

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Well, as you can see, I've had another shot at being artistic. All of the photos were taken at the latest S & R Exercise, details of which are in this issue. Photos by me again!!

Jim Cundy

EDITORIAL

Have you ever revisited a cave after an absence of about 2 years? If not, then let me tell you what you'll find. Firstly that flowstone you so carefully eased past is covered with mud. The silt and calcite floor which once had a small track through it is all ploughed up. Straws and Stalactites are broken. Stalagmites have muddy handprints all over them. Someone has decided to walk through the rimstone pools and some of those delicate little helictites are missing.

So with a dry feeling of helplessness you sit on a nearby rock and wonder, 'who the hell could be so bloody careless and stupid to do this sort of damage'. Then it occurs to you that the only visitors to this cave have been recognised cavers from well known clubs. So you return to the surface and expound your views on how the clubs must be harbouring some highly irresponsible and stupid 'cavers'.

Then as the years go by you will find more and more such caves and slowly but surely the truth will sink in. It is not the occasional irresponsible caver but all cavers who damage and pollute caves.

Hopefully the realization of this 'truth' is not far away from the realization of a 'greater truth'. That you yourself are just as responsible, and as you have now been caving for several years then you are responsible for far more damage than the average caver.

Now sit back and think for a while; remember those straws you accidentally broke; remember the time that piece of mud fell off your helmet into the rimstone pool; the stalagmite you forgetfully touched with your muddy hand; the time you stumbled and put your foot outside the special pathway.

Even if you do remember those and similar incidents, you are sure not to remember; the dirt left on the flowstone even though you took your boots and socks off; the dust left on the columns even though you eased past without touching them; the lint on the stalactites and stalagmites even though you especially took those clean clothes.

Yes; you do pollute the caves you enter, and it is not just enough to realize this; you must firmly believe it. Each and every time you enter a cave you add to its degradation no matter how careful you are or how hard you try, and it is important that you are fully aware of this fact and think about it every time you go underground.

JIM CUNDY.

TRIP REPORTS

CHILLAGOE - NORTHERN QUEENSLAND.

(A report on a visit to Chillagoe by N.I. Smith (C.C.C. Member) and three members of C.E.G.S.A., 29th August to the 4th September, 1978).

Personnel: Neil Smith (C.C.C. and C.E.G.S.A.)
Jeanette McLaren (V.S.A., C.E.G.S.A. and W.A.S.G.)
Terry Reardon (C.E.G.S.A.)
Meredith Reardon (C.E.G.S.A.)

We arrived in Chillagoe on the night of Monday 28th August, feeling rather 'zonked' as we had driven almost non-stop from Adelaide (Jeanette by train from Melbourne to Mildura, where she met the rest of us). Occurrences adding a bit of interest to the trip up were the breaking of a windscreen near Blackall, and several exhausting 'work' stops between Aramac and Torrens Creek to pull the tenacious black mud from the trailer wheels to allow them to turn. Not to mention having to clamp the exhaust pipe back into the manifold somewhere in central Queensland. And again on the Mt. Garnet - Lappa road. And at Almaden. We didn't do any caving on Tuesday morning.

Tuesday 29th August:

After getting the camp into some semblance of order we set out on a quick 'introductory' Queenslander trip. N.S. didn't inspire confidence by taking half an hour to locate the CH15 (Cathedral) marker peg, but eventually we got going; through Cathedral and the Dig (no trog marks on the crack-patterned mud floor - has nobody been through since the wet?) and into the Ice Palace where we took a few pikkies. Then one of those mandatory treats for all newcomers to Chillagoe - the crossing of Page's Pass. We completed the through trip via the 'Buddhas', the Three Sisters and the 'Queen's Bottom'. The newcomers were sent first - head first, of course.

Wednesday 30th August

Tourist Cave Day. We went on the morning tour of the Donna to admire once more this beautiful cave and the tasteful job that National Parks have achieved in lighting it - subtle lighting and concealed cables and wires are an inspiration.

Thursday 31st and Friday 1st September:

We proceeded to get stuck into my pet project, the mapping of the South end of the Walkunder Tower. At the present date we have grade 5 maps at a scale of 1:200 of two caves in this tower - Joyanne Smith's map of Uncle Rons Cavern (CH135) done in 1973 and last year's September Cave (CH218 - 219 - 220 - 221).

The positional relativity of these two caves could only be guessed at because the entrances are on opposite sides of the tower and no perimeter survey has been conducted. There are plenty of holes, mainly unexplored, in other parts of the tower.

The whole thing could add up to a very interesting system, rivalling even the Queenslander in extent.

Total length of the traverse loop (including 146m through September Cave scaled off the cave map) was 1900m and the closure error was 3m! This error has been adjusted out (assuming that all measurement errors were in length only) and a map of the tower showing relativities of existing caves is in course of preparation.

For a bit of variety on these two work days we also did short touristies to Uncle Ron's and parts of September Cave. Terry located and explored a long linear rift halfway between perimeter cairn 16 and the CH218 entrance - it required a ladder for access, but in typical Chillagoe fashion it had a scramble-in entrance, easily found from the inside. We'd be pleased with a find like this in S.A. - in Chillagoe, just another little 'hole'. Meredith decided to do some surface exploration, and, finding some substantial 'holes', was pleased to go underground, away from the heat of the sun - "fireman's pole" cave entrance which was closest to the edge of the tower had a 6 foot drop into it, easily negotiated by sliding down the trunk of a dead tree - looked promising and must be checked out later.

Saturday 2nd September

Tom Robinson and Ralph Page had hit town the night before, and in the morning Tom Porrit turned up from Mourilyan. Eventually a party of 8 set off in Tom's landcruiser, destination: Spring Tower to do some surface exploration.

Confusion reigned supreme as the party split into three groups. Ralph and I quickly found, explored, and named Reunion Cave. Meanwhile, Tom and Tom were calling out for ladders (we had them). Terry, Merro and Jeanette found a hole but didn't go in because they were waiting for us.

Five of us managed to get together to dangle two ladders down the next likely looking entrance. The easy part of this cave proved to be quite short, but it then yielded to a bit of uncomfortable squeezing upwards through a rockpile. This cave, named for the newly elected Pope, Pope John Paul I Cave is, I think, one of the tightest and most prickly Chillagoe caves I have ever been in; reminds me of some of Naracoorte's rockpile chambers. In places there is some quite beautiful flowstone. Maybe this is the only 'namesake' the Pope left which was named during his papacy - even though we did have an ulterior motive.

All seven of us finished the day in the exploration of yet another large new cave, Nettle Pot. The entire floor of the entrance pot was covered in some of the most luxuriant stinging plants I've seen - we had to trample many down to make a path, and then take extreme care not to touch those on either side. This cave would appear to be one of the deepest in Chillagoe if measured from the lowest (and only) feasible entrance to the lowest point reached. This is one of those caves whose chambers and passages strike one immediately with their uniqueness of shape.

The three caves explored are all fairly close together and by no means have we exhausted all possible leads. They would be well worthy of a good quality survey as a related group.

Sunday 3rd September

The four from down South did a trip to Tea Tree Cave with Vince Kinnear. So now we know where the hottest place to be Chillagoe is - very unpleasant. We also know exactly where the Ziphodont Crocodile bones were found. We also had a peep underneath the water in the floor hole using a snorkel and facemask, it seems to go 'for miles' and needs the services of a good cave diver.

In the afternoon the party of seven went back to the South Walkunder Tower primarily to show Ralph the locations of the new perimeter survey stations (he had offered to make up some numbered metal pegs and fix them in position in the ensuing week). We collected rocks to make substantial cairns to surround the pegs to prevent cattle from kicking them and injuring themselves and the pegs, and left numbered beer cans - empty cans '4X' of course - at every second station to be removed by Ralph when he did the final job.

While Terry, Tom R., and I were engaged in this work (and in a quick touristry of September Cave), Meredith, Jeanette and Tom Porrit went exploring Fireman's Pole Cave, slightly to the north of Uncle Ron's Cavern. Unfortunately light was fading and there was not time to tag it or tie it into the perimeter survey. Hopefully, someone on the spot will survey and map it so that it can be included on the tower map also. Decoration included 30cm high rimstone pools and what appeared to be dead stream passage.

