

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide



Volume 24, No: 3. November, 1979

N E W S L E T T E R



Merry Christmas

From the Editor...

Dear Members,

Once again the close of another year is with us and this edition of the Newsletter will be the final one for 1979. It is a completely 'New look' magazine, one which I sincerely hope meets with your approval. If you have any comments regarding this publication, I would very much appreciate hearing from you, whether good or bad - this being the only way we can ascertain if we should continue along this theme or reverse back to the old method.

Also in this edition we have pleasure in introducing you to "Nimrod Numbat" a somewhat questionable cartoon character. We would also appreciate any comments or ideas regarding this addition to the Newsletter, as well.

I would, at this stage, like to take the opportunity of thanking those Members of C.E.G.S.A. who have helped and directed me during the year with the Editorship of this Newsletter, and, as this is the final edition of the magazine for the year, I would like to wish all of our Members and Interstate and Overseas Readers, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

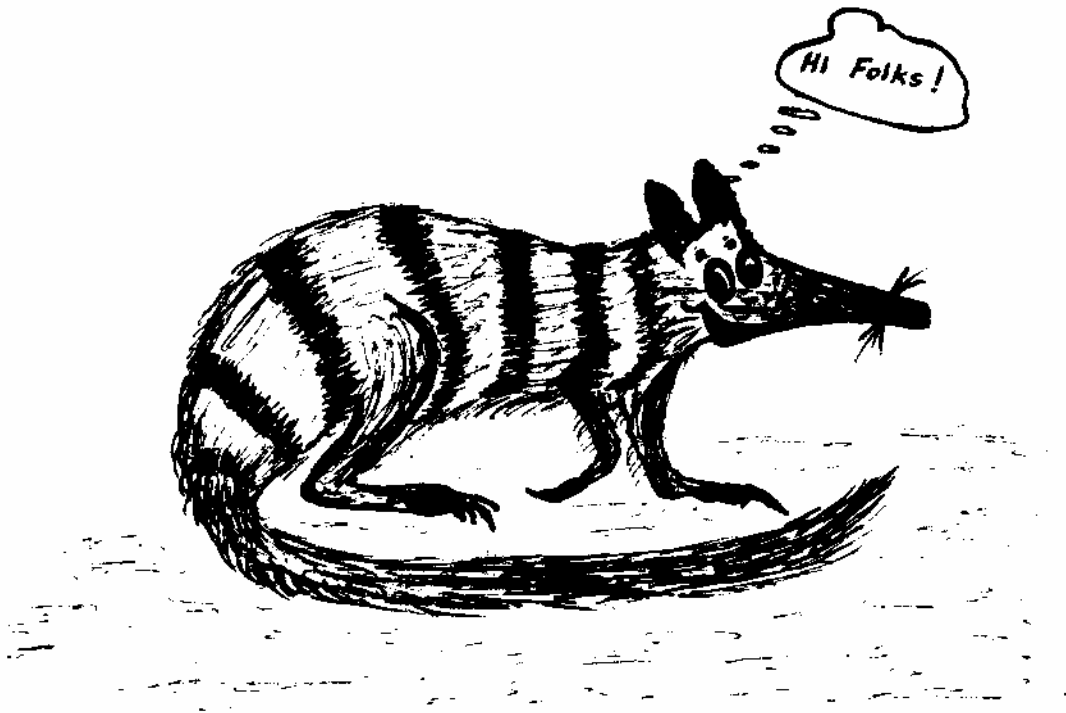
Jan Peterson.
EDITOR.



*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year*

Introducing

' NIMROD NUMBAT '



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NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

All articles for the next issue of this Newsletter must be forwarded to the Editor no later than the 28th January, 1980. Please forward them to me, C/- P.O. Box 124, Hahndorf, S.A., 5245.

If you have any queries regarding your article, photograph or any other data which may be suitable for this magazine you can contact me by phone on 388 7536.

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This Newsletter is Registered for Posting as a Periodical, Category B.

EDITORIAL

GUEST EDITORIAL BY COURTESY OF GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

CAVE TRAINING

How many C.E.G.S.A. members, on joining, have been at a loss as to what is expected of them? Most, I would say. The problem lies in our method of training new cavers.

To date, this has been mostly by informal chats given by Trip Leaders whilst touring a cave. Obviously the person who does not know the right questions is told very little, while these are the people who should be told most!

What is needed is a reference list that cavers of all standards can use to ascertain how to improve their caving competence and cave knowledge. Such a list would be useful in guiding Associate Members to Full Membership and to remind us all that more information and training would be useful.

A trial scheme is to commence operation in the next few months. It consists of a series of defined LEVELS from 1 to 5, each Level being of a consistent standard and Difficulty. Superficially, Level 1 is for pre-Associates, 2 & 3 for Associates, with 4 & 5 for Full Members. However, it is expected that cavers will be simultaneously doing sections from different levels, depending on their personal interest.

A major use of the guide will be to achieve a balanced progression in caving expertise. True cavers cannot become proficient unless they match their physical skills against speleological knowledge. It is hoped to start a sponsorship programme to enable Associates to progress much more rapidly than in the past.

Unfortunately, most present Full Members learnt some of the things they needed to know AFTER becoming Full Members so that the actual time spent as an Associate under this proposal will not alter from that now pertaining.

It will be up to each caver to use the scheme as they see fit. No examinations are going to be held nor will the Committee use, say, completion of Level 3 as a qualification for Full Membership. But it must be remembered that the Committee does use a level of competence and attitude to caves to assess Full Membership applications, so that proven completion of various sections of Levels cannot but help an aspiree.

The guide will be supplied in parts, one for each Level, and will contain the Constitution, Rules and Ethics, lists of caving techniques, speleological notes, Reference literature and suggested caves in which to practice skills, observe the mentioned features or for use as study sites. For the guide to be of any real value the Group will need plenty of feedback to improve and expand the guide to meet the needs of members.

Don't be surprised to be asked to become a sponsor, but don't give up when you find that you need to do some study yourself!

