

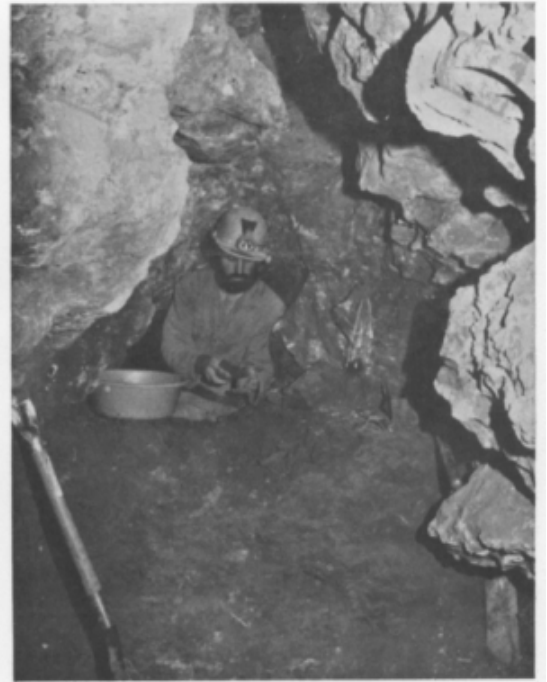
CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide



VOL. 23 No 1 MAY 1978

NEWSLETTER



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THE COVER – HENSCHKE’S QUARRY BONE DIG.

The cover of this issue depicts four scenes of the Bone Dig at Henschke’s Quarry. CEGSA members have been involved with the excavations in this cave for over 8 years now, and with the immediate future of the cave in doubt, the number of trips have increased greatly.

These photos show

- 1) Henschke’s Quarry
- 2) Bone and dirt being removed
- 3) Sifting the bone from the dirt
- 4) Some of the bone

Photographs by Kevin Mott and Jim Cundy.

1978 COMMITTEE

Your friendly and hardworking Committee for 1978 is:

E. Bailey	-	President
G. Pilkington	-	Vice President & Treasurer
D. Peisley	-	Secretary
K. Mott	-	Safety & Training Officer & Quartermaster
D. Arnott	-	Librarian
J. Cundy	-	Publications
A. Jackson	-	A.S.F. Representative
N. Smith	-	Records
N. Pledge	-	South Australian Museum Representative

Terry Reardon has been co-opted to look after membership while Annette Bates will be taking the Minutes. A N.P.W.S. Representative has yet to be appointed.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to CEGSA's 23rd year, it promises to be a good one. Already the club is off to a flying start with a new committee, some new policies and plenty of trips. One change for this year is the introduction of a new ASF Code of Ethics concerned with digging. This code simply states - 'They will not conduct any dig, on the surface or underground, without express permission of the landowner (or management authority) and their society committee'.

During the past years CEGSA has gained a reputation as diggers, and many interstate cavers still regard CEGSA members as dig-happy jack-hammer owners who delight in entering a cave just to lean on the walls. However during the last 3-4 years there has been a marked decrease in the number of digs as the members have adopted a more responsible attitude to their digging.

I am not saying that digging is bad nor am I encouraging a ban on digging. Digging was discussed at the March Committee meeting and it was agreed that although digging was encouraged, all members should comply with the new ASF Code of Ethics. It was also generally agreed that the use of either a jack-hammer or explosives underground would not be encouraged.

These methods are not 'digging' but destruction of caves. Through my own love of caves I have never believed that the destruction of known caves is justified by the possibility of discovering new caves.

The purpose of digging is to remove loose rock, sand and silt from within the cave without resorting to destroying the existing cave wall or roof.

So I heartily encourage all members to request permission to dig from the committee. The purpose is to make members think before they act and to seek help from some of the more experienced members -- for the caves sake!

JIM CUNDY.

CAVE RESCUE EXERCISE

NARACOORTE

25th February, 1978.

SUMMARY

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
1630	Party of 4 leaves Henschke's for Beekeepers fails to notify Athol Robbie notices party leave.
1745	Last of Henschke group, leaves quarry. Jan and Annette leave for Naracoorte after informing Robbie.
1830	Party of 4 overdue.
1940	B. Haines (Naracoorte Ambulance) tries to contact K. Mott.
2000	Realisation that party overdue. Athol notified Search party of 5 despatched to Beekeepers.
2100	Dot and Anthea return to Hut in Robbie's car. Dot informs Athol of events.
2123	Anthea informs Police.
2125	Police call out Ambulance. Ambulance alert C.F.S.
2130	P. Hawkes leaves for Beekeepers. Peter and Robbie continue search.
2135	Police contact Mt. Gambier.
2155	Police arrive at Caves Reserve. Mt. Gambier stood down.
2202	Partly found underground.
2205	Athol leaves reserve for Beekeepers belays relief party checks Brown Snake.
2210	C.F.S. arrive with lighting.
2225	Call to surface that party safe.
2245	Pitch derigged and end of exercise.

NARRATIVE.

The aim of the exercise was to test the practicability of the "Naracoorte Call Out Procedure" and the preparedness of people to effect it.

During the course of the day 4 people left Henschke's Bone Dig and travelled to Beekeepers Cave for photography and exploration. Two of the people were marked on the 'location board' as visiting Beekeepers with an E.T.A. of 1630 hours. The third member was only booked out to Henschke's while the fourth, a visitor, was not listed. The party in Beekeepers would remain there until rescued.

R. Bray noticed the party leave and was informed by F. Aslin that "we would be back shortly". Nobody at the quarry was informed of the party's departure.

At the end of the day's operations at Henschke's everyone packed up and returned to the Hut except for J. Aslin and A. Bates. Because Jan and Annette knew about the exercise they; after informing A. Bray, headed into Naracoorte to keep out of the way. During the evening B. Haines of the Naracoorte St. John called at the Hut to see K. Mott. Somebody upon not seeing K. Mott's car near his tent assumed he was in Naracoorte. No enquiry was made in the Hut to determine if anybody knew of his whereabouts.