Monday 4th September

The others packed in the morning and returned to the coast, leaving the four of us to what had, unfortunately, to be our last caving day. We had plenty on the agenda; but as it turned out had time only for an SRT visit to Christmas Pot CH149. Setting up the pitch took quite some time, using almost everything we had spare to improvise rope protectors. This included even my overalls off my back; admittedly they were virtually falling off me and of very little use in their intended role. And so I did my Christmas Pot trip in shorts alone. The abseil was spectacular - 32m pass stalactites and flowstone. Following the 'Tower Karst 2 maps'

We found our way out of the first chamber and eventually to the place labelled 'permanent water'. And water there was, but only a tiny inaccessible pool in the far end of the passage. We estimated it to be 10.5m below the level marked on the wall in April, 1977.

I prussiked out first, and set myself up in the entrance to watch the rope protection as the others came up. The time was about 5.00 p.m., and the swiftlets were gathering overhead, looking slightly perturbed that their cave entrance was half blocked by a foreign body. Eventually, and just as Terry was about 5m from the top, they decided to come home anyway, shooting down past both of us at a hundred miles per hour. It seemed that they turned on their echo-locating system, after they passed me, as they entered the dark zone. I have the impression that their flight pattern changes at the instant that the distinctive 'clicking' starts. A couple of birds flew straight into me and fell onto the ledge below, to pick themselves up and continue downwards looking apparently unaffected.

Tuesday 5th September

A sad day. Goodbye once more to Chillagoe and all our friends there. We rolled out of town just after noon, all packed up for the long journey south. Predictably, the exhaust pipe fell off again twice before Eureka Creek. But thanks to Tom Robinson we fixed it once and for all with the welder when we got to Cairns while Jeanette kept all the mosquitoes away from the rest of us by attracting them all to her! I've never seen someone in the middle of summer with so many clothes on and slapping herself mercilessly!

The trip home was uneventful and not quite as rushed as we had expected. We had a quick look at The Crater (Mt. Hypipamee) and Lake Eacham after we left Cairns, and Tom Porrit showed us over the Mourilyan Mill. We were also able to look at Jeanette's ICI cattle tick research centre at d'Aguilar near Brisbane and the Siding Springs Observatory in the Warrumbungles before taking Jeanette to Wagga to catch the Melbourne train. We got to Adelaide at 6.00 p.m. Sunday.

What a rush. But it was worth it. How about Chillagoe next September?

- * A summary of a report for the Chillagoe Caving Club, written by Neil Smith. Summarized by Meredith Reardon.

CORRA-LYNN

16-17/9/1978.

Party: G. Pilkington (L), Max Meth, George Parker, Frank Hendricks.

Saturday:

Surveying and exploration was continued in the northeast of the Crystal Maze. Due to the difficult surveying conditions encountered (low, tight and twisty) only 83 metres was mapped. This included 14m out of about 160m found during this survey. See, I'm still surveying faster than the diggers are finding!

Sunday:

MUTINY! I was told, in no uncertain terms, just where I could go, by myself, if I ever hinted of places near yesterday's restful location (being permanently prone must be restful). So I changed my idea a little and went the other way - to City Cross. Of course I didn't let them get away with doing a touristy on one of my surveying trips so I did a stratigraphic traverse to the Limestone Bridge from the surface. I can now confidently state that the Big Stalagmite and the Limestone Bridge are at the same stratigraphic level. Most people have considered the B.S. as upper level, its not, while others including myself, were not sure if the L.B. was middle or lower level!

A test dig was made into a dangerously loose-filled cross-fissure near City Cross. Max's sixth sense made him get out just before a tonne of rocks chose to occupy his previous position. The dig now looks stabilized.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

PRESENT. G. Pilkington (L), M. Meth, D. Turner.

This trip was programmed as an introductory trip but it seems that no one wished to be introduced to the complexity of Corra Lynn Cave. However, I had promised not to do any surveying work and had to keep my word.

We started our self entertainment scheme by tracing the water course from the entrance doline to its gravel sink just past the Cauldron. The low-level passages near the Cauldron were filled with water-borne silt to within a few centimetres of the roof.

An exploratory dig was pushed into a small lower-level passage near the water sink which was blocked by a dirt pile, but we stopped after several hours for an outside meal and to tour more cave. The site had excellent prospects for a significant breakthrough to the southeast.

On Sunday I started a stratigraphic investigation to discover the origin of the grooves and ridges pertaining throughout all of Corra Lynn Cave. Possible causes that had to be confirmed or eliminated, were:-

- (a) bedding effects,
- (b) standing water levels,
- (c) running water effects,
- (d) the effects of rock joints,
- (e) compressional effects such as stress re-crystallization.

The method chosen was to measure the continuity and regularity of the wall features over a significant section of the cave and add to that my personal observations during my many visits. Areas examined were the Entrance passage to the Cauldron via upper Grand Central passages; Ramshorns to Bushwalkers Chamber; the Jawbone branch; and Crystal Chamber to the Big Stalagmite. All traverse wall features were tied into a stratigraphic sequence to within a few centimetres except for the end of the Bushwalker's Run and beyond because of a collapse section obscuring continuity. The Bushwalker's Chamber has been correlated to within 1m.

Significant observations include:-

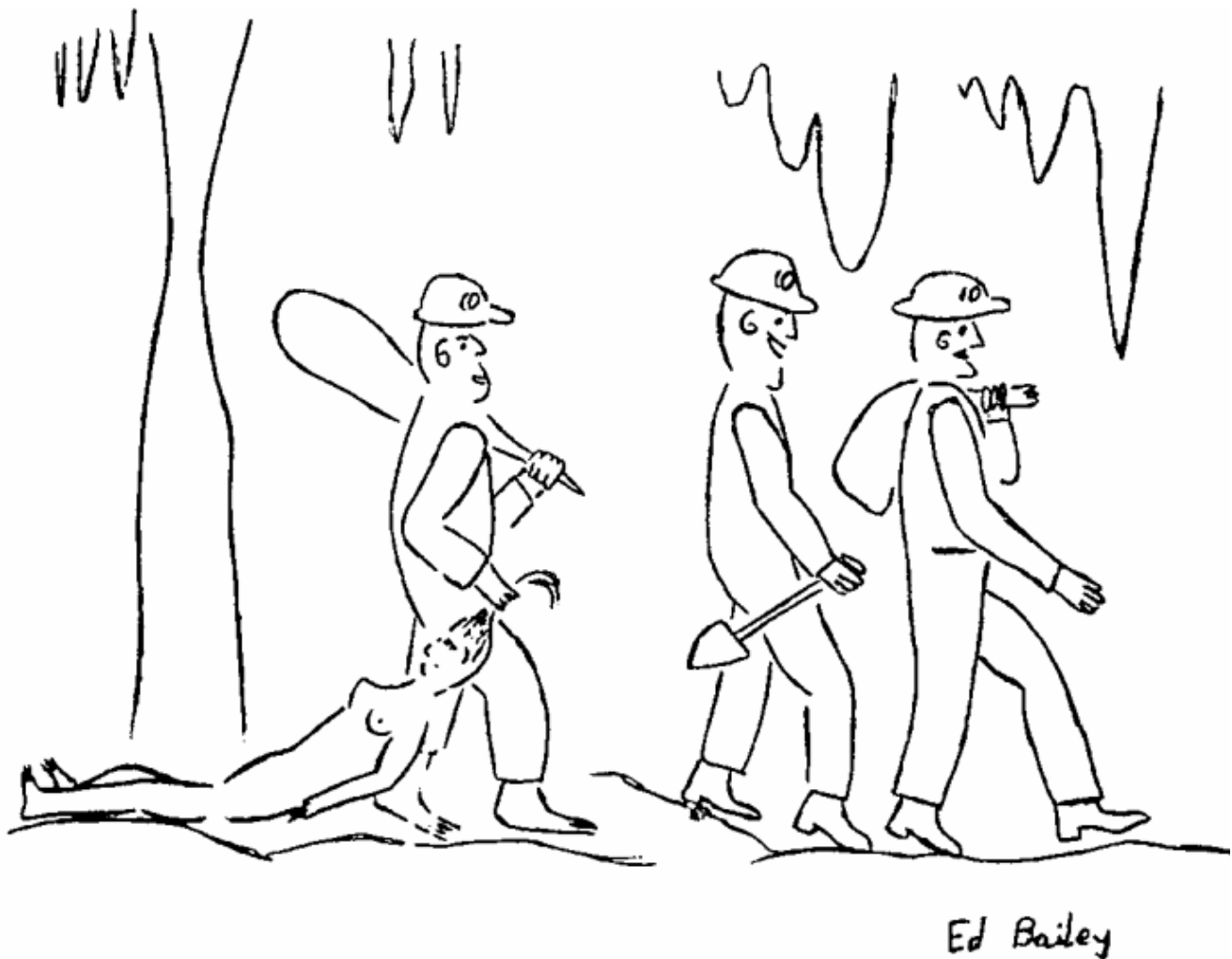
- (a) rock bands 0.1 to 0.2m thick persisting and recognisable from Grand Central through Ramshorns Crevasse to the Crystal Chamber,
- (b) consistent distances between identifiable wall grooves, "partings" and ridges to within a few centimetres from one end of the cave to the other,
- (c) the tendency for wall ridges to become roofs and grooves to be just above floor level.
- (d) a repeating pattern of ridge and groove with periods between 0.5 and 2m.

