CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

NEWSLETTER

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THE COVER.

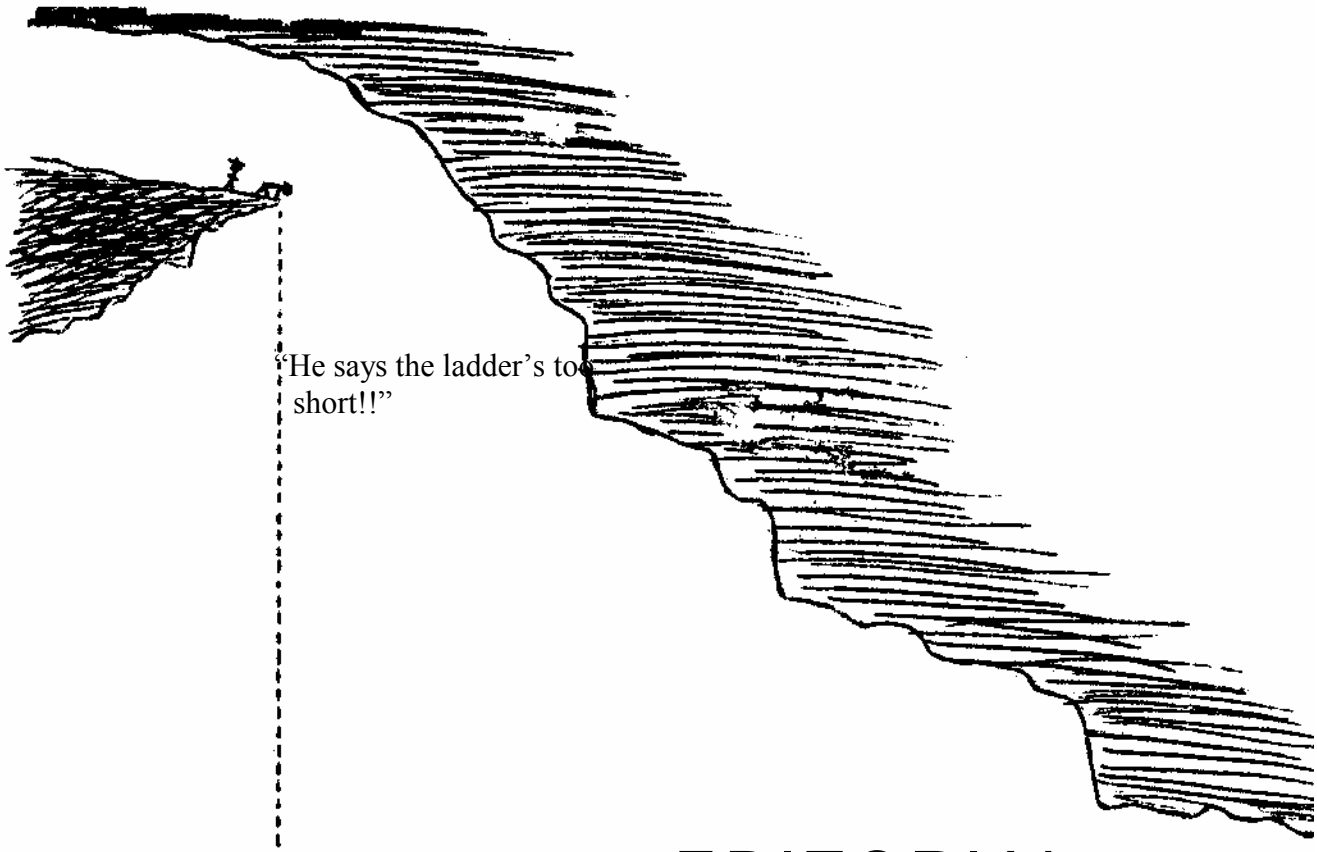
What do you think of this cover? Different ? It's yours truly's attempt to be artistic. Good eh?!? Well at least you ain't stuck with one picture to look at.

The whole idea is to try and show all aspects of the sport, or as many as possible. From digging to surveying and from crawling to climbing.

Nearly all of the photos were taken by Kevin Mott, with the exception of three. Two of those were taken by Ed Bailey and the other is of Ian Lewis posing in the Pyrenees, right on the French/Spanish Border.

Those astute ones among you will notice that all of the cavers shown are male. However, that is how it should be, and just goes to show that CAVING IS A MAN'S SPORT.

JIM CUNDY
(M.C.P.)



"He says the ladder's too short!!"

EDITORIAL

Well I won't bore you too much this issue so I can make room for something far more interesting. The cartoon was sent to me from the International Congress in England (see the report by Ian on Page 8).

Looking through the Programme for the next three months it seems we have a busy time ahead. Thanks mainly to dependable Kevin Mott who is virtually holding it together on his own. I hope this is the start of a productive and eventful year.

JIM CUNDY.

TRIP REPORTS

THISTLE ISLAND. 24/9/77.

Thistle Island, 17 km long by 4 km wide, is a large island about 35 km S.E. of Port Lincoln. Owner, Theo Modra, flew myself and two friends, as well as his son Darren, to the island with the express purpose of exploring and mapping a large cave known as Dead Horse Cave.

During the period about the turn of the century, horses were bred on the island to provide Mounts for the Indian Cavalry. One of these horses never made it to India because it broke it's pelvis in falling down one side of a 3m deep doline. Subsequent movements caused the animal to roll down into the cave formed under the doline ledge, where the skeleton and much of the skin is now well preserved by the dry conditions.

The chamber in which the horse now lies is about 15m x 5m x 1.5m high. There is however, a 3m deep floor hole in this chamber which leads onto a rockpile high up at one end of a passage 75m long. By Port Lincoln type cave standards, the passage is quite large being approx 7m wide x 3m high. It is initially sand floored but later becomes fallen roof material composed of large blocks. The last 10m of passage rises and then ends abruptly in a floor hole which is not negotiable and a short rounded aven.

There are numerous roof holes throughout the passage, some estimated to be 10m high. The roof at the far end is liberally sprinkled with tiny gypsum flowers. Large quantities of animal droppings, thought to be due to possums, have been deposited in a number of locations and the few small bones seen may well belong to same.