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

TRIP REPORTS

TANTALIZING TASSIE

PARTY:

EASTER, 1979.

Sally-Anne Wills, Di Ancell, Meredith Reardon, Phil Skene, Rod McDougal, Ric Hutchings and Terry Reardon.

Following tradition, CEGSA mustered a team for the annual caving pilgrimage to Tassie. Our aims for the trip were to look at some caves at Mole Creek and then head south to have a crack at Khazad Dum. Ric and I, after all of this, were going to attempt a walk into Vanishing Falls.

Well before the trip, we all spent many hours practising single rope techniques at Morialta and in Phil's shed to achieve a fair degree of competence to tackle the vertical caving that is typical in Tassie's deeper holes. This led to the development of much improved sit harnesses and prussiking techniques - and financially poorer cavers. Some amusing hours were spent "floating" on the Torrens with semi-buoyant rucksacks and negatively buoyant people in preparation for the V.F. walk.

Hire cars are very cheap in Tassie, so it was by this method that we travelled around during our holiday. Leigh Gluson from SCS was our host at Mole Creek together with a small team from that Club. Also present were an even smaller VSA team who were there primarily for bushwalking. There were also several cows, leeches and birds etc.

Our first cave was the beautiful Kubla Khan - Meredith, Rod, Ric and I took 18½ hours doing a trip through this cave, spending several hours photographing in Pleasure Dome - this was fairly arduous as this is a "boots off" area, so feet get cold and sore from walking up this wonderful amphitheatre of rimstone pools. Phil and Sally investigated the first section of the cave and Di, Leigh, Mieke Vermuelen and Ron Mann did a 6½ hour touristy from the top entrance to the Khan Chamber.

Our next caving day, whilst Leigh took a small team into Herbert's Pot, was a

leisurely exploration of Crocus Cave. This well decorated stream passage cave ends in a long series of muddy crawls, a real break for those of us with wet suits. The following day after a short drive to the Allumn Cliff and the Mersey River, the girls headed back home, leaving the boys to have a 4 hour look at Lynds' Cave.

The last day at Mole Creek was spent in Herbert's Pot. Leigh's party had left the 90ft pitch rigged (ladders), so we made good time down to the stream passage where we had taken the option to go upstream to have a look at the 30ft waterfall (Ric was so impressed he waded in neck high to the foot of the fall to pose for photographs). During the ascent out, Phil lost his footing on a chimney, and fell 6 ft onto his back - fortunately without injury, although slightly embarrassed.

Torn overalls were sacrificed on the campfire as we bid farewell to Mole Creek to automobile through the great lakes to Hobart. In Hobart, we hired a luxurious flat near Leigh's place for a few days during which time a slide show of Tassie caves was organised for us and preparation of tackle for Khazad Dum carried out. (A few enjoyable hours were spent across the road at St. Ives Hotel, too!)

On the Saturday, Leigh took Ric, Rod and myself on a gruelling but satisfying 15 hour bottoming of K.D., with Phil giving surface support and driving. We South Australians found the climb out fairly arduous despite our before trip training - our fearless leader lapped it up. "Good old K.D., feel it doing you good!" It took almost 7 hours at Sandy Bay Caravan Park laundry to wash all the gear - one lady onlooker wasn't impressed when I submerged my camera into the suds and rinsed it off - (Nikonos).

Rod and Phil left for home leaving Ric and I to do some walking around Ida Bay - Vanishing Falls was out of the question as we only had eight days left - not to mention gross over-estimation of our stamina, especially after K.D. During our short stay at Ida Bay, we managed to do a small amount of walking, fishing, shooting and train rides. We visited Hastings Tourist Cave and strolled in as far as the Grand Fissure in Exit Cave.

All CEGSA trips come back from Tassie full of good stories and great caving - this trip was no exception.

Our thanks go to Leigh and Friends for time and hospitality.

TERRY REARDON.

SOUTH FLINDERS

PARTY:

30th JUNE, 1979.

Chris and Annette Bates, Deb James, Martin Carnes, Ric Hutchings, Meredith and Terry Reardon.

This trip was billed as a "New Cave Exploration" - the caves were from a location map Kevin found of A. Hill's drawn in 1968. However the locations were found to correspond to the Arcoota Creek Caves, F17 and F5, so a touristry of the caves of that area was decided upon.

On Saturday, I met Allan Hammat at Bagalowie Homestead who now looks after the Buckalowie Creek Caves area. Allan's No: is Carrieton 28R. He expressed concern at reports of damage to Mairs and Clara St. Dora and will not permit entry to cavers unless they carry CEGSA Membership cards. The keys to the caves are now kept by CEGSA and the Manager of the Minburra Station 40 miles from the caves.

Saturday night we camped by Arcoota Creek and caved for a few hours before hitting the sack. The cave is a criss-cross maze of narrow, horizontal passages of good solid rock and dry dusty floor, entrance is gained through a 2 metre square and 50 metre (I think) long adit or by one of the few shafts opened to the surface. The cave is the home for about half a dozen bats and some red-backed spiders.

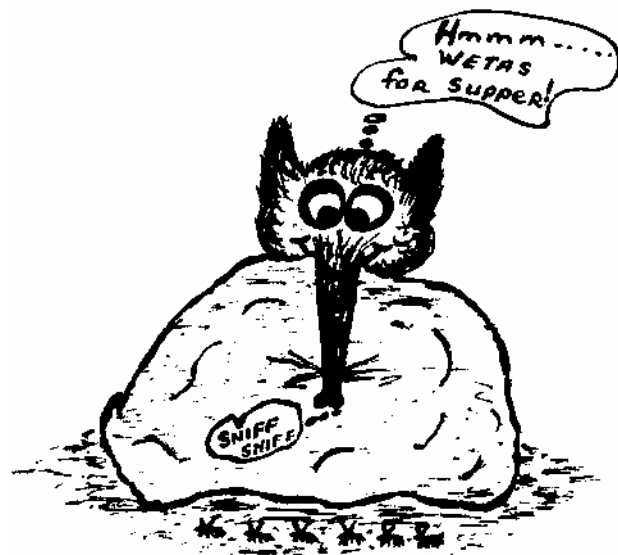
On Sunday we visited Mt. Simms Cave. After some trouble with seized locks on the gate our party crawled through small passages which were hot and dusty. Bat guano was abundant and was uncomfortable and unpleasant to the nose. The work through this initial inconvenience was well

rewarded as we emerged into the lake chamber exposing one of the most beautiful sights of our caving careers.