- (e) the dolomite rock is overlain by 5m of calcareous soil and calcrete,
- (f) maximum accessible depth is about 38m stratigraphically (this is nearly the same as vertical depth because the strata is nearly horizontal) and is reached in Gravity Cavity.

My preliminary analysis favours bedding planes as the cause of the wall grooves and ridges with water level as the agent determining which levels were eroded. Bushwalker's Run, for instance, is nearly horizontal and has a dominant roof height that is nearly constant. However, the wall features show that the stratigraphic level changes by about 2m between Dick's Extension and Bushwalker's Chamber. The network pattern is that of nodal tension joints that is, compression in one direction causing the rock to "bulge" at right-angles and to crack in curved lines towards focal points. However, each bedding level or a small group of levels has to be considered in isolation from those above and below.

Some minor sediment inflow and re-working has been done by running water as can be seen near the present entrance and in the Limestone Bridge area where it came in down the Great Collapse.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON



"I must say it's a welcome change to go caving with a long established club!"

PRESENT: G. Pilkington (L), I. Lewis, R. McDougal, T. Reardon.

Very few of our presently active members have ever been down Sellick's Hill Cave. This trip was to introduce members to hazards in the cave. We entered the cave at 9.30 a.m. and descended to the deepest accessible part. While there, we removed a rock from the choke in the main fissure to gain entry to the chamber below, but it turned out to be a hopeless task to push the cave deeper at that point - too much loose debris and stuffy besides. Horizontally was no better due to a change in rock type from limestone to shale to the east and further debris to the west and entrance side.

There is, however, a slot with a breeze coming out of it two-thirds of the way down the cave and this was examined for accessibility but we did not have the necessary hardware to force it.

The pitches were left rigged for the afternoon party of Max Meth, Kevin Mott and Dale Arnott but they did not enter the cave - just enjoyed the sunshine with the excuse that they were taking entrance photographs for Records.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

PRESENT: G. Pilkington (L), M. Meth, D. Arnott.

Although an introductory trip for Dale, the main purpose of this trip was to retrieve gear left on the 24th September. Naturally we also took another look at the "breeze slot" but again we lacked adequate excavation equipment.

Dale oozed herself through the slot into the very small chamber below and proceeded to remove rocks using a bag on a rope which Max and I hauled out.

Her observations of the continuance of the slot were that it was difficult to enter at the top and narrowed down with depth. She could see another 5m. To continue the dig down the fissure will require much time and strenuous effort.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Who the hell is F.W.A. " by Annette Bates

OTHER ARTICLES

FOSSILS FOR CAVERS.

In South Australia, our caves are developed in limestones of four different ages. These limestones often contain fossils.

Precambrian limestones: Numerous caves in the Flinders Ranges, also Reynella. No real fossils occur in these rocks, only the algal structures called stromatolites which are built up by layers of filamentous algae trapping thin daily increments of sediment. Some stromatolite colonies were large hummocks composed of many close-packed columns.

Cambrian Limestones: Best examples are at Curramulka where the fossils include trilobite fragments, archaeocyaths, primitive brachipods (lampshells), and limpet-like molluscs. The ceiling of Narrina Lake Cave contains naturally etched specimens of archaeos. Sellicks Hill Cave may also be in Cambrian rocks - they are nearby, and contain archaeos and narrow-conical shells called byolithids.

Tertiary Limestones: These contain the majority of our caves, from the Nullarbor to the Murray and the South East. The limestones are mostly of Oligocene-Miocene age, and contain similar fossils. They are probably best represented at Naracoorte, in the quarries (e.g. Henschke's Fossil Cave). There is a wide variety of species to be found, some well preserved and easily collectable, and others almost impossible to extricate where the rock has crystallized. Fossils include: solitary corals (Flabellum) as moulds, bryozoans (moss animals and lace "corals") (Cellepora, Retepora) brachiopods (lampshells), scallops and oysters, moulds of other molluscs (Bivalves, gastropods and the nautiloids (Eutrophoceras and Aturia), and sea urchins (almost impossible to extract whole). Shark teeth have also been reported.

Pleistocene aeolianites: These youngest rocks may occasionally have fossils, much like modern beach shells, but are generally un-fossiliferous e.g. Kelly Hill caves.

The Fossil Content of Cave Deposits

So far as is known, all our cave deposits are no older than Pleistocene in age (and late Pleistocene at that) and may be as young as yesterday. The bones they contain, therefore, give a picture of only a brief instant of animal life in Australia. Bones are still accumulating, but only those that no longer smell are of interest to me. They can be divided into two groups - those of Recent (Holocene) age, essentially modern species, which may or may not still be living in the area but tell us of the pre-colonial fauna; and those of the late Pleistocene, including numerous extinct species. However, it is not always possible to say whether or not a bone of a modern species is a fossil, or of Pleistocene age, so the term sub-fossil is sometimes used.

Vertebrate fossils are found in caves in most, if not all, of our caving areas, and generally speaking, the assemblages are quite similar throughout the State. Local differences do exist, and these must reflect major ecological or range zone differences. The richest areas are the caves of the south-east, and particularly of the Naracoorte area. There, the fossil assemblage includes species of the "giant kangaroo" *Sthenurus*, the giant wallaby *Protemnodon*, marsupial lion *Thylacoleo*, Tasmanian devil *Sarcophilus* and "wolf" *Thylacinus*, and the large quadruped *Zygomaturus*, as well as modern species of kangaroo, wallaby, rat kangaroo (bettongs and potoroos), bandicoots, koalas, native cats and marsupial mice.

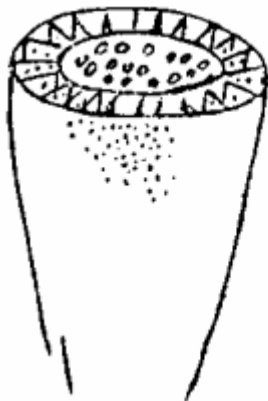
The caves of Kangaroo Island have yielded *Sthenurus*, *Sarcophilus* and *Phascolarctos* (the koala) as fossils, while at Curramulka, *Protemnodon*, *Thylacoleo* and modern kangaroos have been excavated.

At Buckalowie, the assemblage is quite unbalanced ecologically, being rich in the carnivores *Thylacinus*, *Sarcophilus* and *Thylacoleo*, while kangaroos are quite rare and are modern species only.

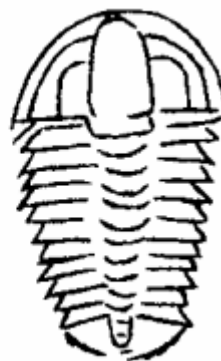
Bones have been collected from the Nullarbor caves. but generally are only surface finds of modern species and probably are not very old. There is, however, good indication of Pleistocene deposits (e.g. at Koonalda Cave) and much work could be done there, as it is an area of "faunal exchange", i.e. the overlap between faunas of the southwest and those of the eastern states.