A small portion of the passage wall exhibits half-tubes similar to those shown in plate 2-9, page 21 of "Caves of the Nullarbor" by J.R. Dunkley and T.M.L. Wigley. Practically the whole island from just above sea level to + 250m is composed of calcareous aeolianite. The windborne nature of this material excludes the possibility that this cave is in any way connected with the Nullarbor caves, although similar processes may well have formed both.

J.W. DEGRAAF.

A Victorian was heard to say at Buchan during Christmas .....

"I didn't think they could have that many caves in country so flat"

RIVER MURRAY AND BURRA

During the latter months of 1977 (may she rest in peace) several lightning trips (they never struck the same place twice) were unschedually* run to the River Murray and Burra.

Having been unable to locate Portee Cave on a previous trip I was determined to satisfy my deep rooted, long lived desire to know that the cave really existed and was not some devious scheme of a past sneaky Records Officer to confuse heavy speleological types seeking out the ultimate that S.A. had to offer the aforementioned speleological types. Alter a lengthy consultation with the manager of the station the cave was located exactly where it was supposed to be, which goes to prove caves are quite safe and are not shifty. The access described in the original trip reports has been blocked off as the area is now a refuge for that-well known caver; the Hairy Nosed Wombat. Access is now via the homestead and permission must be obtained as the area is patrolled by rangers.

Rumours of a fabulous cavern in the deep dark bowels of mother earth near Burra have existed for many years. A glowing report of this masterpiece of nature appeared in an early edition of the esteemed S.A. Register. I, being the source of and result of many rumours decided that this must be checked out to verify it. After spending a whole morning doorknocking fruitlessly I can now definitely spread a rumour that the rumour was a rumour and not a filament of my imagination.

It was then the miraculous occurred. After receiving a red tape type run-around that would do justice to any well salted public servant your most humble author was put in touch with a person who actually knew of the cave's existence. We now know the approximate location of the cave which has been apparently filled with rubbish. Once the cave is accurately located we may, through the co-operation of the landowner and local historical society, be able to remove the rubbish and fence orf the cave.

KEVIN MOTT.

* a motticism.

PORT LINCOLN AREA

Oct., 1977.

Numerous afternoon and day trips close to Port Lincoln over the last few months have lead to the discovery of many small caves, most of which have now been mapped and duly recorded. The bulk of the caves fit into two categories:-

(1) Wide-mouthed collapse dolines to 7m wide with small caves located under ledges.
(2) Single room size chambers entered by narrow solution tubes.

Almost all those in category (2) have a sizeable collection of recent animal bones, due no doubt to the animal trap nature of the entrance dolines. Some of these bones I have identified, through the Museum, as belonging to small species of wallabies known to have disappeared soon after settlement on Eyre Peninsula.

There are some examples of cave decoration but nearly all are severely degraded and long dead. A few are live only in the months following good rains.

Flora consists of bracken, mosses, lichen and some fungi growing on rotten timber and animal droppings. The fauna inside the caves is limited to numerous species of snails, spiders, frogs, beetles, etc. well represented above ground.

J.W. DEGRAAF.

NARACOORTE.

29-30 October. '77	J. Cundy, A Jackson, L. Whaley, V. Muller, G. Pilkington, F. Aslin, A. Bates, K. Mott. C. Whaley.
26-27 November '77	L. Whaley, A. Jackson, K. Mott, H. Baker, D. Arnott, C. Reece, M. Meth, G. Pilkington.

Caves visited:

October:	U7, U14, U15, U26, U35, U48, U56, U57, U61, U68, U70, U73, U74, U75, U81, U82, U88, U91, U92, U104 + 10 un-numbered caves.
November:	U29, U30, U34, U47, U65, U66, U67, U69, U72, U78, U79, U80, U83, U95, U96, U99, U105 + 7 un-numbered caves.

Several of the un-numbered caves have been mentioned in earlier trip reports but were never given a number. Several early locations were confused and many of the old location maps have disappeared.

OBJECT:

The purpose of these two trips was to upgrade existing records of the caves in the Naracoorte region and to enable people to familiarise themselves with the caves around Naracoorte.

For Records each entrance was photographed, tied in to the Lands Dept. 1:50 000 series of maps and checked for change of ownership. Whilst checking locations it was found that U56 "Crawfords Dead Sheep Cave" is the same cave found by those hapless dinner spirits i.e. Snail II (Vol. 22 No: 3).

During the last few years trips to Naracoorte we have tended to focus mainly on the caves in the immediate vicinity of the reserve. Very little was known of the other caves; especially by the new cavers. In a search and rescue situation this is intolerable.

Because of the number of caves visited and the time limit many reports of new caves had to be shelved until a later date. Several caves since been filled in and others are in danger mainly from quarrying. If people can motivate themselves there is still a lot of work to be done at Naracoorte.

During the November trip, lino was laid on the floor of the hut and several rather comfy easy chairs, donated by R. Galbreath, were installed.

FUTURE WORK:

The caves on the reserve itself and those south of the reserve remain to be done (see programme) so help is still required. It is not until you look at the caves around Naracoorte that you realise how much caving there is to do there.

KEVIN MOTT.

NARACOORTE. 2 - 9th Jan., 1978

MEMBERS: G. Peterson (L) and Family, R. Doeke, D. Peisley, G. Beaumont. K. Polley, J. Mower, P. Hocknell and Family, D. Doyle and 5 visitors.

A good relaxing holiday was had by yours truly with just enough caving to satisfy all the members. Two other members of the group who are not listed above but who spent two days with us visiting Wombat, Fox, and Tantanoola Lake Cave were Peg and Ken Heyne. This was quite an enjoyable experience as it was the first time that I had had the pleasure of a ranger's company whilst caving. Many times in the past I had asked officers at the park to come caving, but it never eventuated. Ken is an experienced and competent caver and it was a great pleasure to have him and his wife join us. By the way, Ken and Peg have been, transferred to Kangaroo Island. Jan and I personally wish them every success with their new position and we hope to visit them later this year. (Keep a couple cold Ken and we will down them on your veranda).

Robert, Richard and Greg decided one morning to try and find 'Lost Cave' but arrived back at lunch time without tracing it. But, thanks to Harry Baker and his excellent directions, they found it that afternoon but they also found 3 unwelcome lodgers in the cave - 1 copperhead and two brown snakes. Future visitors to this cave should be wary of what is inside.