At eight o'clock it was realised that a party was overdue. The total number of people missing was not clear at this stage as Jim Cundy and Kevin Mott were the only two booked out. Fred Aslin, Jan Aslin and Annette Bates were at the Hut. Jim was reported to have brought two visitors to Naracoorte and these were absent as well. Athol Jackson, the leader of the trip to Naracoorte, was photographing in Blanche Cave so R. Bray notified him that at least 2 and possibly 6 people were missing. Robbie then left with a carload of 5 to search Beekeepers Cave, the last recorded location. On arriving at the cave the cars of the missing party were seen at the entrance to the cave. As the pitch was rigged 4 people descended to search the cave, leaving 1 person on top in case anyone else followed. Robbie had asked those left at the Hut to follow as soon as possible. The 4 people searching the cave had not been in the cave before but had heard a brief description of it. They split into two groups with one group searching the passage heading N.W. and the other searching the passage running S.E. At 9.00 p.m. Dot was feeling tired so she came out of the cave, and with Anthea headed back to the reserve. Dot then informed Athol of the circumstances and Anthea phoned the Police at 9.23 p.m. Peter Hawkes then travelled to the cave whereupon he and Robbie continued the search of the cave. The police upon receiving the alert, contacted the St. John and Mt. Gambier. The Underwater Rescue squad of the S.A. Police were at Mt. Gambier and they were alerted rather than the squad of cavers at Mt. Gambier. When the Naracoorte Police arrived at the Cave Reserve they stood down Mt. Gambier.

At 10.02 the underground party found the missing party. After collecting the information the Police and those at the Reserve drove to Beekeepers. The ambulance was directed straight to the cave site. The Country Fire Service rescue unit which was alerted with the ambulance was directed to meet the police at the turn-off to the caves. No one being there they radioed in for new instructions. They arrived at 10.10 and set up lighting. Athol belayed a relief party down the cave then checked Brown Snake Cave to check no-one had been there. At 10.25 a call to the surface confirmed that 4 people were in the missing party and all were safe.

OBSERVATIONS.

When the 'lost' party left Henschke's Quarry they failed to notify either Athol Jackson, the photographic trip leader or Neville Pledge the bone dig trip leader.

The initial search party did everything in too much haste and did not have an appointed leader. Several people in that party were already exhausted from the day's activities resulting in one member collapsing from exhaustion.

Before rushing off to the cave in the initial search a co-ordinator should have been appointed which would have saved a lot of time and information that had been fed to R. Bray could have been assessed and used to decide upon the actual number of missing persons.

Athol as trip leader should have been consulted rather than informed that a search was being instigated.

It was only after Dot returned that the "Call Out Procedure" was followed.

When calling Police in an emergency, care must be taken to provide them with clear and concise information. If the message is garbled it takes time to sort it out.

The Police were directed to the reserve, the ambulance to the cave and the CFS to a road intersection. A common rendezvous that is easily located should be selected then all vehicles could be directed from there.

The choice of this weekend for the exercise was not the most suitable. Specialised photographic equipment was brought along for the trip which was considerably disturbed.

When Athol left for the cave he could not find the ladder kept at the Hut. This had been taken by Robbie when he left earlier. Nobody read the copy of the "Call Out Procedure" pinned up in the Hut.

Although the time lapse between the party being recognised as overdue and being found was within the time limits expected this could have been greatly reduced had the operation been co-ordinated and all movements been at a steady pace. If excessive haste is used vital information can be overlooked and because of the time already lapsed those few seconds gained would be of little benefit. If the trip leader had been fully consulted and a co-ordinator appointed information relating to:-

- i) the whereabouts of Jan and Annette,
- ii) how many visitors accompanied Jim,
- iii) Fred accompanying Kevin

could have been more easily assessed. None of those searching the cave initially knew the geography of the cave so considerable time was wasted there. A co-ordinator could have selected a party containing those most fit and knowledgeable of the cave.

It is generally agreed that if implemented with due consideration the "Call Out Procedure" is viable and will facilitate an emergency situation.

KEVIN MOTT.
Safety and Training Officer.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

During the wars in which our race seems to indulge at a fairly constant rate, some men and women are recognised, by their leaders, to have shown bravery above and beyond the call of duty. A medal, or decoration is sometimes the result, but only sometimes. If research is done, and the medal recipient interviewed, quite often the calm and sensible brave person will explain that he or she had become annoyed about something the opposition was doing; had, at last, got so damned angry or frustrated that they had decided to do something about it.

Civilian George Medallists etc. have different reasons, but the result is often the same; without a thought of preparation, or care they have jumped in and done something. All this is meritorious to the highest degree when time is of supreme importance. Don't for a minute misunderstand me; we need our heroes. Similarly don't imagine for a moment that all rash attempts are meritorious. For every hero who gets his Victoria Cross, fifty are dead - and unsuccessful.

Recently, at Naracoorte, when a trip was proceeding on its calm and balmy way a small group prepared the way, and staged a very useful practice cave search.

I must say, as one of the armchair types of the Group, and having attended the first lost cave practice, in about 1958, that I am impressed with the system; I have little but praise for the system as it operates, if allowed to.

I would like to compliment our S. & R. man on his planning of this stunt. It was well prepared, but, unfortunately, when the lost party left the main party, no mention was made to the leader of where the sub trip was going. It was noted, on the board at the hut, but the leader was not given the courtesy of verbal notification, and this slip helped the search to be delayed. When the party was noted overdue, the leader was underground, in another hole, and was not notified of a search party, until well after it had left. This was gross discourtesy.

The personnel who raced off with all the zeal of incipient George Medallists undoubtedly included some of the best people to be in such an emergency party, but why rush off HALF PREPARED, UNRESTED, UNFED, and UNSUPPORTED. The lost party was already over an hour overdue, and was not likely to be saved from DROWNING, ASPHYXIATION, or BLEEDING to DEATH by the undue, haste exhibited.

Had the correct procedure aid out by the Group in association with the Police, Ambulance and Emergency people been followed the rescue would have been delayed by perhaps an hour, but no-one would have risked his life unnecessarily. Again I must emphasise -- LIFE WAS RISKED UNNECESSARILY by the precipitate and unprepared mad rush off to the rescue. Luckily for the Group our good reputation still exists, but please remember that it was by luck only. The need for medical care for exhaustion of rescue personnel is a NO NO.

Let me emphasise: in a cave rescue the important details to watch are:-

1. PREPAREDNESS
2. CARE
3. BE SYSTEMATIC.

No-one in Australian caving has ever died due to delay in finding him, Brian J. O'Brien of S.U.S.S. was lost for over 24 hours in total darkness, in a new extension that he had inadvertently got into when being shown another extension, and his guide moved too fast in talus. He is alive, and well today, having left his mark on the moon whilst working for N.A.S.A. The exception, of course, is cave Diving, but cave divers are expendable, so what.