NEVILLE PLEDGE

TYPICAL FOSSILS - Cambrian



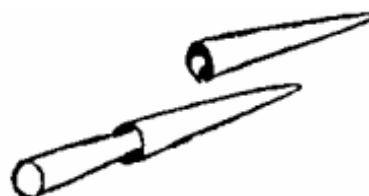
Archaeocyath (reconstructed)
often seen in oblique sections.



Trilobite (diagrammatic)



Helcoinellid gastropods

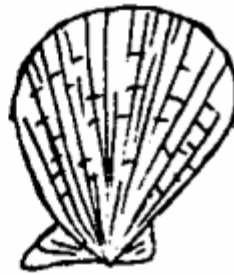


Hyolithids
often found one inside another

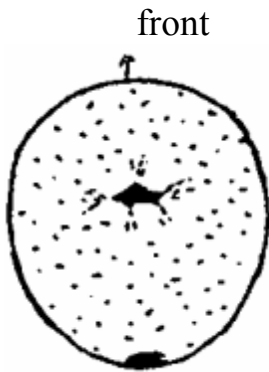
Tertiary (Naracoorte)



Cellepora cambierensis
Bryozoan colony
(branches up to 3cm diam.)



Chlamys gambierensis
Scallop

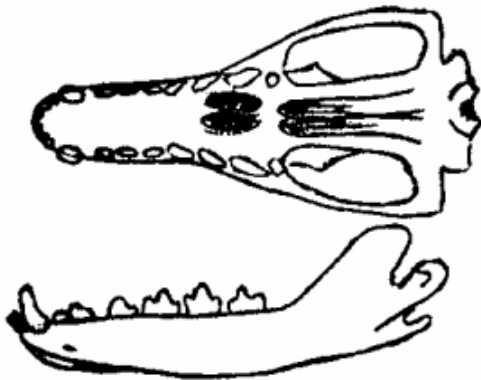


Echinolampas
Sea urchin (underside)

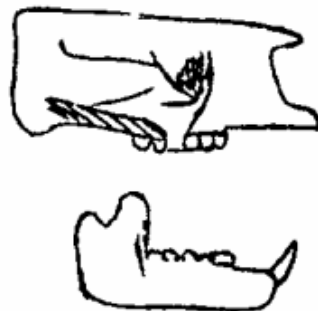


Aturia
Nautiloid

Pleistocene Vertebrates



Thylacinus



Sthenurus



Macropus (kangaroo)



Thyacoleo

A MAPPER'S GUIDE TO THE CEGSA MAPPING SYSTEM.

It is now more than three years since the appearance of a newsletter article on CEGSA's mapping system (G. Pilkington, CEGSA Newsletter, Vol. 20 No: 2, pp 17-18, August 1975). This was based on the (then) new standard A2 size pre-printed mapping sheets. Since that time the sheets and the system built around them has been widely used by those of the Group interested in the gentle arts of surveying and mapping. And, by and large, the system has worked very well.

Our early maps by Messrs. Sexton and Hill (to name the notable examples) are often true masterpieces of the graphic art. When looked at individually, that is; viewed as a collection they lose some of their appeal. The larger ones are so large - and few have managed to avoid at least one unsightly "crease of convenience" straight down the middle at some stage of their "chequered" careers. And the small ones are so small that it's a miracle that they haven't been lost (perhaps some have!!). This lot (each one now graced with a sequence number between 1000 and 1999) now hangs rather uncomfortably at the rear of our nice fire-resistant vertical map cabinet, some upright, some sideways, some folded in two to make them fit.

By contrast, our steadily accumulating set of A2 maps would delight the heart of any records officer - all exactly the same size with exactly the same hanging arrangements, name and number in the bottom right-hand corner, scale-bar and grade, personnel and date information in a standard familiar place, grid north unswervingly straight up the sheet, etc., etc. Almost without exception the maps have been well drawn with well thought out layout and are worthy contributions to the States speleological records. But on checking them through prior to having them microfilmed, it has become apparent that to make them truly consistent as a set (and hence easily catalogued and cross-referenced, and also compatible with ASF standards requirements) it would be desirable to introduce just a little more standardization. There are a number of small but niggly points, on which different draftsmen have followed different procedures, not through any desire to be individualistic but simply because no standard has been laid down.

On the subject of individuality, it is not the intention of the present Records Officer to attempt to prescribe whether or not we should make great efforts to depict decoration in a passage, or whether a draftsman should or should not use a lettering stencil, etc. We shouldn't lose sight of the fact that we are making cave maps simply because we enjoy doing so, and what we do in our own way we enjoy most. In general terms, I recommend following the ASF mapping standards, but I would hope that each CEGSA map is not only a faithful record of the cave but also the artistic creation of the individual surveyor/draftsman, in the true Sexton/Hill tradition.

The points mentioned here will, I hope, clear up most of the confusion that has existed in the past and caused many maps to be submitted to records in a less than finished state. A general-interest newsletter is hardly the place to write reams on the pros and cons of various sheet numbering systems, etc., (and, believe me, many people have put much thought into such things). And so I put forward the following as current records policy, without going into all the possible alternatives. Any criticisms will be carefully considered to see if any change or addition is warranted. If there are any serious shortcomings, let us know quickly - the pile of maps grows by the week!

1. Availability of Sheets.

Any full or associate member who wishes to draw a cave-related map will be issued with a sheet on application to the Records Officer. For drafting surveys of ASF grades below 5 this would normally be a paper sheet - higher grades get drafting film. Regular draftsmen may be issued with a stock of blank sheets.

Existing maps will be re-issued to the original draftsman if he wishes to revise them. Other members may obtain maps for revision purposes if the Records Officer sees fit, provided that if the original draftsman is still a financial member he must give his permission.

Records keeps a list of the locations of all sheets, blank, complete or otherwise. This is possible because every sheet is unambiguously identified by a sequence number stamped in the top left-hand corner. Thus if a sheet is spoiled it must be returned to the records officer and officially written off.

2. Mapping Scales and Units.

Maps must employ metric units. Any scale which is a power of 10 multiplied by 1, 2.5 or 5 may be approved by the Records Officer, but only in very special cases should a scale other than the following be used for:-

- 1:250 all general cave mapping (Note 1)
- 1:500 mapping very large 'Nullarbor-style' caves and for publication purposes (Note 2)
- 1:2500 representing larger areas of land for any or all of the following purposes:
 - (a) showing surface (topographic and/or cadastral) detail
 - (b) showing positions of cave entrances
 - (c) showing caves in outline or silhouette (Note 3)
 - (d) relating cave map sheets at 1:250 or 1:500 (see article 11.8)
- 1:25000)
- 1:50000) purposes (a) and (b) above (Note 4)
- 1:250000)
- 1:5000000 maps of the whole state.

Note: (1) A brief word on our primary mapping scale, 1:250, which differs from the ASF standard of 1:200. We go our own way on this one for a variety of reasons. One particularly persuasive one is that a 100m x 100m area fits very nicely onto a A2 sheet - a 400mm square mapping area - and leaves a realistic amount of space for title block etc. (hence our standard sheet). If several sheets are used to represent physically adjacent areas then the coordinates of all sheet edges can be round figures. An A2 sheet can't accommodate a 100m square at 1:200 and the appeal of the multi-sheet system is lost. In addition, a 2:1 photo-reduction of an A2 sheet at 1:250 gives an A4 sheet at 1:500 - the standard paper size for publication in a journal, at the standard ASF publication scale.

Note: (2) Experience with the scale 1:500 has shown that it is usually too small for adequately representing cave detail, especially if there is any hint of a squeeze or a superimposed passage system. It should be used as the original mapping scale only if the cave is large enough to require more than two sheets at 1:250 and the known cave is simple in form without any obvious leads which could yield maze systems. Within our area of responsibility only some large Nullarbor caves seem to meet these criteria. Even then, 1:250 is preferred. 1:500 should definitely not be used simply to make a cave fit onto one sheet.

The scale 1:500 is both the ASF standard for publication and a useful scale for use as a navigational map in the field. Maps for both purposes should preferably be produced (on A4) by photo-reducing an original drafted at 1:250 (on A2).