Watch out everybody, Jan is accumulating her caving hours and shall, in the very near future, have enough hours to become a full member. Her last effort was into the Great Hall in Victoria Fossil Cave. The only problem now is that she plans to hack off a strip of foam (from my side of the mattress) to make some kneepads. One interesting thing to note is that Jan found the steep and slippery exit ramps more difficult to manoeuvre than the crawling etc. involved in visiting Great Hall.

The Peterson Family would like to wish everyone in CEGSA a very Happy New Year and hope that you will find 1978 an even more rewarding caving year than 1977.

GORDON PETERSON.

CURRAMULKA. 1/10/77 - 2/10/77.

MEMBERS: G. Pilkington (L), M. Meth, L. Whaley, J. Young, G. Mower and one visitor.

As a change from surveying the Upper levels near the Big Stalagmite, I took everyone to the Skeleton Maze. One party of three led by Max went on to the area west of the Limestone Bridge and surveyed a small blind section which comes around the back of the TOM dig. He tried to follow Ian's map to get there but found that our geomorphologically minded friend had used a little too much licence and had shown a huge circular dirt cone when all that can be observed are the BLOCKED passages. A slightly embarrassed Max (after all, whom knows the cave better?) had to retreat after finding the side-links rather occupied. The map has been amended.

My team started a resurvey of the SW of Skeleton Maze (originally done by, Davis in 1963, but now below standard) which had not been done by Ian. This was finished on the Sunday by a reduced team - John had taken his visitor home late Saturday. Unfortunately my survey did not tie in with Ian's; another trip is now required to check the reason for the discrepancy of about.4m.

Except for the one member of the party who has this habit of staying in HOTELS, we slept in the cave Saturday night. The weather looked ugly outside for us cave-dwelling sub-species. No alarm was needed to wake me up Sunday, the pleasant sound of a babbling brook cascading down rapids was all it took. Five minutes later, convinced that I HAD woken up, I checked out this unusual phenomenon. True enough, a heavy downpour had created a stream into the cave from the doline catchment, this flooded the lower levels of the old section of the cave forming a SUMP at the bottom of the Cauldron!

Anyone for a dive in Corra Lynn?

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

CATHEDRAL CAVE COLLAPSE

The "Pop Up" (or Graham's leather medal dig) in Cathedral Cave collapsed on Sunday 8th January, 1978, during a visit to the cave.

No one was injured during the incident. In the interest of safety, this section of the cave is NOT to be visited until a work party examines the collapse area and cleans it up so it is safe for further traffic.

KEVIN MOTT.
Safety Officer.

NARACOORTE. 8 - 10/10/77.

This was an unofficial trip by Gordon Peterson to take a group of school students (not for the first time) caving. I went with my family, just to relax.

Well, you know how it is, I could not just sit there all weekend, so I did a little surveying in the north west of Alexandra Cave and surveyed the new loop section in Cathedral Cave, (found since the map was drawn) by Gordon and Co. Some poor quality work has been done for the map in the "dead end" passages behind the pop-up. I wish everyone who does surveying would take more pride in accuracy rather than assume their work will never be questioned, especially "dead ends" as these are the most prone to error. I recommend the book "Surveying Caves" by Bryan Ellis as a good text on surveying and mapping philosophy.

The Cathedral loop survey (I was helped by a teacher and pupils from Oakbank Area School) indicated that the 10m long dig off the inner chamber had reached the passages just past the rock squeeze prior to the pop-up but should lie about a metre above them. No roofholes have been seen in the lower passage and a breeze blows from the dig. No cave is known in that direction until Specimen Cave 150m away.

On the subject of digs in Cathedral, could people please stay off the sand in the last major chamber. It has now been found that a VERY SIGNIFICANT bone deposit lies sandwiched in there (usually below 0.3m and therefore not discovered until after what appears to have been a rodeo was held on top).

Please remember that it is CEGSA policy not to disturb any deposit unnecessarily even if this entails 'walking' further. However, I know that casual cavers regularly visit the cave and these are the ones that really need telling. Maybe the N.P.W.S. will have to limit access, at least until a full palaeontologica1 study has been done.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

BUCHAN. Dec., 77 Jan. 78.

PARTY: N. Smith, G. Pilkington, K. Mott, D. Arnott, A. Bates and J. Cundy.

The above six CEGSA members descended on Buchan (Vic.) for the New Year break. The amount of time spent showing our speleo-neighbours what it was all about (and drinking) varied from 3 days to about 2 weeks. Industrious Graham stayed the longest and in his usual digging mania discovered a new cave.

Numerous caves were visited for reasons varying from photography to surveying. The two biggest and best visited were Exponential Pot and Scrubby Creek.

JIM CUNDY.

CURRAMULKA. 12 - 13/11/77.

MEMBERS: G. Pilkington (L), M. Meth, K. Polley and two visitors from Adelaide Bushwalkers.

As implied in the report of 1-2nd October, we surveyed the leg between RDF's 13 and 14 in the Skeleton Maze area to create another loop tie for the previous survey and to cheek Ian Lewis's map. The area around "TOM " was re-mapped on the way because it was obviously wrong as shown, there being two dirt blockages not one as on the map. This was the cause of my previous miss-tie with Ian's survey, he had lost a 5 metre leg (the distance between dirt piles) at this point.

Further surveying was done north of City Cross (RDF 14) to tidy up some loose ends and wall detail left by Ian. I ended up resurveying the whole section halfway to the Limestone Bridge (RDF 15) because several further 5 metre errors turned up and the wall detail seemed more diagrammatic than measured. We also tried to push the cave westwards, at the end of the main run just north, of City Cross but stopped in the roofhole rock mess by mutual agreement. We all liked life. Besides, 11 hours underground was enough.

On Sunday morning we roved the cave for the benefit of our Bushwalker friends. The afternoon was spent at Y21. A quick survey was made of the lowest level (-13m) and showed that the cave was a blocked fissure 13m long and from one to two metres wide. Above -10m the fissure is poorly formed in a slatey limestone of nearly horizontal cleavage, less than 0.5m wide and of irregular length. The lower level has a smooth wall but of blotchy appearance. The cave terminates in vertical joint controlled honeycomb but the northern end, which is the lowest point in the cave, has a dirt blockage. A quick dig released a cool breeze from a 0.1m airspace under the northern end wall. I would surmise that the cave continues to drop to the north and reaches water (about -30m), however, the blockage will take many trog-hours to clear.