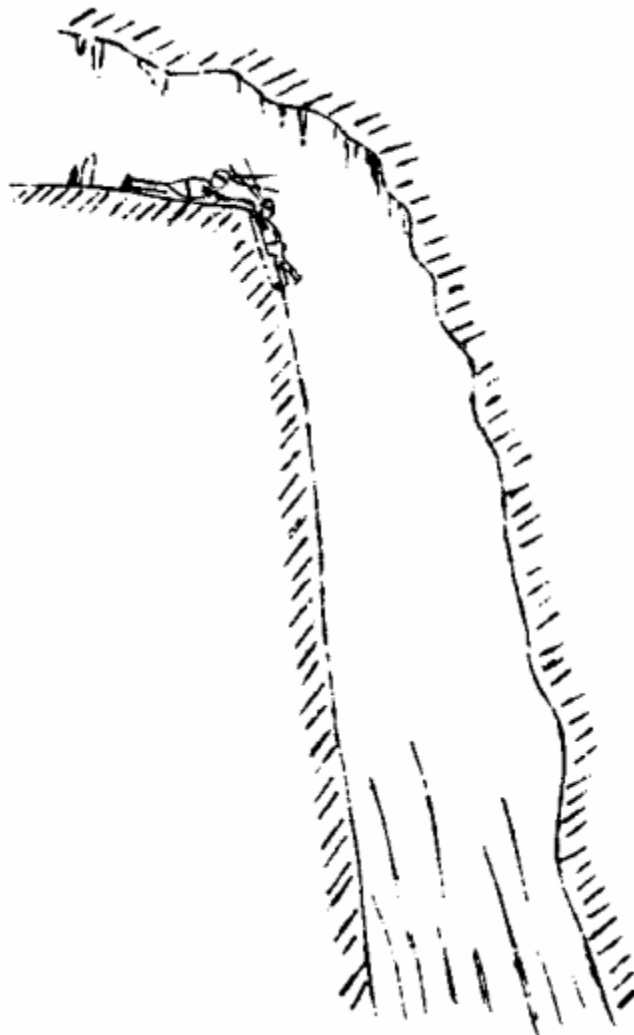
N. J. MOLLET.

WHEN CONTACTING POLICE IN AN EMERGENCY STATE CLEARLY

- 1) Nature of incident.
- 2) Location (a) of incident
(b) rendezvous if incident location difficult to describe.
- 3) People involved
- 4) Injuries involved.

KEVIN MOTT.

Its O.K. You can
let go now. I've
got one foot on
the bottom.



TRIP REPORTS

VICTORIA FOSSIL CAVE.

1st April, 1978.

PARTY: A. Bates, K. Mott, R. Bray, R. McDougal.

Well a female caver has done it again!! Yes, (MCP's take note), I found a new chamber in Victoria Cave.

For weeks I had been trying to convince Kevin Mott to organize a surveying trip into Victoria to explore and map a passage off the tourist run which was found recently. Kevin being a fool anyway, decided April Fools Day was the day, so at 9.45pm, the four of us launched ourselves on the unknown.

Kevin and Robbie remained near the tourist run to commence the survey while Rod and myself went on to explore the area. It consists of one main passage with an average roof height of approx. 1m and a floor of phreatic rock. We also found various smaller routes off each side of the passage but most of these are choked by clay, although a breeze was felt coming from one squeeze Kevin couldn't quite get into; tough luck Kev.

After trogging down the passage for approx. 45m it ended in a 3m long chest crushing squeeze. A defeated McDougal just sat and looked at it but your fearless female caver spent some time struggling through, and found a new chamber with an approx. 15m high rock pile and live decoration. Spurred on by my enthusiasm Rod and Robbie proceeded, with much difficulty, through the squeeze, deepening it enough so even a Mott could fit through. Afraid to say it's not a tight squeeze anymore, but for the pleasure of showing them how to cave it was worth it.

At the conclusion of our jaunt into this new area there is approx. 70m of cave, 35m of which has been mapped, and a good possibility of the cave, being further extended. A name? Well, what else could we call it apart from 'April Fools Extension'.

A. BATES.

NARACORTE.

(Henschke's Cave)

1-2nd April, 1978.

A total of 24 people participated in the excavations this weekend, mostly volunteers from Mt. Gambier, but including Fred and Jan Aslin, NSP, Kevin Mott, Robbie Bray, Rod McDougal, Annette Bates and Dean Davidson.

The weekend saw the final complete breakthrough from the natural entrance shaft into the main excavation area. The passage is nearly 3m high and just under a metre wide. Digging was, as before, made difficult by the compacted silt with its partially cemented hard bands, and by an increasing number of rocks. Fred Aslin and Robbie Bray in fact spent half of Sunday morning chopping part of a large boulder that intruded into the trench. Fossiliferous pockets were encountered along the wall and yielded several nice specimens including a Sthenurus jaw and some Progura bones, and a "ring-in". Knowing it was April Fools Day, I had been expecting T-bones or soup bones, but the human femur was too much and fooled me completely.

On Friday night a mob of local yobbos followed Rob and Annette, who were last to 'arrive, onto the reserve, and created considerable uproar before they finally left at (I'm told) 4a.m. They returned the next night also, but were soon told to move on. The Ranger, Bruce Allen, was most and was considering drastic action before he discovered it was not our party. Unfortunately, there seems, no simple way to stop unwelcome visitors like this who can give the Group a bad name.

NEVILLE PLEDGE.

GLENCOE.

28-30th January, 1978

PARTY: G. Pilkington, R. Bray, A. Bates, M. Rochler, V. Muller,
S. Barrow, S. Roberts, N. Smith, F. Aslin, K. Mott and D. Arnott.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of management a late start to the trip was successfully negotiated. Apart from the lack of sunshine during the night, the trip was uneventful 'till our arrival at the Glencoe Hilton. The old church hall is being given a back lift (same as facelift except it is at the back and not in the front) which includes, of all things, an inside loo complete with chemical toilet. Gone are the days of wending one's way across the paddock baited with cow pats. It appears John Young has distributed copies of the route map to Glencoe as everyone made it at the first go; managing to bypass Robe.

On Saturday the group eventually split into two with one party travelling to Monbulla and the other working around Glencoe. A new game called "musical party members" was devised to attempt to bring organised chaos to the selection of party members.

Those going to Monbulla later split into two survey teams; one team set out to survey a line traverse through Wrecked Car Cave to determine its length and to have a base from which future surveys can hang. After overlaying the survey onto a surface plot that evening it was found that the days surveying was only 40 m from Monbulla Cave. The second team continued the resurvey of Monbulla Cave; not an easy task due to the low roof height, cold and lack of walls.

The Glencoe party spent the morning attempting to track down new landowners, surveying 5L90 and surface levelling at 5L86. During the afternoon levelling between 5L60 and 5L15 was done, 5L121 was relocated and the water level in 5L60 eventually recorded after the trip leader fell off a log into the guano saturated water. Due to vandalism of the existing point a new water level recording point was established.

Sunday saw the Wrecked Car traverse survey connect into the Monbulla survey making the two caves part of the one system. After making the connection additional traverse lines were surveyed and Wrecked Car Cave was explored in a northerly direction to determine its northern limit. Some members ventured over the border to do some rock climbing at Arapalies.