The lake itself was clear and blue, but the most beautiful aspect was the calcite sheet on the water surface and on the chamber walls and floor. The water level had been about 3m higher, and as the level dropped, calcite flakes, pristine and white, were draped over the walls and rock. Extreme care was taken to avoid damage to the flakes whilst exploring the bottom large chamber. It was sad to leave this superb grotto.

I am sorry that I hadn't taken more notice of Dot's reports on the Flinders Ranges Caves, and look forward to more trips in that area.

TERRY REARDON.



EYRE PENINSULA

PARTY:

JUNE LONG WEEKEND.

Di Ancell, Rod McDougal, Joy McCann, Ian Lewis, Meredith and Terry Reardon.

AIM: A casual trip to catch up with Jerry de Graaf, do a spot of fishing and inspect some of the caves.

On Saturday Ian (and Joy) being late ... the rest of us visited Jerry and Carol in the morning and after lunch motored to Whalers Way to check out the Heavy Breather. This cave is quite difficult to get to, but highly recommended on a visit to the Peninsula.

The entrance is about door size and as the waves crash in at a lower entrance, a large volume of air rushes out of the upper entrance with enough force to give anyone standing at the entrance a rude shock. As the waves recede, air rushes back in, thus making entry into the cave one of very very careful timing.

Ian and Joy caught up with us on our return from this cave.

Sunday, Jerry and Carol joined us early in the morning, to spend the day in the Sheringa area. We checked out a cave shaft north of Sheringa which Jerry had found earlier in the year but had not bottomed for lack of tackle. Although the shaft looked promising, a descent of 30 ft of ladder revealed only a small belled-out chamber, typical of most of the caves in the area.

We spent a half an hour or so looking around some paddocks for more entrances but in vain.

We returned to Lake Hamilton from where Jerry and Carol returned to Port Lincoln.

On dusk a lightning and ear-abusing trip to the coast to see the cliffs at Lake Hamilton proved most interesting. That evening we looked at a most promising cave entrance that requires a solid amount of digging but the prospects look really good. Two hours were spent investigating Homestead Cave another not to be missed.

Monday, Rod, Di, Meredith and I drove to Talia, and inspected the two sea caves there.

IN RETROSPECT

We were most grateful to Maureen and Bill Nosworthy, Lake Hamilton Homestead, for their friendliness and the use of the shearers quarters on Sunday night - their hospitality is renowned state-wide.

Eyre Peninsula is well worth making an effort to visit for caving and scenery. Jerry and Carol de Graaf are now living in Adelaide.

N.B. We caught NO fish!

TERRY REARDON.

NARACOORTE

PARTY:

28th and 29th JULY, 1979

Terry Reardon, Michael Rochler, Kevin Mott and Dale Arnott.

This trip was primarily designed to finalize arrangements for the July exercise. Because previous commitments made it impossible to travel down on Friday night, I made the mammoth journey on Saturday morning. When Dale and I arrived at the Naracoorte Hilton, we found ourselves in the middle of a real rescue. A member of a FUSS party dislocated a shoulder in the

Dug Tunnel in Victoria Fossil Cave. A doctor was called in from Naracoorte and the patient eventually exited from the cave under her own power.

Later that afternoon Fox Cave was visited to find a suitable place in which to place the casualty and to show others what the cave had to offer.

By the time everyone decided to exit it was already dark, so the Naracoorte Hotel was nominated as the trough site for the night. During the evening we were entertained by a continual stream of young people having to visit the little room. Among this illustrious group was a young gentleman known as "Slash", who enlightened us on the "advantages" of living

in the country. Later that evening he became somewhat highly agitated when a cigarette butt died in his beer.

Sunday, while Kevin and Terry discussed the exercise with the Police, SES and St. John Ambulance, Michael explored V.D.C. Cave with the owner's son.

KEVIN MOTT.

EXERCISE VENUE: S102

NARACOORTE
RESCUE EXERCISE

11th and 12th AUGUST 1979

PARTICIPANTS:

C.E.G.S.A.	11
Naracoorte S.E.S.	6
Kensington & Norwood S.E.S.	5
Visitors	3
Total:	25

This year the format of the exercise was altered so people participating may better appreciate the time and effort required to extricate a patient. Saturday morning was utilised as a training session with the exercise following in the afternoon. The debriefing was held on Sunday morning and abseiling and laddering exercises occupying Sunday afternoon. The morning sessions consisted of:-

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1) introduction to the exercise | T. Reardon |
| 2) call out procedure | K. Mott |
| 3) first aid (St. John) | R. Rouston |

The patient (Meredith Reardon) was placed near the second lake at the bottom of a small crevice. Her injuries were a broken ankle, bruising and lacerations. During the first aid lecture, Meredith was placed in position within the cave. This took longer than anticipated due to the presence of 2 brown snakes below the entrance pitch.

At 11.45, National Parks were alerted that two cavers were overdue on a trip to S102. The Police were notified at 1200 and at 1215 were met at the corner of the Caves Road and Dump Road. Both groups then proceeded to the cave. As the situation was being discussed at the cave entrance, the second member of the overdue party exited from the cave in a highly agitated and distressed state. His appearance on the surface was not noticed until he attacked the nearest "rescuer" seeking help. He was immediately treated for shock, exposure and hysteria. While being treated, he was questioned regarding what had happened but was of little

practical use. In the meantime, a party of two; one with knowledge of the cave and the other with knowledge of first aid were despatched underground to commence an initial search. A second party of three was despatched to assist the first party. Time was lost here as communication in the entrance area was difficult and it was taking seven minutes per person to lower each person down the entrance pitch.