Note: (3) The scale 1:2500 (at which one standard sheet covers a 1km square) should be used for maps showing caves in outline or silhouette, if at all practicable. An alternative scale of 1:1000 would be acceptable if the cave is very complicated (e.g. Corra-Lynn, Victoria Fossil), and if the entire cave or related set of caves fits on one A2 sheet at that scale. Production of adjacent, related sheets at 1:1000 is highly undesirable because it takes a non-integral number ($6\frac{1}{4}$) of such sheets to cover one of the next size up (1:2500). It can also be argued that the idea behind silhouette maps is to show the entire cave on one sheet, anyhow.

1:1000 offers no advantages over 1:2500 for purposes (a), (b) and (d), and should not be used.

Note: (4) Area maps at 1:25000 and 1:250000 should, show the Australian Map Grid in a light ruling at 80mm intervals. 1:50000 maps should show the AMG every 100mm.

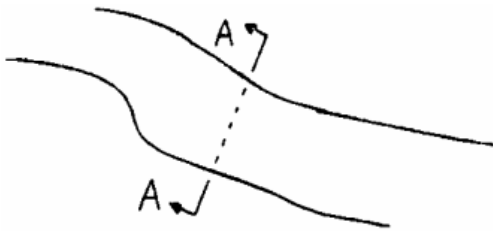
Note: (5) Scales larger than 1:250 should only be used for very detailed mapping of special cave features (e.g. bone deposits) or for enlargements of complicated passage areas, and then only if the actual surveying was done to the accuracy implied by the scale. Scales of 1:25 and 1:50 are preferable to 1:100 for reasons of sub-divisibility of the primary 1:250 sheets. If 1:250 sheets covering the area exist (and they should) then the edges of the large-scale sheets will preferably be aligned with them.

Scales larger than 1:250 must not be used simply to make a small, insignificant cave fill a large portion of the sheet.

3. Sections.

The position of the plan view within the mapping area may be dictated by considerations of relativity with caves on other sheets (see article 11). Cross and longitudinal sections on the other hand, may be placed anywhere on the sheet and should be adjusted to give a balanced appearance and minimal confusion between views.

Sections should always employ the same scale as the plan in both the horizontal and vertical directions. Each cross-section should be clearly labelled with a pair of identical uppercase letters separated by a hyphen (e.g. "SECTION A-A") and the position and viewing direction of the section clearly indicated by a pair of arrows marked with the same letter on the plan, for example:



The dash line between the arrows may be omitted if it would cause confusion with any other detail or if there are many sections and the lines would give a cluttered appearance.

4. Scale Bar.

The scale bar is extremely important especially now that our maps are to be microfilmed and we could end up with copies of virtually any size (even projected onto a screen at a meeting or conference). For maximum clarity it is recommended that the scale bar be filled in as a line of alternate black and white rectangles, with a fine section at the left end. It should be clearly annotated in metres, (or, for scales of 1:25000 and smaller, in kilometres) with zero at the division between the fine and coarse sections. For example, on a 1:250 sheet the scale bar should look like:



5. North Point.

Australian Map Grid North should always point vertically up the sheet. Its' relation to magnetic north at the date of the survey should be ascertained from the most recent topographic map available for the locality, and shown on the map by means of a note or a style of north-pointing arrow which depicts both grid and magnetic north.

The style of North Point used is at the draftsman's discretion, but one should always be included since some map users may not know CEGSA's grid convention.

References to true north should not be made.

6. Notes on Maps.

Lengthy notes on the map itself should be avoided. Those appearing should be restricted to notes pertaining to features of the map itself rather than the cave. For example, a note "Water levels shown are as at 1-4-76" is acceptable, but things such as "discovered in April 1956 by members of Melbourne University Speleological Society" are discouraged. The records system provides more appropriate ways of storing such information.

(Article to be continued)

NEIL SMITH.
Records Officer,
October, 1978.

S. & R. EXERCISE REPORT.

Approximately 60 people turned up at Naracoorte on July 29th - 30th this year for the annual exercise. Besides the small contingent from CEGSA, VSA and FUSS were represented, while the rest were made up of various scouting and school bodies interested in caving.

The format this year was similar to last year's with each of the 6 teams undertaking 3 exercises on the Saturday. A debrief was held on Sunday morning. Sunday afternoon was either spent travelling home or practicing abseiling and jumaring in Cathedral Cave. The six exercises undertaken are outlined below:-

EXERCISE 1: Horizontal Carry with Stretcher in Blackberry.

Aim: To give party experience in handling a stretcher in a variety of conditions.

Summary: Whilst exploring the cave with a friend, a caver slips and falls down a rockpile injuring himself. Realising he will need help, the friend exits the cave and raises the alarm. A party of cavers being in the area are summonsed to treat and extricate the patient.

Details: The caver on falling down the rock pile sustained a bruised abdomen and complicated fracture of the fibula and tibia. His partner on realising that help would be required to remove the patient exited from the cave and raised the alarm. The patient is in the chamber at the Blackberry entrance. For the purpose of the exercise this entrance is non existent. The party must carry a stretcher into the cave and remove the patient from the cave.

EXERCISE 2: Vertical Lift in Cathedral Cave.

Aim: To test the ability of the party to combine with other groups and organise a major vertical lift.

Summary: The member of a party falls in the cave, injuring himself such that he is unable to extricate himself from the cave. After applying first aid the rescue party has an easy horizontal carry then a 17m vertical lift to remove the patient from the cave.

Details: A member of a party exploring the cave slips and falls down a rockpile in a floor hole in the second chamber. As a result of the fall the caver suffers a fracture of the lower arm and minor scalp lacerations. On reaching the patient the party should administer first aid. Because of the limits of time the Naracoorte C.F.S. will assist with the lift. One member of underground party should be despatched to the entrance to summons assistance and fetch the stretcher.

EXERCISE 3: Locate and Assist in Cathedral.

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

Summary: Lone caver reported overdue by 3 hours. He is reported to have no helmet, limited light and food and light clothing. The party has to locate and rescue the caver.

Details: Rescue party should start searching immediately after the entrance chamber. Casualty found in passage behind 'pop up'. Casualty is highly nervous and in a confused state. His torch was getting weak and in the darkness he fell hitting his head. His recollection of the incident is vague. After calming and treating the patient the party must assist the patient out of the cave.

EXERCISE 4: Horizontal Carry using Dragmat in Stick.

Aim: To give party experience in using the Dragmat Stretcher.

Summary: A member of a party fell while attempting to climb a flowstone wall to investigate an upper level passage. The party were unable to help him out of the cave so went to summon help.

Details: While climbing to investigate an upper level passage a caver slipped and fell. In the incident he twisted his ankle, fractured his collar bone and suffered scalp lacerations. Being ill-equipped and lacking sufficient numbers they realised they could not rescue the victim. The rescue party has been called in to treat the patient and extricate him from the cave.

EXERCISE 5: Vertical Lift in Tomato Cave.

Aim: To give party practise in organising and conducting a vertical lift.

Summary: A member of a caving party slips and falls in the cave injuring himself. Party raises the alarm and a rescue party is called in to extricate the patient.

Details: The party member slips on the edge of the path and falls into a small floor pit. During the accident he twists his ankle and fractures his arm. The rescue party must treat the victim, conduct a short horizontal carry then lift the patient out of the cave.

EXERCISE 6: Locate and Assist in Wombat Cave.

Aim: To give party experience in conducting a minor search then affecting a rescue of the patient.

Summary: Lone caver has been reported overdue from Wombat Cave. Party must find caver, assess the situation and execute whatever action is necessary.

Details: Lone caver exploring Wombat Cave slipped and fell down a rockpile. His light was destroyed in the fall. During the accident he badly bruised his back and suffered concussion through hitting his head on a rock. He had no helmet. The rescue party must find the patient, who has been down there for 5 hours and extricate him from the cave.

COMMENTS ON THE S & R EXERCISE.

In looking back over the results of the Exercise it is always pleasing to note the things that have been learnt, not just by us but by everyone present. However it was felt that cavers had not progressed much from the year before, either we were expecting too much or people had just not thought about S & R for the previous year.