Those remaining located and mapped a new cave near Tantanoola and tied 5L121 into the 5L15 map system. The new cave (5L176) is a small fissure cave exposed during the cutting of a ramp into a stone quarry. From a window entrance the cave extends N.W. for 4m in a 1m wide fissure to a smaller unnegotiable entrance. This portion of the cave would have originally been wider but a portion of the eastern wall has collapsed; possibly due to bulldozer activity. S.E. of the entrance the cave extends for 5m where it then splits into 2 narrow joints both of which are approx. 0.4m wide. The western joint extends for approx. 14m and is 4.6m above water table. The eastern joint which extends for about 20m reaches water table. In several places the walls were covered with lublinitite.

Monday saw the group venture north into the wilds of Naracoorte to undertake further excavation in the natural entrance (U97) to the cave containing the S.A. Museum's fossil excavation. A flying visit was made to the inhabitants of the local caving hut who at this late hour (9.00 a.m.) were just beginning to make the first murmurings of getting up. It seems there is just no peace in the mornings when Mott is around.

KEVIN MOTT.

KHAZAD - DUM.

What better way to conclude a delightful Tasmanian trip than with a descent to the bottom of Australia's deepest cave? (Sorry, Dale and Jim, it's true!)

On March 30th, in the company of Leigh Gleeson (President, Southern Caving Society) and Jeanette McLaren (WASG, VSA, and CEGSA) I had the pleasure of this unforgettable experience. No doubt the editor of this esteemed journal will be interested to note that one of the party was female.

We didn't do any "work"; the trip was just caving for caving's sake. But I'd like to describe it in some detail as both the caving itself and the organisation necessary for such a trip differ markedly from CEGSA's usual activities.

The entrance to "K.D." is located in beautiful rain forest a few kilometres from Maydena. To reach it requires a long slog up a steep logging track and then about a kilometre through the forest on a winding but well-marked trail. We had driven out from Hobart that morning, and neared the cave entrance just before noon. The sun was shining brightly but the light level in the forest was quite low. At last the entrance was there before us -- a large walk-in hole with a talus slope leading down at an angle of about 45°. Moss covers all the exposed limestone at the entrance, and a fair sized stream pours into the hole.

We had pre-sorted our ropes and ladders the night before and packed them into day-packs in the right order for the various pitches. After a very necessary rest at the entrance we donned wet suits, harnesses, jumpers, trog suits etc. and fortified ourselves with cheese, nuts, biscuits and metwurst. Leigh had bottomed this hole 3 or 4 times before and exuded confidence but I have to confess to a certain nervousness as I sat there wondering at what the next 12 hours would bring.

Khazad-Dum has a surveyed depth of 329 metres and has no serious rival on the ASF depth list at present. But this rain forest in the Junee-Florentine area also holds most of the top ten placegetters and is by no means fully explored. Strangely, Tasmanian K.D. trips are few and far between - the cave seems to have greater appeal to visiting mainlanders. The original bottoming about 8 yrs ago was done by a large party entirely on ladders and the trip took 22 hours. According to Leigh none of the participants has ever gone back!

First obstacle in the descent is a 4m climb - paradoxically, upwards. Leigh scrambled up, (with a leg-up) and rigged a 3m ladder for us to follow. Then came a bit of standard horizontal caving. A passage about 0.8m high the Tassies always call "the flattener", oh well, all things are relative. We call Town Cave a "deep hole"! This section of cave bypasses the streamway and is quite dry. The descent proper got under way with a 10m pitch (we rigged a ladder) and a hand-line climb of about 15m. After some further meandering we arrived at the top of our first SRT pitch - 30m and free hanging all the way from the anchor eyebolt to the bottom. By general consensus this is the most enjoyable pitch in the cave. We slid down on a piece of Blue Water III judiciously cut to the exact length from a large roll the night before. Or was it the right length? We lowered our packs first and they failed to touch bottom. With some trepidation we hauled them up again and attached another 12m rope (which we couldn't afford to leave in place there -- we were carrying only the gear required for the cave and no spare). However, it proved that the packs had originally rolled off the jump-off rock at the bottom and so we were O.K. after all.

Next pitch was 10m. Another ladder. This cave is a textbook case for mixed SRT and ladder caving -- using SRT on this pitch would have necessitated several rope protectors because it is convex and quite sharp at the top. For a 10m drop a ladder is quick and easy. For the bigger stuff ropes are better, being lighter to carry, quicker to descend and safer (we didn't use lifelines on the ladder pitches).

Another dry rope pitch -- 20m. Incidentally, there is no trouble with anchor points in Khazad-Dum - all pitches have eyebolts in place.

Soon we joined the stream again and followed it down for a considerable distance. This section is the real heart of Khazad-Dum -- a beautiful sinuous streamway about 1m wide on the average with the water maybe 30cm deep. ("typical summer condition" - Leigh). The downward march is punctuated by six glorious little SRT pitches all 7 to 10 metres, rigged right in or just beside the waterfalls. With judicious abseiling we got down most with just a splashing on the lower parts of our bodies.

Eventually we parted company with the stream again and rigged the longest and final rope pitch with my 10mm Edelrid -- a full 40m pitch, touching the wall at the top and then free-hanging for the final 20m. Rub points are not severe but we rigged hose-type rope protectors just in case. This pitch drops into the final chamber - an enormous talus-floored chamber with the stream merrily racing along one side. A short crawl through a sand passage brought us to the place where the stream finally goes quiet -- a large sump. It has never been dived (in common with most sumps in Tasmania).

Is K.D. really even deeper? The stream eventually resurges at Junees rising, still hundreds of metres below, and it is quite likely that there is a lot more dry cave beyond that sump.

1730 hours -- 5 hours elapsed. Time for scroggin and chocolate, before beginning the long slog upwards. Prussiking the big dry pitches was fairly uneventful - the exciting part was getting up the six waterfalls. When abseiling down we could pull ourselves sideways out of the stream using the plentiful handholds. But going up was a different matter entirely. We all got soaked to the skin repeatedly and had to shout as loudly as we could to be heard above the roar of the water. The general feeling was like being inside a submarine that has just dived without closing the hatch. But what wonderful fun!

Rather thankfully we emerged into the sodden rain forest at 12.30 a.m. wet, dirty, tired but extremely pleased with ourselves.

More scroggin, then the long walk back to the car. Thankfully, into warm dry clothing, then we piled into the little mini (bursting at the seams with sodden ropes, clothes and rucksacks). The greatest effort of the trip was keeping the eyes open on the drive back to Hobart, an effort requiring several stops for push-ups in the middle of the road etc. etc. Just time for a couple of quick cups of tea 'before deliciously hitting the sleeping bag at 5.30 a.m.