St. John and S.E.S. were placed on standby with the S.E.S. eventually being called out. A half hour was lost there as the S.E.S. were initially called out to the Caves Reserve. With the arrival of the S.E.S. a telephone link was established between the surface and the base of the entrance. It was 3 hours after the first party was despatched that the first reports about the patient began to reach the surface.

After establishing the patients obvious injuries, no check was made for further injuries till later in the exercise. With the injuries treated and the patient's condition stabilised, she was transported through the first chamber via a "human crutch". No check was made of the patient's pulse rate or temperature. A stretcher was not used through the rock pile because of the difficulty of manoeuvrability. Instead the patient was guided feet first through the pile.

The patient was placed in a Paraguard stretcher at the base of the entrance. There was some difficulty in transferring excess below-ground personnel to the surface as the patient approached the entrance. The stretcher was hauled in a vertical position to the surface. The patient preferred to have her hands free so that she could help manoeuvre the stretcher herself.

The patient was finally removed alive from the cave at 1830

I would like to thank all those people who took part in the exercise which, despite the cold, wet and windy conditions at the cave site, was an unqualified success.

KEVIN MOTT.



TOWN WELL CAVE - CURRAMULKA

PARTY:

16th SEPTEMBER, 1979.

Di Ancell, Rod McDougal, Martin Carnes, Phil Skene, Meredith and Terry Reardon - and Visitors, Dave Allen and Michael Reeves.

Most of us had arrived at the cave entrance by 10.30 a.m., and following some trial and error, the pitch was rigged in such a way that a rope for SRT was anchored to one of the angle iron droppers and backed up by the other; the ladder was secured to my car with a belay rope to the large concrete block to the S.E.

found the squeeze fairly easy, but Martin and I had some difficulty. This however became a major obstacle for me coming back out. After crushed shoulder and ribs, a G-pick was called for and the opening slightly enlarged - it is still probably Mott proof - definitely Hallet proof!

All of the party abseiled into the cave, including Dave and Mike who had very little experience in the technique - a separate belay was given to these guys as well as a bottom belay.

A short excursion into Stooges and quick descent to tack level brought us to our time limit. The climb out proved to be exhausting for all but was achieved fairly quickly with some jumaring and others laddering. Some bone material was brought out for identification.

Although the initial intention was to push some of the passage leading north (towards the pub) it was obvious that with the loss of time on the pitch, a general look at the cave was in order.

Town Cave is a hard sporty cave and well worth visiting. I have been heard to say on all trips so far, that I'll never go in there again, but whilst I'm writing this report two days later, I'm contemplating one more trip.

We headed South following the main line of the cave, to re-assess the push potential in an area that Rod and I had looked at on our previous trip. This involved negotiating a nasty squeeze called the jack-knife. Most

TERRY REARDON.

CORRA LYNN

PARTY:

29th and 30th SEPTEMBER, 1979

Graham Pilkington, Frank Hendricks, Peter O'Carrol and Tony Morcom.

Frank and I arrived Saturday morning on a day forecast as strong winds for Adelaide. That is, we caved up trying to pitch out tent, even though sheltered by the water tank and a Landrover.

70mm high occurred in form like fungus bristles on possum droppings. Flowers were dominant on the 1m high roof but needles from the clay floor. On the roof there were some hair-like filaments that moved when wafted; I doubt if they were spider threads but that is a possibility. Spiders and their silk threads have been noted in many parts of Corra Lynn.

Peter and Tony weren't due until 4 p.m., so we visited the new extension at 30.25/49.95 L near to the sink, to do exploration, photography and a survey. That might sound an ambitious list to complete in four hours but the total surveyed length was only 25m (and five tight spots). Photography was limited to views of gypsum flowers and some needles. Several bunches of needles up to

In the evening, the four of us travelled to the dig at 29.05/50.05 M at the bottom of the Giant's Staircase, mainly to familiarize Peter and Tony with CorraLynn Cave. A short time was spent excavating

and then we exited for the night. That is, two did. I had to return for some gear I'd left behind, must be getting old.

Sunday I decided to continue yet another Dick's Extension survey, starting from my previous work on 15th July. We spent about 4 hours for the traverse loops and wall detail to R.D.F. 20 (Southern Cross) via the bottom of the first crevasse and the top of Ramshorns Crevasse. The R.D.F. to R.D.F. error was 0.2m using fibreglass tape, 1 deg. hand compass and the method of horizontals and verticals, compass aligned on tape.

A quick trip was made to the maze to the N.E. of Bushwalkers Chamber to investigate

the extent and complexity of the maze which is the only known section of Corra Lynn without a map of any sort.

My estimate is that 200 to 300m of complex multi-level passages exist there. The large dual pits are connected via a 2m x 2m passage at about 6m below Lower Levels. Maybe a hint of a Basement Level?

The far east edge of this must be VERY close to the N.W. passages off The Octopus Chamber.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

SELICK'S HILL CAVE - A5

PARTY:

30th OCTOBER, 1979

Martin Carnes, Stan Flavel, Michael Rochler, Phil Skene, Neil Smith and Terry Reardon.

A hasty round-up at the last General Meeting resulted in the above party willing to risk their necks to have a crack at the Sellick's Hill Cave. We all agreed to do it on a week night after work.

It took about 3½ hours to have a reasonable look around the cave. A5 is about 240 ft deep - one of the deepest caves in South Australia, only the Nullarbor caves being deeper. The entrance is situated in a cutting on the side of the Main South Rd and is gated. The cave is probably best described as a deep fissure with umpteen chokes, over and under which the intrepid caver has to manoeuvre in order to get to the bottom.

Quite a lot of these chokes are unstable and some cementing has been done to secure these to make the cave safer. The cave offers an internal ladder pitch of about 60 ft most of which is not free hanging, in fact, the ladder is mainly used for hand holds, as the pitch is really a narrowish passage containing a series of short pitches. There is a very secure anchor for the ladder that is bolted to the wall.