Other nearby dolines have been largely over-filled with rocks gathered from the paddocks but no caves are reported as ever having existed in them. I suspect that they would also be very narrow fissure caves; it doesn't take much to block these. Y21 is only just large enough for a comfortable descent and would be hard to re-open if a large paddock-rock fell down.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

QUOTE OF THE YEAR

(6/1/78)

At Henschke's Quarry: quote from K. Mott,

"When I did ballet ……."

7th INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Sheffield,
September, 1977.

Well, the conference is now over. Officially it wound up with the plenary session of the I.V.S. (the International Union of Speleology - the whole world version of our own A.S.F.) on the Friday afternoon with a series of the necessary speeches in English, French, Spanish and German. But the real finale ended in the bar and lounge of Ranmoor House sometime about 4 am, (I'm pretty hazy about that!) after an impromptu international cave gymnastics session.

This featured chair squeezing, pole rolling, table crawling, bawdy songs in mixed languages and bottle-walking -- a good one to show you when I get back. There was a display of daredevil fire-breathing from those too drunk to realise the risks and the Australian contribution, those old favourite India-rubber tricks of broomstick-bending and coat-hanger squeezing. It took the befuddled audience some time to even get the sequence of movements for the broomstick right, before they actually tried it! These delights were introduced by two well-known Guinness-swilling Australians, one a slow-talking V.S.A. representative and the other a fast-talking C.E.G.S.A. representative. Perhaps no more need (or should) be said about these colonial miscreants!

Well, there is the standard burst of blarney that I always seem to open my articles with. Now I'll become formal and official for a while (a short while) as I attempt to summarise everything that went on. This is difficult, because so much happened over the 6 days.

The programme was well-ordered but hectic. Typically, there were 4 or 5 concurrent sessions to choose from, ranging through hydrology, biology, equipment and techniques, cave rescue and speleo-chronology (dating the age of caves by studying stalactites etc). Each session had 5 ½ hour papers in the morning and 5 more in the afternoon. Against these sessions were a series of local cave tours, equipment and safety demonstrations and meetings of the many I.V.S. Commissions (which are rather like sub-committees).

In my case, I was Australian delegate to, the Cave Diving Commission which was going through the heavy process of structuring its policy and statutes in the main 4 languages, plus Czech and Yugoslav as well. Slow going, of course, as so much time was spent in translation.

5 Australians gave papers at the various sessions:-

Nick White (VSA) -	The ASF and the National Heritage Register of Australian Caves
Peter Mathews (VSA)	Computerised ASF Cave Recording System (presented by Nick)
Greg Middleton (Tas)	Conservation of Tasmania's Caving areas.
Guy Cox (SUSS) --	2 papers on organisms surviving in very low light intensity environments
and Ian Lewis (CEGSA) -	Cave Diving Conditions and Training in Australia.

So that sets the scene for you. What follows is a very compressed summary of all the day sessions and evening entertainment.

Speleos began arriving in Sheffield on Saturday from all over the place. The Conference was held in Ranmoor House, a residential college of Sheffield University, some distance from the city centre. To help people get there, the Automobile Association (AA) put up official road signs at every major intersection in the city to the "7th Int. Spel. Cong. " which looked funny but got everyone there fast. We were soon registered and issued with meal tickets etc. The French were very quick off the mark erecting a gear and book stall, flogging off all kinds of Petzl gear, multi-coloured French caving books and stickers and Pierre St Martin Tee shirts and maps etc. (The Pierre St Martin "cult" is becoming disgracefully commercialised, in fact.)

THE OPENING SESSION

This began with a round of speeches, some good and some dreary. The Lady Mayoress of Sheffield hadn't heard of speleology before this conference but she made up for it with a good speech, all the same. Several summaries of British Caving history followed with some slides. Then the heavy stuff started with the opening session of the IVS and debates in several languages on agenda items. The language problem wasn't acute, but it meant considerable delays in moving the meeting along, so several IVS meetings were scheduled for later in the week to continue the business.

Finally we were entertained by a talk on "What motivates Cavers?" by Richard Leakey (son of the Rift Valley archaeologist) who had actually published a lengthy article on the subject years ago. Bernie Dunn has a copy, actually (hi, Bernie!). Anyway, he concluded that we don't all suffer from a womb complex, but that we go down dark holes because we fear them. Some people react away from the source of fear, others confront it etc., etc., and so the theory went, made me wonder what kind of psycho a cave diver is then!

THE PAPERS

As I said previously, with 5 simultaneous sessions going throughout

the week the best one could do was to listen to 1/5 of the proceedings. I can therefore only describe those I attended, and comment on items of particular interest.

Naturally, there was a vast range of papers on geology, covering karst areas all over the world -- tropical, mountainous areas and even a session on Artic karst (mainly northern Canada). I went to a series of talks on ripple marks, joint patterns, karst theory models, crystal growth, hydrology and cave dating. There was a bright paper on marine life and its effect on erosion of reefs and coastlines. The speaker identified grazing and boring sea beasties and brought the house down with his "assessment of the biological erosional capacity" of boring sponges! (it became a catch phrase) We mused over the possibility of harnessing grazing periwinkles in teams of 10 to attack limestone faces, thereby creating caves at the rate of 5mm/month (on the Iceward shore, that is). We met some very boring sponges indeed.

But the most interesting paper of all was one on helictite growth. A German speleo has been studying helictites for some years now and wanted to examine the capillaries (exceptionally fine tubes) running down the centres of them to try and evaluate the reasons for the strange directions of growth. He had some brilliant slides of capillary casts, made by injecting a resin down the tube and dissolving away the helictite, in a similar method to that used by paleontologists for some types of fossil cast recovery. And would you believe …… the capillary tubes look exactly like knobbly stalagmites -- particularly like the tall one in the Great Hall, Victoria Cave -- but of course they are not straight. Sue White and myself attended this one, and managed to obtain a promise of photos for the ASF Newsletter cover.

A series of papers were presented on the karst area of Pierre St Martin, showing the main drainage zones and the unsolved problems of several influx cave systems taking large volumes of water through to the larger resurgences. A great deal of work has been done in the border area by speleos of many countries but the continuation of the P.S.M. and Anielarra systems through to the final resurgence remains elusive. The slides were excellent, and helped to appease the audience, because most of us couldn't understand French!