The major difference between the 78 and 77 exercises was that this year the initial briefing by the Police was more realistic and the party was left with the big decision of what equipment they would need to take. In any situation it is not always the case that there is a complete store of gear available, many parties assumed this and were reluctant to improvise. However by the end of the day the party members were far more competent in being able to assess a situation and what gear they might need.

As far as comments on the remainder of the exercises, we can only repeat what was said last year in CEGSA Newsletter Vol. 22 No: 3. That particular issue contained several pages of criticism and compliments as well as guidelines, and it would be well worth rereading.

The major points that we will restate at this time are the usual ones.

1. Planning - as mentioned above
- appoint a leader
- be quick and thorough.
2. Search - in an organized manner.
3. Patient - must be attended at all times,
- reassured if conscious,
- watched closely if unconscious.
4. First Aid - DO A ST. JOHNS COURSE!

Perhaps the biggest compliment we can make is that the cavers were more aware of their own shortcomings. This is important. So all we can do now is to keep practicing and hope that our incredibly long stretch of good luck doesn't end too soon or too drastically.

JIM CUNDY and KEVIN MOTT

P.S. I would like to plead with you all to read or reread the article on pages 13 - 16 of Vol. 22 No: 3. This procedure has apparently been circulated around Australia and has yet to be criticized.

JIM CUNDY.

A CAVE RESCUE - A CASE HISTORY.

PART 3: The Victims account.

At about ten o'clock on Friday morning Hugh, Keith and myself arrived in Kettlewell village. We parked the car by a little bridge on the track that leads half way up Great Whernside to Hag Dyke, a lonely hostel. It didn't take long to collect our caving equipment together and set off up the path by Dowber Gill Beck. It was a warm, still day and by the time we reached the entrance to Providence Pot we were glad of a rest. The entrance consisted of an iron manhole cover in a raised concrete surround which protruded from the stony bed of the stream. It was here that we would leave the bright sunlight and force our way through Providence Pot to Dowber Gill passage, follow this complicated rift to Dow Cave and emerge, we hoped, some eight hours later on the other side of the hill.

I was impatient to start, and after moving some rocks from the cover, I climbed down the scaffolding poles that formed the sides of the shaft. The other two followed. I carried a metal box containing food, Hugh carried a second box containing spare lights and a small first aid kit, and Keith carried a sixty foot length of ulstron rope in case we encountered difficulties in the high, narrow rift of Dowber Gill. We squeezed through the narrow entrance at the bottom of the shaft and entered the rather dull, dry passages of Providence Pot. Route finding was easy because of a telephone cable that is left in place in this section of the cave. After scrambling over some large boulders we reached the first real obstacle - The Blasted Crawl. This narrow section of passage is sometimes only one foot wide, often very low and always full of mud and water. There are several places where a man's body will only fit in a certain way and much energy can be used up in discovering these positions. We finally escaped from this muddy constriction into a much larger chamber called 'The Palace' and here we stole a five minute rest. This part of the cave had few formations and was rather unattractive. From here we descended into a large hole in the floor, down the 'Staircase', through 'The Dungeon' and into 'Depot Chamber'. It was here that the surface seemed very distant and the few formations did little to alleviate the gloom of these caverns. Through a small opening, marked with an arrow and the words 'To Dow', and at last we came to running water. This was Dowber Gill and 'Stalagmite Corner' where we were now, was the junction between this and Providence Pot. We were now in an active streamway and the water flowed away on our right towards Dow Cave. After pausing to remind ourselves of what Stalagmite Corner looked like from the other direction we then continued on our way. At first the stream was easy to follow, flowing on the floor of a fairly high, roomy passage. As we progressed the stream often disappeared from view and we had to climb over large boulders. There were no formations here and the rocks were black and angular. Keith was now behind me carrying the metal box and Hugh was at the back with the rope. We had been moving now for nearly two hours, and in my mind I had decided that as soon as we reached Brew Chamber we would stop for something to eat. In front of us lay a chaotic jumble of boulders reaching high up into the rift. Before attempting to climb these I noticed a gap near stream level and, on looking through, saw the stream flowing away into the distance. Knowing that we needed to keep in the stream as much as possible, I eased myself onto a large boulder and started to wriggle through the gap. Suddenly the world moved, sounds exploded in my ears, a muffled shout, and the realization in a thousandth part of a second - I was hurt, and the pain was getting worse. I tried to move but only my legs and left arm responded.

A great weight was pressing on my back and my breath was coming in short rapid pants, and each movement of my chest hurt. I shouted out that I couldn't breathe and then screamed for the rocks to be moved. There were sounds of movement behind me, some heavy thuds and the pain became worse. I felt an irrational anger against my friends. When you are being slowly crushed it is difficult to lie there and not do anything about it; I fought back in the only way I could, I struggled hard and shouted. Hugh's voice came back; telling me to save my breath. The boulder on which I was lying had tilted forward and in some way had dislodged the rocks above. My legs were hanging freely down one side with my feet resting in the stream. My left arm was free in front of me but my right was forced up over my head with my forearm hanging down in front of my face. Rocks were pressing down on my back and my breath continued to come in short pants. I had counted four distinct cracking sounds in my side and I waited for the blood to well up in my throat. I gasped out to Hugh that one of them would have to get out and call the rescue team. After I had given some unnecessary instructions, there was a whispered discussion between the two mobile men and Keith left in a hurry.

Hugh and I managed a brief conversation, and then, after moving carefully on the boulders he managed to pass me some mint cake through a gap. I didn't want it but ate it just the same. The box with the spare lights that Keith had been carrying was lost, thrown away as he jumped clear, but food we had in plenty.

After half an hour we heard a shout; hope died as we realized that it could not possibly be rescuers yet, and despair grew as it became apparent to me that Keith, having been unable to find his way out, had unwittingly been turned round amongst the boulders, and had thought that we were another party he was meeting on his way out. It was then decided that they would both go to find the way out. I asked them to leave the rope hanging down the rift as a guide to the rescuers.

As the sounds died in the passage I reassessed my position. My chest was held as if in a vice with breathing both difficult and painful. My legs were free but it was impossible not to have at least part of one foot in the cold stream. My left arm was free and I was able to take off my helmet and wedge it in front of my face to support my head. My right shoulder appeared to be jammed and I was unable to move my right arm at all. I prodded my right forearm with my left and although it swung freely from the elbow, there was no sensation of feeling at all. Soon I started to feel very cold and to stop shivering I tried desperately to free myself, although I was aware that my struggles might dislodge further boulders. Once I turned off my light but I found the darkness depressing, and because I had difficulty in turning it back on, I did not touch the switch again. This difficulty made me realise that I was getting weaker and that I probably would not last as long as the charge in my nife cell anyway. I reasoned that I would be unconscious when the rescuers arrived and my light would help them find me. I had a long wait, five hours in fact, and if the rescuers had not moved with amazing speed it would have been much longer. The first part of the wait I spent wondering if Keith and Hugh had got out. I was fairly confident but there was always the chance I wondered too, how different people would react to the news that I was trapped in Dowber Gill, I decided that there was no chance of the water rising above my head but I could not help imagining what would happen if it did. The major part of my long wait was spent in a semi-conscious state.

A distant shout jerked me back to full awareness and I realized that some time had passed and that I had become weaker. Then it dawned upon me that the rescue team had arrived and that I would be freed. I recognised familiar voices and felt somehow safer. Although it took them one and a half hours to manoeuvre car jacks and stemples into position I was not aware of the passage of time.

Sometimes I would call for help in an irrational way and although I would be quiet when told to, the rescuers must have thought me very impatient. At last I felt the boulder that was pushing into my back move a little. Although I was still trapped the slight easing of the pain felt wonderful. Several pairs of hands now took hold of my legs and a voice ordered me to make a big effort. Slowly, and with a sharp rock sticking into my back, I was pulled backwards and freed from my nutcracker. I was in a very weak state and not able to help myself. They carried me away from the boulders and laid me across their legs. Someone gave me a cup of soup but I could only manage a sip. My body was bent in a contorted shape, having been fashioned to sharp rocks and a cold draught, my right arm flopped uselessly from the shoulder and my chest hurt dreadfully; I had no sensation in either feet. It was not a hopeful sight. I was examined carefully, and as there was no outward sign of damage it was assumed that I had arm and chest injuries. I was then put in a rubber 'goon' suit to help insulate me from the cold. Later I was placed in a neoprene exposure bag and then fastened onto a Neil Robertson stretcher. Apart from my chest hurting with any movement I was not quite comfortable and the rescuers began the task of getting me back to the surface.

