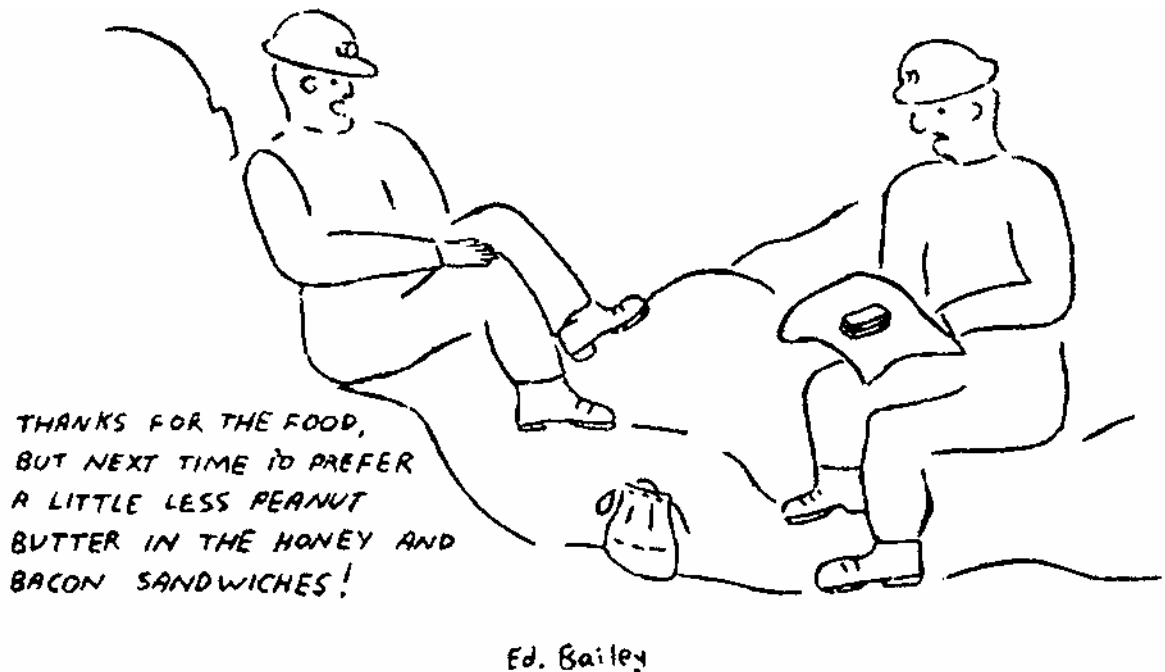
On the whole, I think that much was learnt by all concerned, be they members of CEGSA, St John's Ambulance Brigade or the Police. A special thank you must go to the St John's team who provided us with that splendid tea on the Saturday night and their open-handed friendliness.

Our thanks also to Kevin Mott and Jim Cundy for the great deal of time and effort they put into making this weekend a success, which indeed it was, and perhaps we can show our appreciation by looking forward to another exercise organised by them in the not too distant future.

Yours,

LINDA WHALEY.

P. S. If they do, perhaps they could keep it a secret from me until the day so that I may be fit enough to actually take part in it - - - third time lucky and all that!!!



QUESTION, WHO WAS HE??

"The cave was discovered in 1969 by a cave explorer, George Cartrell, who squeezed through an eight metre passage only 233 mm high in Victoria Cave to encounter a large chamber containing one of the largest finds of extinct animal remains in the world."

Quote from "Where to go 'till Monday."

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER

Aug. 27th - Sept. 2nd	Naracoorte	Gordon Peterson.
Wednesday 7th	Mapping & training night	23 Harcourt Road. Payneham.
Sunday 11th	Field Day - Reynella	Kevin Mott.
Wednesday 14th	Committee meeting	120 Kurrabinna Tce Hallett Cove.
17th - 18th	Cathedral Bone Excavation Naracoorte.	Ed. Bailey.
Wednesday 21st	Mapping and training night	23 Harcourt Road., Payneham.
24th - 25th	Glenelg River	Kevin Mott.
Wednesday 28th	General Meeting Speaker: Ross Gobby N.P.W.S.	Museum Lecture

OCTOBER

1st - 2nd	Curramulka - surveying	Graham Pilkington
Wednesday 5th	Mapping and training night	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham.
8th - 10th	Flinders Ranges	Dot Peisley.
Wednesday 12th	Committee Meeting	158B Main North East Rd. Vale Pk.
Wednesday 19th	Mapping and training night	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham.
22nd- 23rd	Loo building and/or erection	Jim Cundy.
Wednesday 26th	General Meeting Speaker; Kevin Moriarty. on the geology of the Naracoorte area.	Museum Lecture Room
29th - 30th	Naracoorte - touristy	Kevin Mott.

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TRIP CONTACT LIST.

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Ed. Bailey,	2 Boorman Ave., Pasadena - (h) 276 8264.
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Dot Peisley,	23 Dorset St., Brahma Lodge, (w) 262 2311 (h) 258 9917.
Jim Cundy,	Coomandook, (w) Yumali 733007.

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES.

All articles for the next issue must be submitted by Wednesday 28th Sept.

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SEARCH AND RESCUE.

South Australian Police Force.