On the logistics side, a few interesting points emerged. We did nine rope pitches, only one of which required the full "standard 46m" rope which many of us possess for handling the entrance pitches to our caves. Six of the pitches were 10m or less, and had we carried nine full ropes we would have been seriously overloaded. Ropes of about 12m are extremely useful for Tasmania's "big holes". Wet suits were not essential -- indeed the locals never use them. Wet woollen clothing is still a reasonable insulator and seems adequate especially if one doesn't get very wet until prussiking back up (hot work). On the other hand, a "long-john" wet suit doesn't seem to reduce freedom of movement and provides useful paddling as well as insulation. As I mentioned before, there is still a definite place for ladders, especially when they are used early in the trip and don't have to be carried far. Canvas and Velcro type rope protectors are well worth the expense and effort of manufacture -- the one we had was far more convenient than the rather fiddly slit hoses.

All in all, very educational; and above all, tremendous fun. Physical caving has never been so good before. We are extremely grateful to Leigh for volunteering to lead us on this unique trip and to him and his wife Mieke for putting us up in their flat in Hobart during preparation and delicious recuperation.

Who from CEGSA will be in it next year?

NEIL SMITH.

WHAT IS A FLUFFY DUCK?

If anybody has any photographs or slides would they please let K. Mott know.

A total of 41 people participated in the excavations at Henschke's Quarry Cave, the most ever at one time, though not everyone was there for the full weekend.

CEGSA members Fred Aslin, N.S.P., Jim Cundy, Dot Peisley, Robbie Bray, Kevin Mott, Athol and Anthea Jackson and long-unseen Noel and Cynthia Mollet helped swell the numbers, together with 5 students from Salisbury CAE, 6 Venturers from Col. Light Gardens, 3 from Clarence Gardens, 2 Rangers from Highbury, 3 Museum personnel, and several from Mt. Gambier. Quite a crowd! - a bit unmanageable at times but Robbie Bray excelled at keeping the surface crew organized.

The natural entrance excavation was enlarged in the direction of the fossil cave, and the main fossil excavation was extended in two directions - towards the quarry break-in, and towards the natural entrance. Only about a metre of silt now blocks the tunnel, 'but it is so hard-packed that probably two more trips will be needed to finish the stratigraphic trench being excavated. Several nice specimens were noticed in the sieves : two or three Sthenurus jaws, a Thylacoleo jaw, and a heel bone of Zygomaturus.

NEVILLE PLEDGE.

HENSCHKE'S QUARRY CAVE

11-12th March, 1978.

Seventeen people helped in the excavations this weekend - including Fred Aslin, N.S.P., Jim Cundy, Kevin Mott, Rod McDougal, Anthea Jackson and Annette Bates.

Further digging in the natural entrance, and completion of Area A12 from last trip were done before we started removing the final 30 inches-or-so thick silt barrier separating the two holes. Digging was difficult due to the hard-packed nature of the fill, but some forethought (?) by N.S.P. overcame this with the use of the common or garden type fork! There was so little bone that this procedure caused no worry, and the technique might be useful elsewhere for underground digging. We eventually removed about half the separating barrier.

One more trip should finish this aspect of the excavations, (so that the stratigraphy/sedimentology of the deposit can be seen) but there are other areas still to be excavated.

Other highlights of the weekend were Annette seeing kangaroos, Kevin driving by the light of his lamp, our Saturday heatwave and Sunday morning thunderstorm. Thunder does have some odd effects!

NEVILLE PLEDGE.

PARTY: G. Pilkington,; K. Mott (L), M. Meth, R. McDougal, L. Whaley,
A. Bates, D. Turner.

This trip was organized to clean-up Corra-Lynn. The first problem that occurred was to find the way down to the entrance. A good part of Saturday morning involved excavation of the entrance slope down to the concrete steps, and building a retaining wall near the door. The cause of the steps' demise was not vandalism, dump trucks nor neglect, it was and still is the weather. Lack of rain has ensured semi-dust bowl conditions while the steep doline in rubbly calcrete does the rest. A large quantity of newly deposited rubble now occupies the entrance passageways and care must be exercised when travelling over the loose stones. The material we removed was piled in the higher surface valley as a dirt retaining wall to hold back thunderstorm sheet wash. A previous dam has shown the value of the method because a flat dirt filled area now exists up to its crest.

Saturday afternoon saw the late arrivers clearing the entrance passages of rubbish, most of which arrived by rain "cleaning" the doline. However, the main team had given up the job of removing spray paint because no suitable method was discovered by the field trials. We tried everything except solvents, which will constitute our next attempt. Solvents are usually expensive, dangerous and need good ventilation, hence could not be tried until we were sure that the cave could be locked afterwards - this was ensured this trip and a key system is now back in operation.

Max, Kevin, Dave and I went to the upper levels above the Crystal Chamber via Max's new route that avoids the climb of the end face of the Crystal Chamber.

We tied Max's survey of his route into a control point then completed the survey of the Crystal Chamber upper levels, it turned out to be 190m of passage at approx. 13m above Bushwalkers' level.

Saturday night the group split into three groups - those sleeping above ground, those sleeping below ground and those who insist on sleeping in beds.

Sunday we returned to the Crystal Chamber upper levels to have a look at a few points that the survey had shown interesting. One led to 40m of more passage which resulted in a second trip in the afternoon to survey it.

Only 180m of the Crystal Chamber - Big Stalagmite area has still to be surveyed.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

POSTSCRIPT TO CORRA-LYNN.

I would like to add, by means of a brief postscript, to Graham's account of the Corra-Lynn trip and outline the activities of the trio of R. McDougal (L), A. Bates and myself.

The main purpose of our visit was a preliminary clean-up of the cave and, from just concentrating on the Grand Central, Ramshorns Crevasse and the entrance areas, three large garbage bags were filled with rubbish. Apart from rusty tins, wire, old batteries and paper, more revolting refuse was removed and I hope that I do not have to experience that again!

Future trips for this purpose would be advised to use strong Hessian sacks as the wire cut through the plastic bags, leaving a trail of rubbish which had to be picked up again.

Tourist trips also visited Crystal Chamber and Dick's Extension.

As to anything detrimental being said against Annette and I about staying in the Curramulka Hotel. I can only reply that it was preferable to either trying to pitch a tent in a howling gale or camping underground (remember the ASF Code of Ethics).

The Hotel itself is most comfortable and as well as providing a good Saturday night socialising in convivial surroundings, mine host welcomes cavers and provides good accommodation for a reasonable price, including a breakfast which would satisfy the hungriest of cavers.