It was now Friday night and there had been a steady build up of rescue operations since the first call-out. Besides the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association who were the controlling body, the Police, Cave Rescue Organisation and many well-known Northern cavers were present. The press, radio and television representatives were at the surface; it had become a major incident.

* By J, Miller, Esq., Education Development
Centre, Essex Street, Walsall, Staffs.

(The concluding part of this story will be told in the next issue).

WACCON

This is the last Newsletter before Waccon. From what I've heard about the Conference, its going to be the biggest and best ever. In fact the organizers have catered to everyone's taste with a wide variety of activities.

So with the prospect of an extremely invigorating start to the New Year I can only ask three things of C.E.G.S.A. members

- 1) Get those application forms off as soon as possible,
- 2) Think seriously about presenting a paper,
- 3) Let me know when and where you will be on the Nullarbor (cavers from other States have!)

I'm not being nosy about the Nullarbor, its just that I have the job or co-ordinating the trips, getting access permission, and hopefully finding some reliable people to 'station' themselves at either Mullamullang or Weebubbie for certain periods of time. Can you help, Please...

JIM CUNDY.

BITS AND PIECES - articles of possible interest on the latest journals received,
- collected by Neville Pledge.

Down Under (UQSS) September 78 Vol. 17, No: 4.
"1978 UQSS Camooweal Expedition" June 30th - July 9th
by Simon Jolly and Ken Grimes.

Helicite Vol. 15, No: 1 1977.
"A new development in solving problems of large scale Speleo-
photography, 'Diprotodon Poulter'. " by Norman Poulter - with
plans for producing this new generation light source.
"On the Subterranean syncarids (shrimps) of Tasmania"
by P.S. Lake and D.J. Coleman.
Also papers on caves of the Cooleman Plain, N.S.W., and
groundwater at Jenolan Caves.

N.S.S. News August 1978.
"Gypsum Caves of the World" by Stephan Keupe. Never knew about
them. did you? None have been found in Australia.
September 1978.
"The truth about Gypsum Caves" by Richard L. Breisch,
"An improved rope ladder" by Charles H. Henson.
- using polypropylene rope and P.V.C. pipe.

Nargun (V.S.A.) Vol. 11 No: 4, October 1978.
Four trip reports to the Buchan area.

C.T.C.G. Newsletter No: 78/7 September 1978.
Part 3 of a series on caving equipment. Ropes this time.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION PROCEEDINGS
11th ASF Conference. Many articles - but some of interest are:
"Evaluation of Caves and Karst" Elery Hamilton-Smith
"Conservationists and their blind spots" Elery Hamilton-Smith
"Caves and aboriginal man in Tasmania" Albert Goede
"Caves around Canberra" J.N. Jennings.

THE JOURNAL OF THE SYDNEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Vol.22No:10.
The main article is on a major expedition in 1977 to Mexico –
"Seven seventy eight metres and still going", by Neil Hickson - about
La Grieta Cave ('The Tissue') in the Huautla area (Caxaca
Province of Southern Mexico).

Bulletin of SUSS

Vol. 18, No: 2 (June, July, August, 1978)

A preliminary report by Guy Fox on the ATEA '78 Australasian expedition to Papua - New Guinea. Altea Kananda is now the largest cave in the Southern Hemisphere at 30 km.

Cox also reviews the "Spelean Harpoon", a new figure-8 descending device which he feels will come into general use in Australia.

Southern Caver

Vol. 10, No: 2 (October, 1978).

An Interesting series of three articles by Kevin Kiernan on Glacio-speleology (i.e. caves produced in ice and snow) Not much application here.

Caves and Caving

No: 1 (August 1978)

(Bulletin of the British Cave Research Association)

"Some notes on the World Caving Scene" - Asia, by John R. Middleton is an interesting summary of caves from "south-western" Asia, including some speleo contacts for globe-trotters. Presumably; the rest of Asia, and ultimately, the world, will follow in due course.

Brendan Brew's "Brew on Gear" gives some reports and test results on equipment.

BCRA Transactions

Vol. 5, No: 1 (March 1978).

All high-powered articles: some of particular interest are reports of caves and karst in Greece and China. Also

"Pitch-rigging for single-rope techniques" by Nick Reckert.

BCRA Transactions

Vol. 5, No: 2 (June 1978)

Most interesting article is

"Chillagoe - A tower karst in decay" by Trevor D. Ford, describing the geology and formation of the caves.

Lots of maps, photos and references. Also

"Calibration of Cave Survey Instruments" by P. R. Cousins - pretty technical but may be useful to someone here.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL.

There was a time when trip reports were submitted direct to the Records Officer and filed in chronological order in a couple of large tomes. You may have seen reference in Occasional Paper No:5 to such things as "Records, page 539". That's them.

Nowadays most trip reports are printed instead in the newsletter. Personally, I believe that that is the best place for them - people like to see their own work in print, and that's an incentive to write the reports in the first place. Perhaps more importantly, any significant points are brought immediately to the attention of the entire membership. With the old system you didn't find out about any developments in a cave or area unless you specifically went looking for them in the records.

Perhaps most members skim the newsletter fairly lightly; but it's a help when they decide that they want to know about a particular cave if they can remember that "it was in the newsletter a few months ago" etc.

However, there comes a time when someone has to sit down and systematically go through all the newsletters and all the old records looking for references to something in particular (as Ian had to do when he was compiling O.P. 5). And as time goes on, the pile of literature gets bigger and bigger, and such researches become more time-consuming and more of a nuisance.

All this trouble can be saved with just a little effort as each newsletter comes out. In future I plan to go through each issue of the newsletter and list it under a whole lot of indexing terms, (such as cave numbers, scientific items like Thylacoleo and general topics such as "Rescue", "SRT", "Landowner relations" etc.) In principle I could have a card for each term and write a reference to a Newsletter volume, number and page wherever that term was mentioned. Then in the years to come, each card would provide a whole string of references to that one topic. In practice I will probably store the data as a computer file, allowing a very abbreviated form of data entry but providing very full printouts.

I write this article for two reasons. Firstly, it would be a big help if the author of every trip report and every article could include either at the top or the bottom a list of appropriate indexing terms. All S.A. cave and entrance numbers will be indexing terms. So will interstate caving areas (e.g. "Chillagoe", and "Bungonia").

Likewise any plant or animal genus or species, living or in fossil form. As to the more general terms, it is up to people to suggest them. If a term seems to be synonymous with one I'm already using, I'll convert it. If the scheme gets off the ground (as I hope it will) we can in a few months publish a list of current terms which should help to avoid this problem.

So, the idea is simply that you include at the top of the article something like: (Caves visited: K1, K3, K11, K33, K34. Indexing terms: SRT, Helictites, surface exploration - Kelly Hill, tacheometry).

The second reason for writing the article is that for the system to be as useful as possible, all the old records will have to be abstracted as well.

Some time early in the New Year I'll be trying to enlist some aid in this fairly big task. Any offers will be gratefully accepted.

NEIL SMITH.
Records Officer.

This issue is the first one in almost 2 years where I have had to act as an Editor and decide if an article was to be included or not. The following by Linda Whaley only half made it. More later.

CLASSIC SYSTEMS OF THE DALES.

Recently, I was a participant in this week-long course at Whernside Manor in Cumbria. There were 23 of us in all, 18 males and 5 females, who had varying experience in potholing, and our ages ranged from 16 years to middle age. It was the main aim of the course to enable people from other parts of the country to spend a week experiencing the joys (?) of some of the toughest caves in Britain.

The manor lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park and specializes in courses in caving and fellcraft which run for a day, or a weekend, or a week. Here instructors teach all aspects of caving from basics to cave photography and cave rescue.