And an American paper on hydrological models for flowing water in limestones was excellent. The speaker demonstrated some laboratory experiments in which dyes were injected into gel or plaster media. As the dye solution seeped further into the solids a pattern of main (primary) and subsiding (secondary) flow lines developed, rather like a main tree trunk and its branches. The object was to theorise an optimum direction for stream passages in limestone (well of course it was .... the guy was a caver, after all!) and he clearly showed some main patterns and tendencies. THEN he produced the punch line …… the best possible example of a cave which showed this pattern was none other than Holloch Hole in Switzerland, the second longest in the world at approximately 120 kms. Well, I was impressed!

There were plenty of other topics. Conservation of caves from Canada, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Tasmania; SRT techniques from all over Europe and North America; Cave Rescue methods from Britain, Poland, USA, and for expeditions; and 3 3-hour sessions of the Cave Diving Commission.

CAVE DIVING COMMISSION

There were about 15 cave divers at the conference, as well as the English, who for some reason weren't represented at the meetings, the rest of us came from all over Europe, plus one from the USA and one from Australia. They hadn't heard about Australian cave diving before, and were very keen on the Nullarbor slides ….. in fact it knocked them dead. No-one had seen visibility and passage size (combined) like it anywhere else, and it's obvious that what we have in Mt. Gambier and on the Nullarbor is in a world class, way out on its own.

We spent several hours in each of the 3 sessions working out what the Commission should be doing, translating into English, French, German and Yugoslavian through our very capable and hard-working chairman, Tom Piskula from Czechoslovakia.

One thing of great interest that transpired was that there appears to be no more than 100 cave divers in the world of the kind who are prepared to push grubby, silty flatteners, squeezes and sumps. THIS IS the kind of cave diving we in Australia have found in Jenolan and Yarrangobilly, and some grimy small holes around Mount Gambier. All the thousands of other divers are Sinkhole divers of varying degrees of competence, some highly skilled of course. Realisation of this tiny number of cave divers came as quite a surprise to us when we worked it out.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

There were plenty of slides and films, a Mayoral reception and the Ranmoor House bar to keep delegates amused after a day's heavy paperwork. I sat through every slide show and film that was presented, to take full advantage of the opportunity.

MOVIES:

We saw movies of .....

1) a through trip from top to bottom in Pierre St. Martin,
2) more Pyrenees cave trips, with rafts, SRT and the whole bit
3) a Czechoslovakian film made in 1930 about cracking a tourist cave system through a mountain and draining the river in it, with Czech narration and German subtitles!! (I think I lost some of it in translation).
4) the British Niugini expedition, with a shot of Rod Wells' fossilised SEA COW in Selminum Term, some rickety looking native scaffolding going up to a cave entrance in a cliff, and a dramatic filming of the Niugini Independence celebrations.

5) the Blue Holes, off Andros Island in the Bahamas. Their entrances are like the big sinkholes around Mount Gambier only submerged in about 10 metres of crystal clear seawater, which forms whirlpools that are more than tricky to dive into!

6) An expedition to Guatemala (south of Mexico) that happened to co-ordinate with the disastrous earthquake there.

7) A documentary on a French caver who lived in a Texas cave under experimental conditions for 151 days.

8) A sensitive Italian film about a 16th century naturalist who recorded scientific observations in a cave and may therefore be the world's first speleologist (Francisco de Marcho in 1573).

and finally

9) 4 brilliant film /documentary on an actual cave rescue in Yorkshire in 1968. The photographer asked permission from the Cave Rescue Organisation to film the operation, and after using up his film, he assisted in the rescue itself, filming the "fill-in" bits later on.

The result is an excellent coverage of the accident, the callout and recovery, and the tragic end of the whole effort. I am attempting to arrange to show this film in Australia if permission is granted by the T.V. network who own it, and by the parents of the dead caver, who understandably have an interest in the publicity that the film could generate.

SLIDES:

One night was slide night. Unfortunately I was not quick enough off the mark to include the Nullarbor pikkies as they would have gone down very well, but no matter. What we did see was something completely different ….

There were slides on 3 main themes -

1) Otter Hole, one of the most beautiful in Wales, recently discovered with an entrance alongside a racetrack, and subject to tidal water back-up.

2) La Cigalere, a famous cave in France after which Lake Cigalere in Mullamullang is named (both the cave and the lake are very white).

and 3) Fairy Cave Quarry, Mendip Mills, England - a very pretty cave about to be eaten by the quarry works which broke into it.

But this was no ordinary slide presentation. There was a stereo sound track for each theme (classical, jazz or general music), some narration and some sound effects like quarry blasting all accompanying the slides. The sound tracks were pre-recorded and the slides were displayed alternatively from 2 automatic slide projectors, fading one slide into another as the display took us all on a visual trip through the caves. Every now and then a backlit slide would fade into exactly the same scene side-lit or front-lit, or a person holding a flash would be missing from the next slide, faded out by the change and emphasised by a sound effect.

The whole show was fantastic (the best word I can use, actually). Two observations immediately spring to mind .....

a) the slides, as arranged in the order of a cave trip, are a unique record of that cave, especially if the cave is subsequently lost, and are therefore as important as a map.

and b) being slides, they are a more precise way of recording what the cave looks like than a movie ever could be, since different exposures and appropriate music or sound effects can emphasise certain features of interest. They are also a hell of a lot cheaper than movie footage! I think a cave like Kubla Khan in Tasmania is <u>designed</u> for this sort of display.

These slide shows really impressed people, as the applause amply demonstrated. I'm sure everyone wandered off, thinking how to do something similar in their home country. We Australians sure did! To round off the evening there were slides from Kentucky, Niugini, Malaya, the latest N.S.S. Convention in USA and from all over the place. Incidentally, after 5 days and nights of slides and films, people were walking around dazed and glazed with the absorption of <u>so much</u> cave data.

So that, in very brief form, was the 7th International Conference. As with any conference, we all made friends from places we are never likely to get to, but of course people were making frantic calculations to see how they could get to Yugoslavia, or Norway, or Malaya, or the USA or even Australia, by wangling leave and borrowing money. Mostly pie-in-the-sky of course, but this sort of enthusiasm is the very element of such gatherings. Speleos left for home with their vigour renewed and their heads crammed with new ideas and projects, or headed off on post-conference trips to Yorkshire, Wales or Ireland. The Irish trip was excellent but I'm not going to describe that one here .... my hand's dropping off!