LINDA WHALEY.

NARACOORTE.

11-12th February, 1978.

On Saturday morning Linda Whaley and I were almost ready to leave on the scheduled cave location and photography trip when our leader (I won't say who *) snuck off, leaving us behind.

Determined not to be beaten so easily we then spent the next hour and a half trying to find our party before returning to the hut. Forced to admit that we were beaten we soon organized our own trip, and like dedicated speleos went ahead with the project. We photographed 8 caves and added a further 21 photographs to the records. The caves were all those in close proximity to the hut.

JIM CUNDY.

* It was in fact Kevin Mott of 23 Harcourt Road, Payneham.

CORRECTION TO VOL. 22 No: 5.

The date of the Naracoorte Trip Report by Kevin Mott on Page 3 of Vol 22 No: 5; should be the 29th - 30th not 30th - 31st.

PARTY: G. Pilkington, L. Whaley, J. Cundy, F. Aslin, H. Baker and K. Mott.

Caves visited: U17, U18, U19, U20, U21, U22, U23, U25, U31, U38, U39, U42, U46, U62, U94, U102, U106 + 2 unnumbered caves.

Caves tagged: U17, U18, U21, U22, U31, U62, U102 and U106.

This trip continued the relocation of caves and the photography of their entrances in the area south of the reserve.

With the assistance of Harry, the group set off with the aim of commencing the days' activity at Joanna Bat. Unfortunately our esteemed photographer and Linda became lost getting out of the reserve. While these two spent a relaxing day on the reserve the rest of us sweated out the task in hand.

The owner of Joanna Bat informed us of several depressions that had occurred in a neighbouring property and near the Struan Research Centre. Those in the neighbouring property were investigated but have been formidably filled in with rubble. The hole near the Research Centre was promptly filled by the Council but the local newspaper of period should make interesting reading. A new cave (U106) near Robertson's was located with the help of a local landowner. This cave was used to bury 120 freshly shorn sheep that died after a sudden cold snap nearly 40 years ago. The 1m x 0.4m entrance drops 5.6m to a chamber 12m x 7m that appears to be joint controlled. The cave continued beyond a squeeze in the S.E. wall but this was not pushed. A large number of sheep bones still remain and wetas and a frog were found in the cave. An attempt was made to locate U76 but it has been covered with rubble.

On Sunday, with our photographer securely in tow we partially retraced our footsteps and photographed and tagged the above listed cave. After hiking through the scrub to U106 yours truly announced he could not find his car keys. He only had one copy of the key to the boot which contained all the equipment. The key was eventually found in my back pocket.

The tagging method used is a galvanised bolt driven into a hole drilled with a diameter slightly smaller than that of the bolt. The karst identification number is then stamped into the round head of the bolt. Jim kept us amused as he adapted climbing techniques to gain access to a bough 6m above the ground in order to photograph U19.

Caves visited	November 1977	- U99 and U100.
New numbers:	October 1977	- U107, U108 and U109.
	November 1977	- U110, U111 and U112.

KEVIN MOTT.

24-28th March, 1978.

This years caving pilgrimage to the great southern State must go down (no pun intended) as one of the best. I was fortunate enough to be accompanied by co-organizer Dale Arnott with her Ultimate climbing helmet; Colin Reece who came without a jumper; Neil Smith with his new wropey and interstater Jeanette McLaren with some scrogan.

We eventually arrived at the Wet Cave Campsite at 3.30 a.m. after the inevitable delay at Tullamarine. Friday morning was clear and calm as we slowly woke up to meet the SCS Cavers also staying at the campsite. Tasmania is also suffering from a drought and the river that normally flows past the campsite was dry.

By midmorning we had sufficiently rested, and set forth to find the Caves Reserve Manager and the key to Creosus Cave; one of Tasmania's prettiest. This cave is just over 2 kms long and was described by a Tasmanian as being 'only small'. A river runs through the entire length of the cave which is composed of a series of large rimstone pools through which the river runs, the depth of these varying from a few centimetres to the Master Lock which is over 2 metres.

This lock provided the major obstacle which was only passed in relative dryness by a certain amount of climbing. In general a very pleasant trip with plenty to gape at and photograph; like the 8m high 'Golden Stairway' we had to surmount with great care. Wet suits are a must for this cave as we were wet almost before we entered the cave. We left the cave after a short six hours and headed for some Port and a good nights sleep.

Saturday was the day of Kubla Khan, for Dale and I it was a return visit. A year ago I attempted to describe Kubla Khan, I won't try again. For me this cave has everything a cave should have, and I still haven't seen all of it. Needless to say we didn't get back to the campsite until the small hours of Sunday morning. Sunday was another beautiful day (Saturday was a bit drizzly and windy) so we were very slow to start. The amusement of the morning was provided by Tony Keily (VSA) who had arrived late Saturday. His trick was to use dead tree branches to form a 'scarecrow' with a pair of overalls in order to dry them by the fire. I won't try and describe them, its a bit rude, just wait till you see the photo.

The programme for Sunday was Herberts Pot, one of Tasmania's most sporting caves. The SCS Cavers had arranged permission, location details and many other helpful hints for us and we were eventually ready by midafternoon. By 4.00 p.m. the party of Jim, Neil, Jeanette and Tony Keily set off on the ½ hour uphill walk to the entrance. We didn't take our wet suits for this cave as we figured that we would be moving most of the time.

By 6.00 p.m. (yes we got lost!) we found the cave entrance and began our descent. Not only is Herberts Pot long, it is also deep; Australia's 5th longest and 27th deepest.

Fortunately the majority of the climbing gear is used in the early stages and only handlines needed to be carried for most of the trip. The first two hours were spent following a small stream (trickle) passage down through rock piles, squeezes, long crawls, narrow passages and a 25m pitch. Eventually and much to our relief we popped through the 'keyhole'- into the main stream passage, from this point one could either go upstream or downstream.

We had previously decided on the downstream end and with thoughts of strolling down a large stream bed in our minds we set off. Herberts Pot is not a sporty cave for nothing, we soon met our first of many rock piles that was to continue for the next two hours. Unfortunately the passage through these rock piles was not always clear; however we soon found our way through, even if it wasn't the easiest way.

The final part of the journey is far more pleasant as we wandered down a stream through black rock and mud, floor and walls. The mud is the same colour as the rock (black so that you think your light is fading) and is almost indistinguishable, hence creating a feeling of insecurity while climbing.

We eventually reached the downstream sump at 12.30 a.m. and sat down for a meal. We didn't sit for long, it was too cold, and besides which there was a small crustacean we wanted to catch (it later turned out to be a common occupant of the caves in the area).