Each day, a choice of caving trips was offered to us - SRT, Intermediate, Masochistic (i.e. 175 foot ladder pitches at the bottom of deep pots!) These are the trips I took part in:-

Sunday: - Ireby Fell Cavern

High on Leck Fell, near Ingleton, lies this cave, for years visited by cavers who more or less all managed to return to the surface safely. However, one day a guide book was produced which suggested that here was a system ideal for the training of novices. Suddenly, the Cave Rescue Organization's statistics showed that this innocent cave was placed high on the incident list! The reason was put forward - that near the entrance there are three 30-35 foot pitches (Ding, Dong. Bell!) one after the other which, after a long trip underground, can have a bad physiological affect on a tired caver. Most CRC callouts to this cave have required hauling the exhausted person up these pitches.

The total length of the system is 2½ miles, but our trip ended when we reached Sump 1. After Ding Dong Bell, there is the Short Pussy pitch, and after following the long meandering passage, sometimes on hands and knees, Well pitch (25 feet) is encountered. Duke Street, a long, wide and dryish passage is followed to Sump 1. This passage reminded me of Beekeepers Cave at Naracoorte.

By the time we had returned to the surface, the mist had lifted and from the top of Leek Fell we could look across the Dales and Lancashire to Morecambe Bay -a wonderful sight!

Monday - Simpson's Pot.

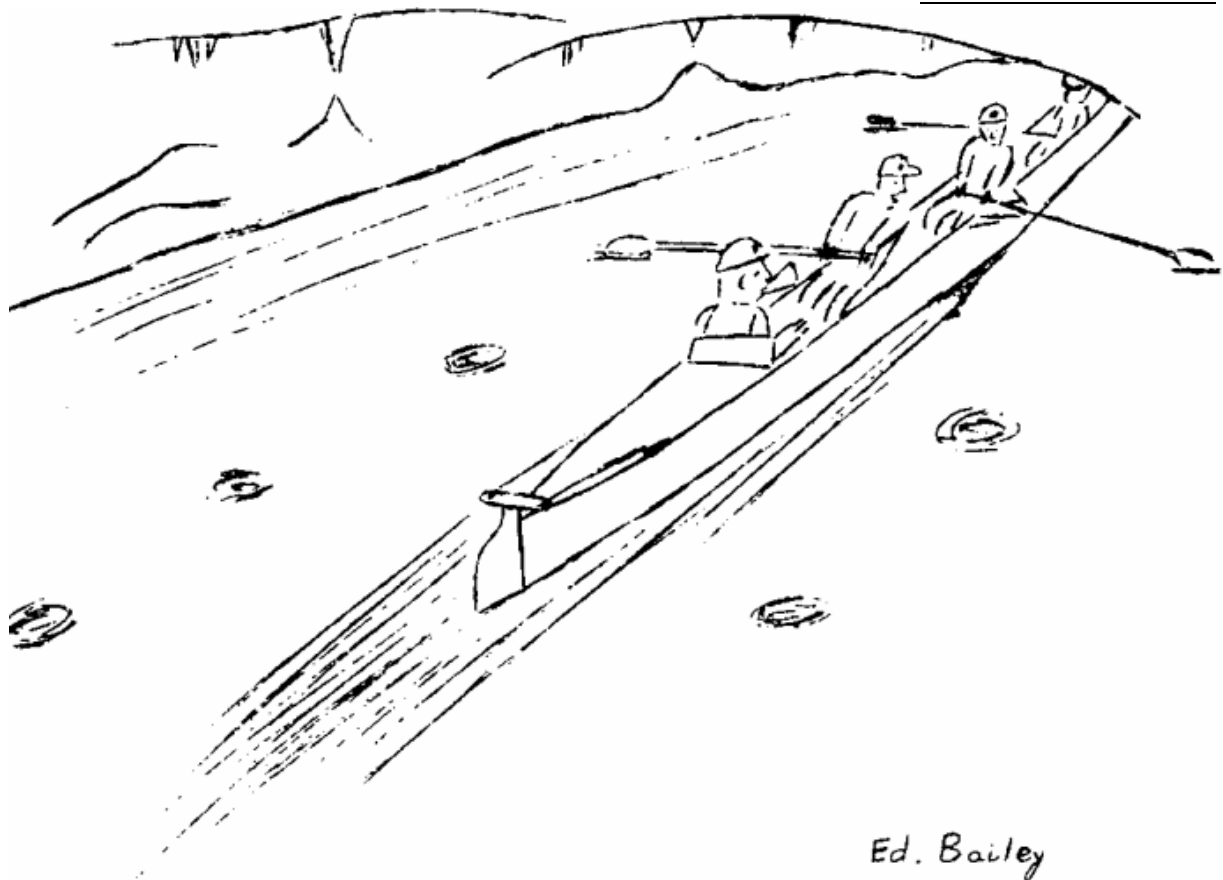
In the West Kingsdale area, are a number of impressive inlet pots which drain into the master cave system. The chance of a through trip is never one to pass up and that afternoon five of us set off to abseil down Simpson's Pot and emerge from Valley Entrance.

Perhaps the worst of West Kingsdale potholing is the slog up the steep hill to entrances, especially in a wet suit and carrying various pieces of tackle and SRT ironmongery. The entrance leads to a rather wet crawl for a short distance. There then follows the Five Steps which involves throwing your self down short drops into puddles of varying depths and generally getting rather wet! Traversing across the Pit is a bit unnerving, even on a lifeline, but once over its soon forgotten. After the first pitches, there is a short duck filled with cold cold water, which you swim through in world record time!

There follows a series of shortish pitches which lead to Slit Pot!!! You attach yourself to the rope and squeeze through a narrow vertical slit. Just as your legs find that they are standing on 80 foot of nothing, your helmet (or at least mine!) gets stuck.

Never-mind, an 80 foot free-hanging abseil is fun. The Boulder Pitch leads the party into Savinsto's Final Chamber (part of Savinsto's Hole), and finally into Kingsdale Master Cave. A wet crawl along East Entrance Passage takes the party to another longer duck and Valley Entrance, where you pop out to the surface through an oil drum. A rather wet but sporting and thoroughly enjoyable trip!

LINDA WHALEY.



"Tell Bow to sing out if it sumps!"

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to say that I found the most recent Search and Rescue exercise most informative in a practical way; intrinsically rewarding and a credit to the organizers.

I am only sorry that an exercise such as this, that involved so many State-wide organizations, was not given fair coverage in the State's news media.

Yours sincerely,
TREVOR BAILEY.



C.E.G.S.A.
CHRISTMAS
DINNER.

at the
Findon
Hotel

Time: 7. 00 p. m.

\$7.00 approximate cost (to be decided in conjunction with the hotel after the printing of the Newsletter)

Be early in paying your \$4.00 /per head deposit as places are limited (40 people is the total)

Phone: Meredith Reardon

Home: 263 4879

Work: 258 8596 (9 - 3.30pm)

To secure your booking send \$3.00 postal order or cheque made out to C.E.G.S.A. or bring money to 5 Loxton Court,
Hope Valley.



PROGRAMME

DECEMBER

2nd - 3rd	Henschkes	N. Pledge.
Wednesday 6th	Mapping Night	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View.
Friday 8th	Annual Dinner - Findon Hotel	Meredith Reardon
Wednesday 13th	Committee Meeting	23 Dorset Street, Brahma Lodge.

CONFERENCE

Nullarbor Trips - contact Jim Cundy

JANUARY

Wednesday 24th	General Meeting - slides	Museum Lecture Room.
27th - 29th	Naracoorte - for enjoyment	Kevin Mott

FEBRUARY

10th - 11th	South Coast	Kevin Mott.
Wednesday 14th	Committee Meeting	6 Hudson Avenue, Rostrevor.
24th - 25th	Corra-Lynn	G. Pilkington
Wednesday 28th	Annual General Meeting	Museum Lecture Room.

TRIP CONTACT LIST

N. Pledge,	C/- South Australian Museum (w) 223 8359
M. Reardon,	5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley (w) 258 8596 (h) 263 4879
J. Cundy,	Coomandook, 5261 (w) Yumali 73 3007
K. Mott,	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham (h) 42 5540 (w) 227 2704
G. Pilkington,	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View (h) 264 2598 (w) 272 5711

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All articles for both the Annual Report and Vol. 23 No: 5 must be submitted to J. Cundy by February 1st 1979. (It would be best to post them to Coomandook, 5261. I'll be away during January).