A lot of water seeps into the cave, leaving some calcite deposits. At the

bottom, there is a very impressive wall covering of white oolites, unfortunately, spoiled in places by muddy boot marks where cavers have chimneyed to get to the bottom. There are some stalactites and salt crystal formations.

We had a look at Max Meth's and Grant Gartrell's dig area and concluded that the boys have a lot of work to do.

Although a smallish cave, Sellick's Hill cave is quite sporty and impressive - my impression is that it is fairly safe if due care is taken.

TERRY REARDON.



RENDLESHAM CAVE

PARTY:

17th & 18th NOVEMBER, 1979

P. Bell, J. Bernardo, Graham, N. Smith, D. Arnott, I. Popoff, J.A. Smith and K. Mott.

I left for Millicent on Friday morning so I could discuss the clean-up of Rendlesham Cave with the district council. Prior to meeting Peter at the Millicent B.P., I spent some time sorting out anomalies in the surface survey of 5L86. Friday night was spent huddled under a blanket because it got cold and my sleeping bag was away getting stuffed.

Saturday morning everyone was up at 6am except for Peter. We suspect he still suffers time-lag since exiting from W.A., which has now slipped 21 hours behind us. Following breakfast a quick 'recce' of the surface to determine the extent of the rubbish then several abortive attempts at removing one of the FJ's wedged in the entrance. At 10 o'clock, it was unanimously disagreed that it was time to adjourn to Millicent for sustenance. Somehow, I get the impression that the locals aren't quite used to seeing four guys sitting in the gutter waving at them while eating ice-cream and drinking Coke.

Back at the cave we were busy ripping off the doors of the FJ, when Neil rolled up with the rest of the crew. Time off was allowed for the new arrivals to be given a tour of the site, inspection of the camp and of course, lunch. After lunch the two cars in the main entrance were ripped out and deposited over the fence for removal by the council. Carology is a helluva lot more fun than the gibberology. Most of the visible rubbish was hauled out of the main entrance.

During the morning a local kid wandered onto the scene and helped us for a while. Apparently his dad dumped the cars, so we told him what we thought of people who indiscriminately dump rubbish. He left shortly after. Another farmer turned up in the afternoon and seemed interested in our work. He was asked for the loan of a tractor to remove the remaining car bodies. While we were discussing the use of his tractor, Igor announced that there was a live dog

under the rubbish in one of the entrances.

Sure enough, there was a dog, the fur, skin and bones type German Shepherd dog whimpering away at the base of the entrance. A hole was made in the rubbish and said dog was brought to the surface. He was subsequently christened Rendlesham - (Rendle, or Randy to his acquaintances). Not having the heart to see Rendlesham put down, he was transported back to Adelaide and at present is residing at Payneham.

Neil later pulled the wire out of another entrance exposing a magnificent 10m entrance. This was later covered with a car body to stop anything falling in. Joyanne's baby, Thea, was ill during the day so was taken into Millicent Hospital. Thea was admitted and had to spend Saturday and Sunday nights there.

A re-shuffle of the vehicles was made so Igor and Joyanne could be left with a vehicle.

On Sunday, the cave was surveyed in and some people did a quick touristy prior to departing for Naracoorte.

Peter and crew did the Cathedral - Tomato connection. The rest visited Fred and Neville at Henschke's Quarry and did a quick check level survey.

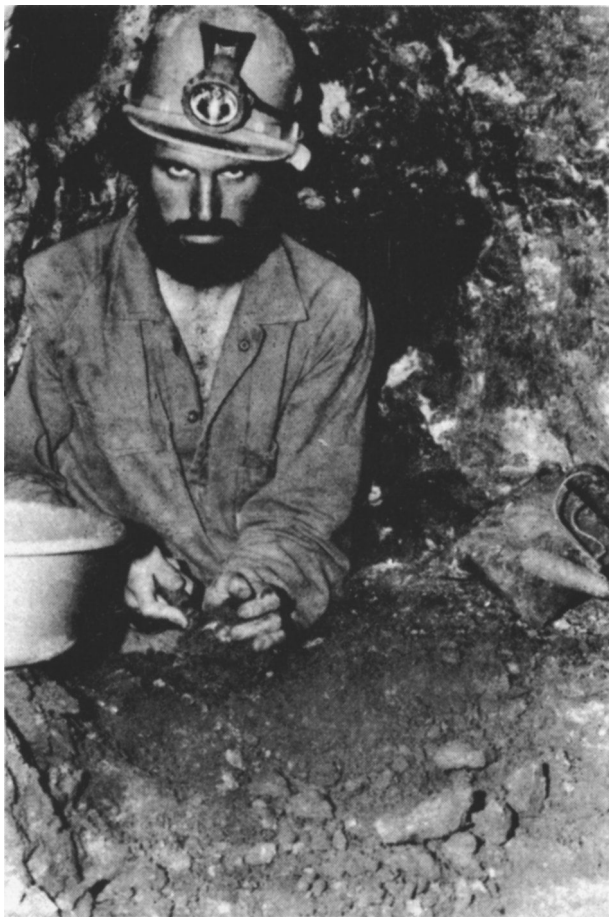
KEVIN MOTT.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