Perhaps I should conclude with a few words about our host city, Sheffield. We all went there expecting to see choking grime and abysmal slums, lines of gaunt factory workers and endless shunting yards.

But this is not so. Sheffield is now a most attractive city, with grey buildings from the natural colour of the building stone, not the soot of the last century. Over the last 20 years or so, the city cut back the use of coal-burning fires to attempt to clear the air, and it has <u>worked.</u>

The house fires are as much a villain of pollution as the factories, although it used to be said that if you could see the sky in Sheffield, it was a bad day for business!

And to boost the PR of the city, the Congress was treated to a mayoral reception on one evening. They managed to fit about 600 speleos (all relatively well-dressed, much to our collective amusement!) into a 19th century marquee with <u>food</u> everywhere. The speleos, well-dressed or otherwise, quickly demolished that first and strolled out to the rotunda, where a brass band was serenading passers-by with Gilbert and Sullivan melodies. Mind you, the Marquee itself was a sight to behold. It was draped with yellow curtains and chandeliers with several

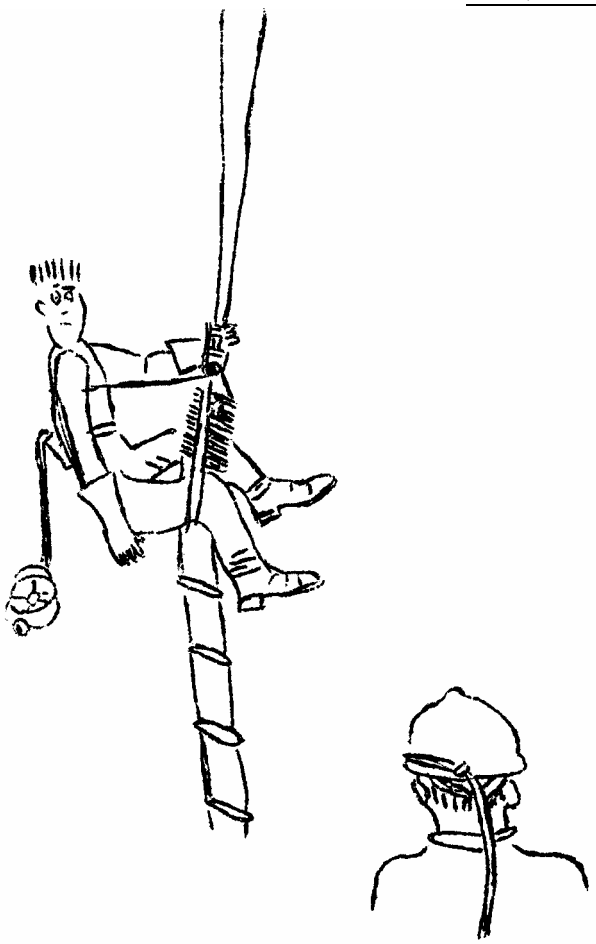
champagne bars and wooden-frame French windows. It was about 100 metres long and 10 metres high, and to this poor colonial, it looked quite sumptuous!

So Sheffield looked after us. The conference was a success, although I think it was marred a little by differences of opinion between the French and the English -- both obstinate and stubborn in their turn. Also, despite utterances to the contrary, I think speleos had to be somewhat academic to get full value from the programme, and the scramble to make speleology a scientific entity comparable to, say, bio chemistry or palaeontology is a bit sickening to watch. There certainly was an unhealthy degree of scientific trivia floating around, but we all had fun at the plebeian level, squeezing through coat-hangers in the lounge!

I've probably said enough for now but wait till I arrive back with millions of slides. There are dozens of things which occurred that I haven't even mentioned here. But the final thing is perhaps the most important. It was a tremendous experience, and one which I urge you all to indulge in in 1981, when the 8th International Congress is held in Kentucky USA, on the doorstep of Mammoth Cave. I don't know, however, whether everyone whom I met thinks I'm a typical representative of CEGSA -- you may have to adjust your reputation in 1981!

Love and kind regards to all of you

IAN LEWIS.



That's a big improvement Wilber, however …..!!

OTHER ARTICLES

AN ARTIFICIAL CAVE

The following article is a précis of an article published in the September edition of Lapidary Journal. It is a most interesting article and shows the great lengths "Yankee know-how" goes to to bring the unusual to the general public.

Tucked away in Cincinnati, Ohio, is a novel field trip locale for the adventurous. The locale is a cavern, a most unusual cavern, where visitors can safely explore unencumbered by the usual, spelunking paraphernalia -- the lights, ropes, boots and hard hats. Best of all, they aren't forced to do any hands and knees crawling, ledge climbing, or mud wading, even though it's a "wet" cave.

Located just minutes from downtown, this cavern is in the Museum of Natural History. It's an indoor cave. The challenge of designing and building the immense cavern fell to Mr. Ralph Ewers, Planetarium Director and veteran spelunker.

The finished cavern, which would have taken Nature centuries to create, was to cost $300,000 U.S. and require four and a half years of work before its grand opening in March of 1969.

Approximately three dozen research trips were taken to private limestone caves in Kentucky which were typical of that area's famous Karst Topography. Small groups of workers set up housekeeping right in the caves for 2 and 3 days at a stretch. Their aim was to study and then duplicate, not remove or destroy; what they observed. Notes and photographs were taken. Rubber moulds were made of flowstone, rimstone pools, stalactites, stalagmites, bacon folds, boxwork, cave pearls, cave coral, columns, potholes, helictites and whole sections of cave walls. More than a thousand formations would eventually appear in the museum cave, each painstakingly copied from features in real caves. Their sizes would range from soda straws under an inch to impressive stalactites over 14 feet long.

Cave life was recorded, in all, 1,386 creatures representing 31 species would be added to the cave.

While work was progressing in the field, back at the museum construction of the cave was underway. Details of the cave's intricate maze of passage ways and formations had already been worked out on a scale model. The 40 inch by 36 inch model was built on glass and plans called for the structure to be 2 stories high.

To shape the cave, workers welded over 15 miles of steel rods into a framework and sprayed it with gunite, a mixture of sand and cement. As the gunite hardened, hand carving and modelling recreated the textured appearance of cave wells - the channels, ridges and flukes that are formed by the eroding action of groundwater in wild caves.