After exploring around for a while we made the return journey with no great problems and reached the surface at about 5.00 a.m. in light drizzling rain and then had to walk the 2-3 miles back to the campsite.

Much to our surprise and pleasure, Dale and Colin got up at 5.30 a.m. and braved the cold and rain just to greet us and get us some food and Port. We eventually got to bed just as the sun was coming up.

After a short sleep we began our usual ritual of standing around the camp fire chatting and discussing what to do that day. Our three main objectives of Creosus, Kubla Khan and Herberts Pot had been achieved, and what happened next was of little concern. Neil and I contemplated going on a Wet Cave trip as Zombie One and Zombie Two.

Dale eventually led a tourist cave trip with Colin and Jeanette and left Neil and I to stand about in the rain and watch the campfire - a very pleasant occupation.

Soon after their return we packed up and Colin decided to end the trip on a high note by abseiling over the edge of the Devils Gullet lookout for a distance of 40m and then attempting to climb up. The lookout itself is 300m high and the rock virtually smooth, it didn't take Colin long to realize that it was unclimbable.

Hence with darkness setting in and the gale force wind blowing the snow straight up the cliff edge we began our rescue. Actually it wasn't much of a rescue, we merely sent Colin his jumars and let him sort himself out. This last little effort left us completely exhausted and with few regrets we said goodbye to the SCS members, to Neil and Jeanette and headed home.

What a trip; our greatest thanks must go to Ron Mann, Leigh Gleeson, Steve Harris, Fred Koolhof, Louise Mulquiny, Lindsay Wilson, Sue Harris and Debbie Blackhouse for all their assistance and friendship; and our greatest envy to Neil and Jeanette who stayed on and did Khazad-Dum.

JIM CUNDY.

APPLICATIONS FOR A DIG.

All applications for a dig to the CEGSA Committee should state quite clearly, either in writing or verbally, who, how, why and where.

WHO - Who will be in charge of the dig.

HOW - How is the dig to be conducted, what methods will be used.

WHY - Why do you wish to do this dig.

WHERE - Which cave and whereabouts in the cave.

The Committee is made up mainly of diggers who will only be too willing to help you. So please go through the proper channels and get permission from both the Committee and landowner or manager.

JIM CUNDY.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

You should find enclosed in this issue an indemnity form, could all members please fill this form in completely including getting it witnessed. I would, also like to welcome Tony Calhoun, a new associate member of CEGSA.

You will all probably notice the 'Introductory Trips' in the programme. These trips have been scheduled in an attempt to provide the newer and less experienced members in the club with a chance to become accustomed to caving and to learn some of the finer points from a 'heavy'.

Membership Fees are now due, please pay at the next General meeting or pay through the post to:-

Terry Reardon,
5 Loxton Court.
HOPE VALLEY, 5090

TERRY REARDON.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Climbing the Matterhorn is nothing to getting through a Committee Meeting.”

OTHER ARTICLES

TREASURER'S REPORT

1/1/78 to 21/3/78.

	<u>Bank</u>	<u>Inc.</u>	<u>Exp.</u>	<u>Nett</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	136.49	330.05	97.50	232.55	369.04
Newsletter		4.00	133.90	(129.90)	(129.90)
Quartermaster		0.80	5.65	(4.85)	(4.85)
Publications	55.60	100.10	-	100.10	155.70
Social	99.92	35.00	-	35.00	134.92
Records	0.26	289.20	131.56	157.64	157.90
<u>TOTALS:</u>	<u>292.27</u>	<u>759.15</u>	<u>368.61</u>	<u>390.54</u>	<u>682.81</u>

General income includes 50¢ donations of which 25¢ was from Kram Smith.

New Financial Reporting System.

Two major changes are being implemented this year in the reporting of the Group's activities by the Treasurer.

The first concerns the problem of both auditing and preparation of the financial statements for inclusion in the Annual Report. Constitutionally the financial year ends after the close of the Annual General Meeting and, therefore, the Treasurer's statements submitted in the Annual Report should be for the year ended nearly one year previously. Obviously this is not an acceptable practice and has never been done in CEGSA's history. Constitutional amendment permitting, the financial year will end on the 31st December although the subscription year will be left commencing on the 1st March, this will enable the proper drawing up and auditing of the financial statements for inclusion in the Annual Report submitted at the February A.G.M.

The second alteration is to enable the members to obtain a better appreciation of the financial activities of the Group by presenting the accounts as drawn up in this Newsletter. A fuller description of the various categories follows:-

Account No: 1

General: membership subscriptions, general running of the Group and special activities.

Newsletter: includes Annual Report; costs and sales.

Q. M.: purchase, sale and hire of Quartermaster's gear; includes Trip Fees, Naracoorte Hut, field equipment and safety gear. Office items included elsewhere.

Account No: 2

Records purchase and sale of Records materials; includes slide sales.

Account No: 3

Publications: purchase and sale of publications including Group Library acquisitions, Alan Hill Memorial Library and the production and sale of Group publications not covered by Newsletter

Account No: 4

Social: running of social activities, fund raising and special purchases.

NOTES:

- 1) The \$300 Deposit Stock is still tied to Account No: 3
- 2) The \$2000 Hindmarsh Building Society Account is now part of the General section as a capital fund.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

NARACOOORTE.

The weekend of April 1st and 2nd saw a trip to Naracoorte to continue the work at Henschke's Quarry. During the weekend it was found the area around the pine plantation north of the Hut (the area where people camp) was strewn with wood and iron debris. Could people staying at the Hut please make sure that the area around the Hut is left clean and tidy. Nobody likes clearing; tent and sleeping sites in the middle of the night.

There were also complaints of dirty showers after the Easter weekend. Thousands of people passed through the reserve over Easter so it was not necessarily CEGSA who left the showers dirty, but if you must shower please make every effort to leave them clean. If you see anyone mucking up the facilities, don't hesitate to let the Ranger know.

KEVIN MOTT

From the CEGSA Newsletter, April, 2028.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

"On April 1, 1978, there was perpetrated the most dastardly scientific fraud of modern times. Known as the NARACOOORTE CAVEMAN, a.k.a. the HENSCHKE HOAX, it ranks with the infamous Piltdown Man. A human femur, appropriately aged and stained, was "unearthed" in the famous Henschke Fossil Cave which previously had yielded numerous extinct marsupial species, but nothing human, and completely fooled the expedition's leader. It was later revealed that the bone, of modern origin, had been planted by the INIQUITOUS GANG OF SEVEN, a reactionary clique led by the disgraced K. Mott with his collaborators - R. Sprodd, R. Bray, R. T. Wells, D. Davidson, R. McDougal, A. Bates and J. Aslin.