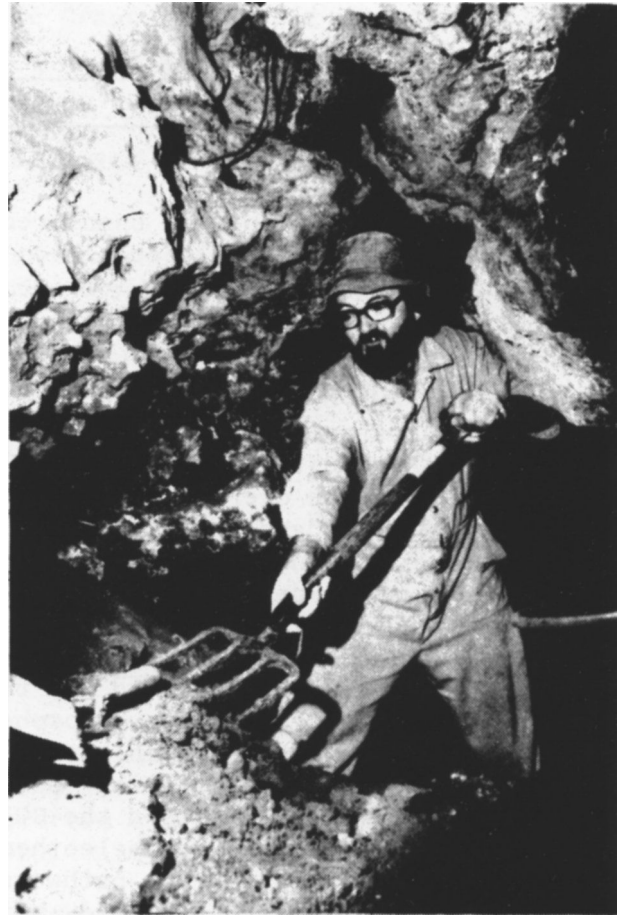
NEIL SMITH:

"You can't start de-meeting without de-corum."

EDITOR'S FOOTNOTE: From a very reliable source of information, the above mentioned dog was as close to "Death's Door" as any animal would wish to be. According to the Vet it had used up all of its reserve strength and if Kevin had not rescued it, it would have died a slow horrible death by starvation. Congratulations Kevin, another successful SEARCH and RESCUE OPERATION, only this time you will have a very grateful "friend" for life!



"I told you before and now for the last time – the answer is NO !!!"



"Alright then. If that's your attitude, I'll fix you! Take this"

"NO! Wait! ... Wait! Don't bury me!!"



OTHER ARTICLES

The Editor apologises to Mr. Ed Bailey and Members of C.E.G.S.A. for misplacing this important article. It should have been published in the May edition.

REPORT ON THE THIRD CAVE TOURISM AND MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE MT. GAMBIER, S.A., from 30th APRIL to 4th MAY, 1979.

This conference was jointly sponsored by the Australian Speleological Federation and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of S.A.

Never being aware that the word "Management" appears in the title of the conference, MANAGEMENT, with all its implications, was the overwhelming theme throughout the five days in Mt. Gambier. The depth to which Management responsibilities extend was amply demonstrated by a paper on Cave Corrosion by Tourists at Waitomo, New Zealand. There, surface pitting of speleothems has been investigated and the reason satisfied. If the cave atmosphere contains carbon dioxide (CO₂) in concentrations above 2400 parts per million (ppm), i.e., 7 times above normal, then the CO₂ combines with the moisture on speleothems and on cave roofs above tourist pathways, producing unsaturated carbonic acid, which attacks calcite. After a thorough investigation the only practical preventive measure adopted was to monitor the CO₂ levels and to close the cave, either wholly or in part, when CO₂ concentrations exceed 2400 ppm.

By graphing CO₂ levels against time and visitor numbers, it became possible to anticipate excessive CO₂ levels and to close the cave. Each tourist exhales approx. 1.2 litres of CO₂ per minute and it can be readily appreciated that the excess CO₂ from a large body of visitors would take a long time to be removed from the cave by natural means.

The conference was officially opened on the Monday morning by Peter Cornish, Acting Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of S.A. This was followed by the keynote address, given by Adrian Davey of the Australian Speleological Federation. Lunch followed, and then the first field trip

of the conference was underway, visiting Dingley Dell near Port MacDonnell, Piccaninnie Ponds and Princess Margaret Rose cave.

The second field trip took place the following day and was a full day trip to Naracoorte. Dominic Williams from the Flinders University gave a paper on the discovery of and the development and research on the fossil finds in the Victoria Fossil Cave and then continued on to the building and equipping of the Interpretation Centre, enumerating the difficulties encountered and their solution. We had the privilege of inspecting the Interpretation Centre twelve days before it was officially opened by the Minister for the Environment, Dr. Cornwall. The Centre and the new developments in the three tourist caves generated much interest among the delegates.

On Wednesday, a full programme of papers was presented, followed by the third and last field trip, which was an evening visit to the Tantanoola Cave. Here, the delegates saw what might be termed the "traditional" tourist cave, with coloured lighting and "gimmicky" displays.

Thursday was devoted entirely to further conference papers and Friday was used for summing up, the passing of the conference resolutions and the voting of Busselton, W.A., as the venue for the next conference in 1981.

Apart from a brief mention of some of the work reported on in two papers, I, have not dealt with any of the subject matters covered by the 15 papers which

were presented at the conference, nor of the often lively discussions undertaken by the 34 delegates. Some of the liveliest discussions naturally took place outside the more formal surroundings of the conference centre, namely in the bus on field trips, but principally around the dinner table and bar:

All the papers will be published by the National Parks & Wildlife Service in the form of a proceedings, therefore, you will be able to read these papers when a copy of the proceedings becomes available in the CEGSA Library. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase your own copy, sufficient copies will be printed to allow anyone to do this. Unfortunately, 'and regrettably!', I doubt whether some of the more informal discussions will be included.

Having lived with the organisational problems associated with the conference for well over a year, I thought actually attending the conference would be a sinecure. However, I was wrong, there were the usual crop of little snags, the financial ones were ably solved by Graham. Pilkington and I managed to skate round most of the remainder.

My overall reaction to the conference was that it was much more impressive than I had imagined. The breadth and depth of the subject matters dealt with in the papers were very thought provoking. We had delegates from every State and Territory plus one from New Zealand. I repeat what I wrote earlier in this report the one thing that was constantly reiterated was management. This applied to all caves, whether wild or tourist. Each year there are ever greater pressures being placed on karst and cave features and this is a management problem, mainly in the public sector.

It is the duty of responsible caving organisations, such as CEGSA, to play their part in ensuring that preservation of karst areas is facilitated by assisting management wherever possible and to bring to these problems the unique experiences and knowledge that lie predominantly within caving organisations.