A pumping system had been devised which would keep an underground stream flowing and recycle 9000 gallons of water tumbling over a waterfall each hour. A lighting system was designed to show visitors what a spelunker sees in a wild cavern - in small beams of light. Provision was made for an air-conditioning unit which would maintain a cavern cool temperature of 56°. A series of labels was prepared that would not detract from the realism of the cavern.

Many methods and materials were the result of trial and error. Spider webs were woven from human hair. Plastic drinking straws, hundreds of them, were individually fitted with glass beads to simulate a bank of soda straws. A sheet of clear plastic over a depression substituted for a small pool of water.

Reproducing the beautifully fragile gypsum crystals was more complex. Spun glass was bundled to the width of a pencil, then painted with glue. Being somewhat flexible at this point, it could be bent into graceful curticues. A coating of fibreglass, and the pristine crystal clusters were ready to brighten the cavern's dark nooks and crannies.

Some of the large calcium carbonate formations, the stalactites and towering stalagmites, were cast from lightweight concrete. Others were made of paper mâché. Still others were fashioned from styrofoam, then sealed with glue and coated with fibreglass. Just as nature relies on the precipitation of calcium carbonate, from flowing, seeping and dripping water to decorate a cave's interior, these cave builders relied on fibreglass.

In addition to Mr. Ewers and the architect, the cavern staff ultimately included a senior mechanic, a biologist, an artist, a researcher, an army of local cavers, and at host of enthusiastic college co-op students and together they met and overcame many obstacles.

Only time would answer some questions. Would the stream support aquatic cavern life such as blind crayfish and blind fish? (Happily, yes). How well would freeze-dried bats hold up in the dampness of the cave? (Not very well -- they were replaced by stuffed mounted bats and others moulded from latex.) How much realism is lost through hand rails and protective barriers? How would visitors react to being plunged into darkness? (No problem, a dim glow was cast by 178 tiny light bulbs). How many people would be frightened at crossing a GLASS bridge and want, to turn back? The six foot glass bridge spans the top of a dome. Spot-lighted in the darkness 22½ feet below lay the remains of a fox skeleton. Although the crossing produces an eerie sensation and hasn't been frightening enough to impede traffic flow through more than a few have been "talked" across. The problem with the bridge has been expense not fear. Periodic replacement of the safety glass is necessary because it gets scuffed. (Perhaps by reluctant foot draggers).

Tape messages act as a guide directing the visitors attention to features that may be overlooked. Upon entering the "spelunker" hears. "You are now in the Entrance Zone, " further on, the 'guide' announces the "Twilight Zone". Next is the "Zone of Perpetual Darkness" where true cave dwellers live. The tape explains about the formation of caves.

With the major problems of construction, lighting, plumbing, decorating and instructional teaching aids resolved, one smaller unforeseen problem emerged and still remains; that of maintaining the bat population. Little fingers pry the snoozing latex bat off the walls and pocket them as souvenirs.

From the moment the visitor disappears into the rocky entrance until he emerges from the swinging "rock" door he has experienced a fascinating hike through "inner space'. He has squeezed through narrow fissures, threaded along winding passages, stood at the base of a majestic waterfall, followed a stream, marvelled at ice-palace sculptures and studied flora and fauna that add life to our underworld.

I was amazed to think that Freeze Dried-Bats (!) were used - horror in fact, and a glass bridge! The mind boggles and certainly if I ever get to Cincinnati I will be taking a "spelunking" trip to this Museum. (I wonder if it has been surveyed and numbered?)

DOT PEISLEY.

THE DINNER AWARDS

I'm not going to go into a great rave about the carryings on at the dinner, like who got drunk and who went home with who. I'm just going to put the names of the award winners in print.

The much coveted 'Spirit of Caving' went to Linda Whaley and she has already begun to continue Gordon's precedent by her article on page 19. Gordon also gave out 3 awards of engraved cufflinks to K. Mott, G. Pilkington and J. Cundy for services to the club. Three leather medals went to: Kram Smith for having his Newsletter article copied by the ASF Newsletter; Jane Wilson for writing out CEGSA's first rubber cheque; and Kevin Mott for one of the stupid things he's done during the year. Last but not least, Kevin also picked up the Stirrer's Award for 1978.

J. CUNDY.

******** POOL PARTY ********

Saturday, March 4th 1978 6.00 p.m. Admission: $5.

Pool party and B.B.Q. fund raiser will be held at 5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley. Chops, Chicken, Drinks provided.

For Sale: Overalls. T. Shirts (CEGSA), Publications. FILMS

Support Speleology by attending this function, bring your friends.

VANDALISM is a State of Mind

Anyone who has been to Corra Lynn Cave could not help but notice the white arrows painted on the walls of the Old Section. Many ask "who could have been so vandalistic?" - those are speleo's. Others say "I'm glad arrows were put in here to find my way out of this maze! " - these are tourist cavers.

To the best of my knowledge the arrows appeared in the 1960's when an enterprising scout filled with trail-blazing (i.e. tree chopping) ideas applied modern methods to the old problem of what to do when you have no memory. The ball-of-string or aligned stones did not appeal; the former being too obvious in its implications of a childhood mentality and the latter requiring a respect for the environment.

Since that time much more cave has been found. These sections required caving skill to navigate and hence a newcomer on the caving scene from Port Wakefield (he's not in CEGSA) took it upon himself to remove the danger of people being killed in the caves due to getting lost. Not satisfied with the previous method of small (usually 0.2m long) arrows at critical junctions, this good fellow made sure that each arrow (typically 0.6m long but sometimes over a metre), can be seen from the next. Of course this sometimes means arrows opposite each other in the same passage and the odd occasion of five or more being observable from one spot. How nice, now no-one can get lost in the dreadful place.

There are draw-backs, however, as now the usefulness of the cave as a training venue for how not to get lost, has been lost. More importantly, the visual beauty of the passage network has been destroyed. The arrows contrast with the dark grey rock and focus attention to themselves.

Several means of ridding the cave of these noxious decorations are being examined. The two most promising are paint solvents based on carbon tetra-fluoride (poisonous!) and incineration (e.g. a propane torch). The paint was from a spray can onto the dense crystalline dolomite.

I would appreciate suggestions etc. from anyone with ideas or experience in dealing with the problem.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

P.S. Painting the WHOLE CAVE white has been rejected under the grounds that RED arrows would be worse.