G'DAY! WHO ARE YOU?

Those who attended the pool party at the Reardon's place on the 4th March will, I am sure, agree that the evening was a success. Given a better attendance from CEGSA the evening would have been more profitable. Non cavers totalled a fifth of the attendance because of the efforts of the Reardon's. Most CEGSA members attending only bought tickets after being pressured by Linda. Membership to a society usually means involvement rather than paying the fees then sitting back and watching it happen.

The faces attending the function were the same ones you always see. With such a large turn-over in membership of the group one would at least expect to see some new faces at group functions. If newer members feel awed by the same few who always seem to be the ones caving then informal social gatherings is the place to find out how trogs descend to a friendly human level. Isn't it about time the older members found out who the new names are and the newer members found out who the oldies are. If people feel they can't keep up with more experienced members please let the Safety and Training Officer or Membership Officer know so training trips and field days that are attended can be organized.

KEVIN MOTT.

Motions to be moved at the General Meeting to be held at the S.A.
Museum Lecture Room at 8.00 p.m. on the 24th May, 1978.

TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION:

- Motion A: that 4(a) be amended to read 'Shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, Five Committee members and one ex-officio member to be the Museum Representative appointed by the Director of the South Australian Museum'.
- Motion B: that 5(e) (viii) have added to the end 'He or she shall also be responsible for the preparation and or publication of all other material as directed by, and at the approval of, the Committee'.
- Motion C: that 9(a) be amended to read 'The financial year shall begin on the first day of January each year'.
- Motion D: that 9(b) (i) be amended to read 'except for a maximum set amount' instead of 'except for a maximum total of \$20.00'.
- Motion E: that both 9(c) (i) and (ii) be amended to read 'a set amount' instead of '\$5.00'.
- Motion F: that the amounts set in 9(c) both be amended to \$10.00.
- Motion G: that 9(d) be amended so that both '\$50.00' and '\$20.00' be read as 'a set amount'.

- Motion H: that section 16 QUALIFIERS be added to read
- (a) Wherever in this Constitution the male gender is used or implied, the female gender is also to be read, and visa versa.
 - (b) Wherever in the text the singular is used or implied then if possible in the context, the plural is to be read and visa versa.
 - (c) Wherever in this Constitution the phrase 'set amount' is used, then establishment of, or alteration to, the set amount must be dealt with in the same manner as a motion to alter the Constitution.
- Motion I: that 1. FEES (a) be amended to read 'Annual subscriptions shall be set for Associate Membership and for Full Membership and shall be paid in full except under the conditions laid down in paragraphs (b) to (g) inclusive of this section.'
- Motion J: that 1(c) be amended to read 'of a set amount below that of the Full Membership rate' instead of '\$6.00'.
- Notion K: that 1(h) be added as follows
- 'All Full Members shall pay, in addition to their annual subscription, a levy equal to the Australian Speleological Federation per member levy'.
- Motion L: that Annual subscriptions for Associates be raised to \$7.00 and that for Full Members to \$9.00 with a \$2.00 discount for Full Members residing more than 80 km from Adelaide.
- Motion M: that in 4(a) 'a set amount' replaces '75¢' and '30¢'.
- Motion N: that section 5. BADGES be deleted and replaced by
- '5. GROUP EMBLEM.
- C.E.G.S.A. badges and emblems may only be worn or displayed by financial members. Group emblems are copyright of the Group and can only be manufactured, sold or hired by Committee consent.'
- Motion O: that section 12. GEAR HIRE be deleted and replaced by
- '12 GEAR HIRE & TRIP FEES.
- Equipment fee rates and other charge rates shall be distributed to all members after any alteration off, addition to or withdrawal from those rates.'

GRAHAM. PILKINGTON
Public Officer.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Sir,

It was with great amusement that I read your explanation of the cover layout in the CEGSA 'Newsletter', Vol. 22, No. 5, February, 1978.

I think that I may say, on behalf of all women cavers, that we are quite happy to work away quietly at furthering the science of speleology in our own way, without mouthing opinions in a foolhardy fashion and without generally acting like hooligans as some of our male counterparts seem all too ready to do.

As for our beloved Editor's rather rash statement that 'Caving is a man's sport', one can only assume that he feels insecure about his manhood and that making such a statement is an assertion that he is such a man.

In short that statement, don't you agree ladies, is ho, hum, boring!

Now, lets all go caving!

LINDA WHALEY.

Dear Sir.

Congratulations on your cover of the February edition. Not only was it a well produced and interesting introduction to the publication but also provides one of the most astute, basic, fundamentally truthful comments on an unpleasant speleological topic to have been raised in recent time.

I have long noticed that the female gender are usually lacking in providing any useful input to speleological knowledge, generally only remaining connected with caving clubs until the husband is secured and then usually removing him as well.

This could well provide a useful study for some interested person to pursue as the lack of a pair of ribs would not appear to be a sufficient difference to explain this anomaly. I suspect that there is probably a fundamental lack in a women's make-up which prevents them from showing more than a cursory interest in the more demanding parts of the sport.

One issue I must take up with you however, one photograph which appears on the bottom left of the page appears to show a person whose gender is not clear.

BRIAN FRANZ.

PROGRAMME

MAY

Sunday 7th	Carrickalinga - Introductory trip	N. Smith
Wednesday 10th	Committee Meeting	Flat 2, 49 Bridge St Kensington.
20th - 21st	Curramulka - Introductory trip	G. Pilkington.
Wednesday 24th	General Meeting	Museum. Lecture Room.

JUNE

3rd - 5th	Flinders - Introductory trip	D. Peisley
10th - 11th	Naracoorte - photography and tagging.	J. Cundy
Wednesday 14th	Committee Meeting,	53 Sturt Street, Grange.
24th - 25th	Naracoorte – CEGSA-VSA Dinner	
Wednesday 28th	General Meeting - Ian Lewis will be talking about caving overseas.	Museum Lecture Room.

JULY

29th - 30th	Search and Rescue Exercise	K. Mott
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TRIP CONTACT LIST.

Neil Smith,	517 Marion Rd, Sth Plympton, (w) 223 4333 xt. 2410/2748
Graham Pilkington,	66 Eyre Cresc., Valley View (h) 264 2598 (w) 272 5711
Dot Peisley,	23 Dorset St, Brahma Lodge (h) 258 9917 (w) 262 2311
Jim Cundy,	Coomandook. (w) Yumali 733 007
Kevin Mott,	23 Harcourt Rd, Payneham (h) 227 2704 (w) 42 5540

DUE DATE FOR VOL. 23 No. 2.

All articles and trip reports must be in to Jim Cundy by Wednesday 7th June, 1978.