ED. BAILEY.

ADVERTISING IN THE CEGSA NEWSLETTER

There are three ways in which advertisements will be accepted.

- a) INSERT - The Advertiser supplies the pre-printed advertisement to be inserted or stapled (only if A4) in the Newsletter.

PRICE: \$15.00 per issue.

- b) TYPED INCLUSION - Advertisement is typed into the Newsletter. No photographs or diagrams. Only those print sizes that the typist can easily handle will be allowed.

PRICE: Up to ½ page \$15.00 per issue.
Up to full page \$20.00 per issue.

- c) OFFSET PRINTED - Can include photographs, diagrams and a variety of print sizes. Any size up to a full page.

PRICE: \$35.00 per issue and a further \$5.00 for any prints that need to be screened.
\$15.00 for subsequent issues only if notice is given prior to the first run, otherwise \$20.00.

CONDITIONS OF ADVERTISING

- 1) The above prices are subject to change without notice by the Committee.
- 2) All advertisements must be approved by the CEGSA Committee.
- 3) CEGSA members receive concession rates.



JIM CUNDY.
for the Committee.

SURVEYING

During the past few years we have seen a decline in the number of surveying projects undertaken by members of CEGSA. Many theories have been advanced for the decline in this field of activity. These range from:

- 1) Reaction to surveying boom in 1976.
- 2) Disinterest in this activity.
- 3) Lack of knowledge or confidence in the field of cave survey.
- 4) Unaware that there were many caves left to be surveyed.

Each of the above factors may have been or still may be valid reasons but surely not insurmountable ones.

1976 saw a concerted effort to survey the caves on the Naracoorte Reserve and elsewhere. Practically every weekend saw surveying trips with at least 15 people involved. Unfortunately, the enthusiasm eventually burnt itself out and only those with a real interest for surveying carried on. Many of those taking part also diverted their remaining energies to other activities. With a significant change of membership over the last few years, this reaction should be nullified.

The majority of cavers would rather explore the whole realm of caving rather than

focus their activity around one aspect. Other facets such as digging, exploration and photography hold more appeal and the rewards for achievement are more tangible. Unless you are therefore, a dedicated idiot, who wants to lie around for hours on a cold muddy floor or scramble over sharp pebbles while a totally insensitive dictator screams out invectives and instructions which make sense to no-one. This only promotes disinterest and if any one was interested then that interest is swiftly knocked out of them.

Surveying trips need not be dull and boring and lifeless. Even medicine in small doses is beneficial. Rather than run pure surveying trips, a multi-purpose trip combining touristy or photography side trips helps to break up the boredom of surveying. So often cave surveyors tend to get bogged down with detail of the cave. If the cave has chambers or passages of significant size the first survey party merely defines the parameters of the cave and establishes marked survey points within the cave. Subsequent survey teams can then pick up the detail within the cave. People involved with the survey can then see some positive results for their labours.

KEVIN MOTT.



FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

The Members of C.E.G.S.A. send their very best wishes to Rod McDougal and Di Ancell on the occasion of their forthcoming marriage on Wednesday evening, 5th December, 1979 at 6.30 p.m.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to both of you.



Up till now unless someone carefully studied O.P.5. they would not have been aware that the cave existed. The cave was first visited by Hill & Marlow in 1958 when a preliminary sketch map was prepared. The only other recorded visit is by Sexton in 1963.

From a series of six window entrances which drop 5m to the floor, the cave trends in a South-easterly direction. The main chamber is 30x15m and slopes to the east. At the S.E. end a low muddy flattener continues for approx. 30m. Guano deposits were noticed on the floor.

In August this year the group received a request from the Ranger at the Naracoorte Caves for information about the cave. The Dept of Lands had received an application to quarry the site, presumably for road metal, and wanted to know if the cave was worthy of saving.



General Meetings over the last few months have been well attended and enthusiasm in CEGSA is really high.

General Meetings have changed format and style quite a bit. Firstly the Committee has recognised that the G.M. is a venue for members to get together and have a yarn and hear about past and future trips - a lot of people only catch up with one another once a month, at G.M.s. The Committee has also realised that despite interpretation of our Constitution, that members intention of electing members to a committee is to administrate the club, the details of which in the main are of little interest to the average member. In the past many meetings have deteriorated into long debates over business and meeting protocol - caves and caving is what people come to hear about.

So now, only interesting business is discussed and formalities kept to a minimum. Usually a guest speaker or film has been arranged, which follows for about 1 hour after the business.



The Dept. of Lands was informed of the nature of the cave and its unique location. Subsequent trips by F. Aslin and K. Mott to the cave established that the entrances were now cluttered with old cars; the FJ's being of no use to Fred so were deemed worthless.

Dept. of Lands officials at Naracoorte were informed that bats still appear to inhabit the cave and that this is the only known cave in that portion of the Woakivine dune. As such the cave ought to be preserved and a recommendation that the application be refused has been made.

It is now up to the members of the Group to organise work parties to clean up the cave and ensure it remains environmentally suitable for the bats.

KEVIN MOTT.

THE SPIRIT OF CAVING.

Trip reports are then given - all trip leaders are encouraged to report on past trips using slide aids, including our map slides. Future trips and projects are presented followed by supper. It is intended to have "gear nights" e.g., lights and helmets are put on display and merits of each type discussed.

It would be good to see as many people as possible to take part in the G.M. - to talk on trips, raise interesting points or suggest ideas. New members are invited to ask for trips to be run to areas of their interest. There are a lot of projects in S.A. caving awaiting attention - many caves have yet to be surveyed and mapped; there is endless exploration to be done, slide collections to be compiled, a multitude of biological data to be collected and assessed and other special projects as mentioned at the last G.M.

The future of CEGSA is very bright with the influx of new members, especially if we longer-standing members invite, train and encourage these new people to be part of it.

TERRY REARDON.

MT. ETNA CAVES CONSERVATION

The Club has received yet another letter from the University of Qld Speleological Society urging us for continued support.