SOLUTION TO THE SCRAMBLEGRAM.

The following words are all there, believe it or not!

Decoration, Speleothem, Surveyor, Abrakurrie, Wooltana, Limestone, Column, Koonalda, Shaft, Naracoorte, Thylacoleo, Calcite, Tomato-Stick, Bedrock, Calcareous, Dead Cave, Vadose, Warbla, Extensions and Ladder.

THE SPIRIT OF CAVING

It was a great honour to have bestowed on me the "Spirit of Caving" award at the last Annual Christmas Dinner. Since joining CEGSA some eighteen months ago I have made many friends both in S.A. and interstate and I have seen some beautiful limestone scenery in many parts of the continent. I have found that the caving fraternity is a closely knit one and that the majority of the more experienced members are more than willing to give a helping hand to those of us who are new to the sport and who often need a word or two of encouragement in a difficult situation.

However, there seems to be the occasional person who is not willing to enter into the spirit of caving and who tends to spoil a trip for the others.

On a recent trip to Naracoorte, I heard numerous grumbles about one particular person who seemed to have no regard for the trip leader's wishes and who, in fact, went his own merry way out of the cave by a different entrance. My own experience of this person was whilst photographing in Strawhaven (Victoria Fossil Cave) and my own feelings at the end of this session, after receiving a mountain of ridicule and abuse about my early attempts in cave photography, was the almost overwhelming desire to beat his head in with a large rock.

Caving is a satisfying sport but it is a dangerous sport also and people who take unnecessary, risks are not only jeopardizing their own lives but also the lives of the other members of the team. As for the stupid ridicule, which is entirely different to the friendly badgering of camaraderie, it is needless and undesirable in our Club.

LINDA WHALEY.

ATHOL'S PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIP

For those of you who wish to go on Athol's Photographic Trip take note. This trip will be a little more than the usual trip as Athol will be taking floodlights. This means you will need an artificial light colour film, the faster the better. For the Black and White fanatics (for the N/L cover) use a high speed film like TRI-X or HP 4. You will also need a tripod and a cable release.

Oh, and don't forget your camera!

JIM CUNDY.

NEWSLETTER POLICY

As editor, members of the club often secretly pass me small items which may prove embarrassing to another club member. So I would like to point out that it is not always pleasant to cause discomfort to somebody like Kevin 'Mother' Mott. Put yourself in his shoes, would you like everyone in the club to know about the children (3 boys) you took to Naracoorte. So I would like it known that it is my policy to withhold damning information such as Kevin's newfound domestic role on the caving scene.

JIM CUNDY.

FIRST AID COURSES.

At the S & R exercise in July 1977, participants realised they were lacking in First Aid training. As far as can be determined nobody has yet done anything about this. lt is pointless running exercises if people realise their downfall's but do nothing about it. A vita1 part of patient care is reassurance and if you are called upon to attend an accident victim it does not help if you start running around like a headless chook wondering what to do. Time is running out. There has been two reported accidents during 1977, one of which involved injury. As responsible cavers shouldn't we be prepared if an emergency does arise?

A list of courses to be conducted in the near future is detailed below. If you don't want to go by yourself, team up with somebody but PLEASE ATTEND one.

PLACE.	COMMENCING.	
Adelaide (21 Austin Street)	Wed:	1/2/78
	Thurs:	2/2/78
	Mon:	13/2/78
	Tues:	14/2/78
Banksia Park High School	Thurs:	2/2/78
Campbelltown St. John	Fri:	17/2/78
Elizabeth St. John	Wed:	22/2/78
Hindmarsh St. John	Mon:	20/2/78
Modbury St. John	Wed:	15/2/78

KEVIN MOTT.

Ha ha, ho ho, he he,
I'm now a trogger, you see
I went to Great Hall
And had quite a ball,
So CEGSA watch out for me!

JAN PETERSON.

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Volume 22 of the Newsletter consists of five issues, the dates of which have been:

	May	1977
	July	1977
	September	1977
	November	1977
and	February	1978

In each issue there has been a specific section under which all trip reports have appeared. The following is an index to those reports which refer to South Australian caves and caving areas, as well as Glenelg River and the Nullarbor. The following abbreviations have been used to indicate the content. Brackets indicate a minimal discussion, and underlining indicates a major discussion.

B	=	Biological data.
C	=	Conservation comments.
D	=	Descriptions of caves (or surface).
E	=	Exploration.
G	=	Geological/Geomorphological notes.
H	=	Hydrological data.
Hi	=	Historical notes.
M	=	Meteorological data.
P	=	Paleontological data.
S	=	Surveying done.

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P R O G R A M M E

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 8th	Committee Meeting	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View.
11th - 12th	Naracoorte - surface expl.	K. Mott.
Sunday 19th	Field Day - Reynella	K. Mott.
Wednesday 22nd	A. G. M.	Museum Lecture Room.
25th - 26th	Naracoorte - photography (see page 19)	A. Jackson.

MARCH

Saturday 4th	Pool Party	5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley.
Wednesday 8th	Committee Meeting	to be arranged.
11th - 12th	Bungonia - S. & R.	K. Mott.
18th - 19th	Curramulka.	K. Mott
Wednesday 22nd	General Meeting Speaker: N. Smith on Antarctica.	Museum Lecture Room.
24th - 27th	Flinders Tasmania	D. Peisley. K. Mott; J. Cundy.

APRIL

Saturday 1st	Investigating Sinkholes (Sea of Tranquillity)	Leader to be arranged.
8th - 9th	Curramulka - surveying	G. Pilkington.
Wednesday 12th	Committee Meeting	to be arranged.
Wednesday 19th	Mapping evening	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham.
Wednesday 26th	General Meeting - Film	Museum Lecture Room.
29th - 30th	Naracoorte	K. Mott.

TRIP CONTRACT LIST

Kevin Mott. 23 Harcourt Road, Payneham - (w) 227 2704 (h) 42 5540

Athol Jackson, 6 Hudson Avenue, Rostrevor - (w) 259 6795 (h) 337 8759

Dot Peisley, 23 Dorset Street, Brahma Lodge - (w) 262 2311 (h) 258 9917

Graham Pilkington, 66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View - (w) 272 5711.
(h) 264 2598

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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

All articles for Vol. 23 No: 1 must be submitted by April, 7th.