Support not just for the caves but for the 250,000 Little Bent-Winged Bats who, could face extinction.

This of course, must be extremely embarrassing for CEGSA members, while our Northern colleagues fight a ceaseless and exhausting battle for year after year, we do practically nothing. In fact, our only real contribution was probably early in the year when a number of letters were written to the local M.P.'s and the Queensland Tourist Bureau.

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE DID MORE!!!

A brochure has been produced which presents a case for the mountain preservation and this should provide you with enough background knowledge to write some letters.

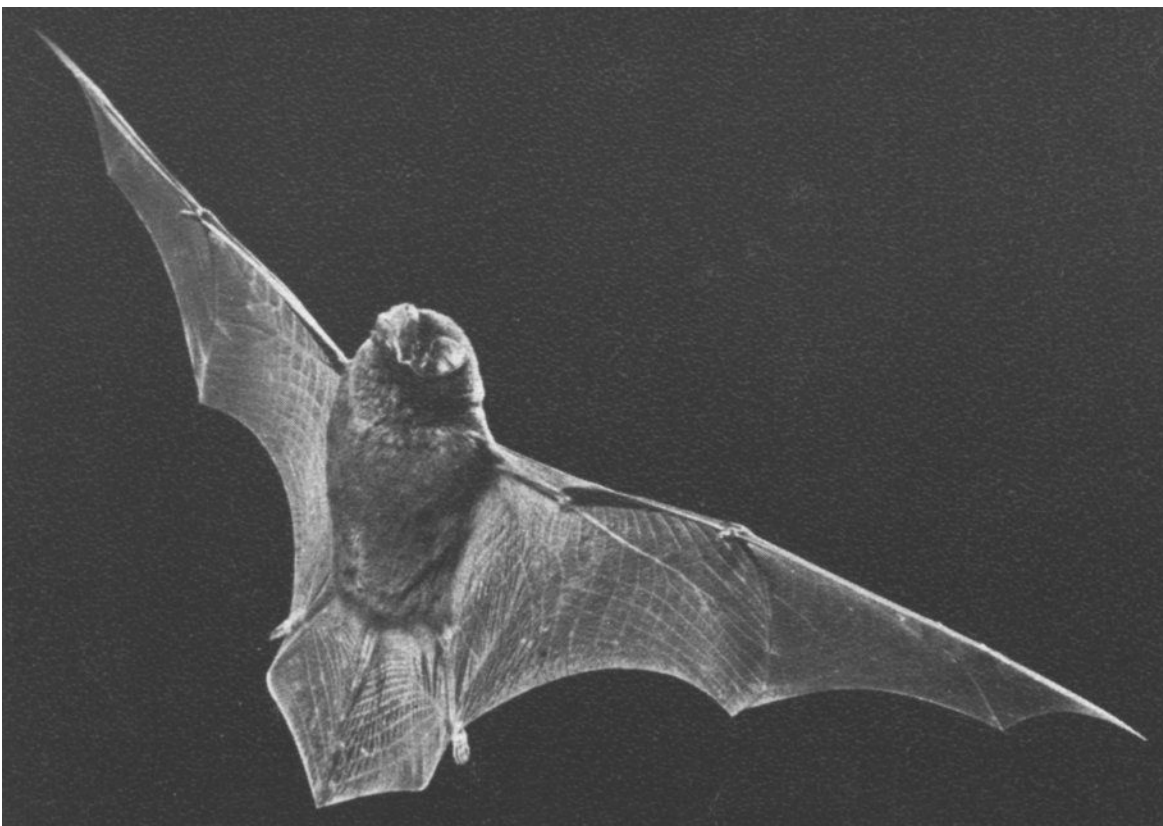
In particular, we are being asked to write to:

- Our Federal Member, urging him/her to support the inclusion of Mt. Etna in the Federal Government's Register of the National Estate. Mt. Etna is already on the interim list but the Queensland Government has objected.
- The Queensland Premier (The Hon. J. Bjelke-Petersen, M.L.A.)- and the Minister for Mines (The Hon. R.E. Camm, M.L.A.) C/- Parliament House. Brisbane, Queensland, 4000.

The brochures can be obtained from me when I get them. It has been suggested that a brochure is enclosed with your letter.

Please, spend a small amount of time, and do write a letter of protest.

JIM CUNDY.



(Miniopterus schreibersii) - Bent Winged Bat

This is the little fellow who faces extinction unless YOU do something about it NOW !!!!

PROGRAM

DECEMBER

1st and 2nd	Canoeing	Katarapko Creek	J. Cundy
7th	ANNUAL DINNER	Stag Hotel, Adelaide	
8th and 9th			
12th	Committee Meeting	5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley	T. & M. Reardon
15th & 16th	Narrina Lake Cave		Terry Reardon
22nd & 23rd			
25th	Magic Cave		S. Clause
29th & 30th	Naracoorte		

JANUARY

5th and 6th			
13th	Selicks Hill		G. Pilkington
19th & 20th			
23rd	General Meeting	Slides	Museum Lecture Room - 8.00 p.m.
26th, 27th and 28th	A.S.F. Committee Meeting		Buchan
	Naracoorte		

FEBRUARY

2nd and 3rd			
10th	Field Day	Reynella	Kevin Mott
13th	Committee Meeting		
16th & 17th	Corra Lynn Cave		G. Pilkington
23rd & 24th			
27th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		Museum Lecture Room - 8.00 p.m.

MARCH

1st and 2nd	Occasional B.B.Q.	Umpherston Cave	Kevin Mott
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TRIP CONTACT LIST

Jim Cundy	C/- Coomandook Area School.		
Kevin Mott	23 Harcourt Road, Payneham	(w) 227 2704	(h) 42 5540
Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View	(w) 272 5711	(h) 264 2598
Terry Reardon	5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley.	(w) 258 8596	(h) 263 4879
S. Clause	C/- P.O. Box 1, North Pole (via Johnnies)		

**Have YOU commenced your
FIRST AID course yet ??? ...!**



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