

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

Volume No: 25, No: 1 May, 1980



N E W S L E T T E R



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

* EDITORIAL *

As your new Editor, I intend to make personal comments about various aspects of caving activities both here and interstate. As always it is your prerogative to write and exchange ideas either to agree or disagree and air your particular grievances. At least the verbal exchange may inject some life into a somewhat jaded scene.

Last year CEGSA generally wallowed in lethargy with little initiative being shown in starting new projects or even completing old ones. Caving trips went on as usual to the extent of a quick trip here and there, a little underground travelling, and back home.

The atmosphere at meetings appeared stale and apathetic. Happily, however, it seems we have a revival of interest.

I predict 1980 will see a resurgence of enthusiasm. Our meeting format has been changed. It may surprise some who have stayed away for some time to find business over with quickly, the rest of the evening being devoted to more interesting topics illustrated by slides. Every meeting brings new faces and our membership is rising. New members are being encouraged to take part in activities and older members being motivated into action. If you haven't been to a meeting for a while - come along - be surprised.

The boom years of the seventies have gone, petrol costs have curtailed many trips. This has resulted in significant projects being shelved. Sure there are still interstate and Nullarbor trips but many are deterred by rising costs. There are still many projects closer to home. A recent meeting at the Museum saw a group of dedicated enthusiasts discussing projects that CEGSA could undertake. Several possibilities were suggested and later this year it is hoped that many people will get involved in working towards a goal, something that will give satisfaction and a sense of personal achievement whilst at the same time furthering and fostering the aims of caving in this State.

A change of subject now - we thank the outgoing committee and our co-opted hardworking helpers and introduce our new incoming committee. The new committee is:

PRESIDENT	Graham Pilkington
VICE PRESIDENT/PUBLICATIONS	Dot Peisley
SECRETARY	Kevin Mott
TREASURER	Phil Skene
QUARTERMASTER	Meredith Reardon
MEMBERSHIP	Rod McDougall
TRIP ORGANISER	Terry Reardon
RECORDS	Neil Smith
MUSEUM REPRESENTATIVE	Neville Pledge

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

ASSISTANT PUBLICATIONS	Jan Peterson
ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP	Annette Bates
LIBRARIAN	Neil Smith
A.S.F. REPRESENTATIVE	Jim Cundy

DOT PEISLEY.

EDITOR.

W.E.A. COURSE

CEGSA will be conducting a course on Caves and Cave Exploration beginning June 12th at 7.30 p.m. at Adelaide University. Enrolments begin at W.E.A. in May for a cost of \$12.00 and the course will run for 4 weeks. We are aiming at a wide audience especially newcomers to caving and those wishing to learn more about caves. Find out about modern cave exploration, origin and development of caves, geology, cave formation and decoration, palaeontology, archaeology, flora and fauna and the cave ecosystem.

Talks are informal with discussions and illustrations by slides and all gear needed will be shown. Speakers include Dr. Rod Wells, Kevin Mott, Ian Lewis, Dot Peisley and Terry Reardon.

Come along, bring your friends, we promise an interesting and fun time for all.

C.E.G.S.A. CONSTITUTION: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Motion to be put at the JUNE General Meeting 1980:

- A. That 3(b) be amended by deleting "who are over 15 years of age and..."

C.E.G.S.A. RULES: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Motions to be put at the JUNE General Meeting 1980:

- B. That 4(c) be amended to read:
"Persons under 18 years of age may attend Group trips providing that a Member attending the trip takes full responsibility for them. The Trip Leader must be informed of this arrangement, in writing, prior to the trip."
- C. That 4(d) be deleted.
- D. That 10(d) be added to read:
"Trip Leaders have the authority to deny any person or member the privilege of attending their trip. Participants on a trip must obey the Trip Leader."

typist's note

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I regret that the Newsletter has had to revert back to the old format. I hope that by the time the next edition is due it will be printed in the usual way. I also regret that there are no "Nimrod" cartoons appearing in this edition.

Jan Peterson

* T R I P R E P O R T S *

NARRINNA LAKE CAVE - NARRINNA HUT CAVE - BACKWATER CAVE

September 1979

PARTY: Tony Ednacott, Wayne Goldsmith, Colin McRae,
 David Wright and families.

It was 17 years since my first visit to Narrina Lake Cave. Prior to that first visit I had a chat with Vic Linke and he mentioned two other caves in the area, which he had heard of, Narrina Hut Cave and another cave said to be in the side of a creek bed about 6 kilometres from the Lake Cave.

Once again the trip planning included another chat with Vic who gave me directions to the Narrina Hut Cave, and he gave further general directions to this other cave which a member of one of his trips claimed to have found in the side of a creek bed.

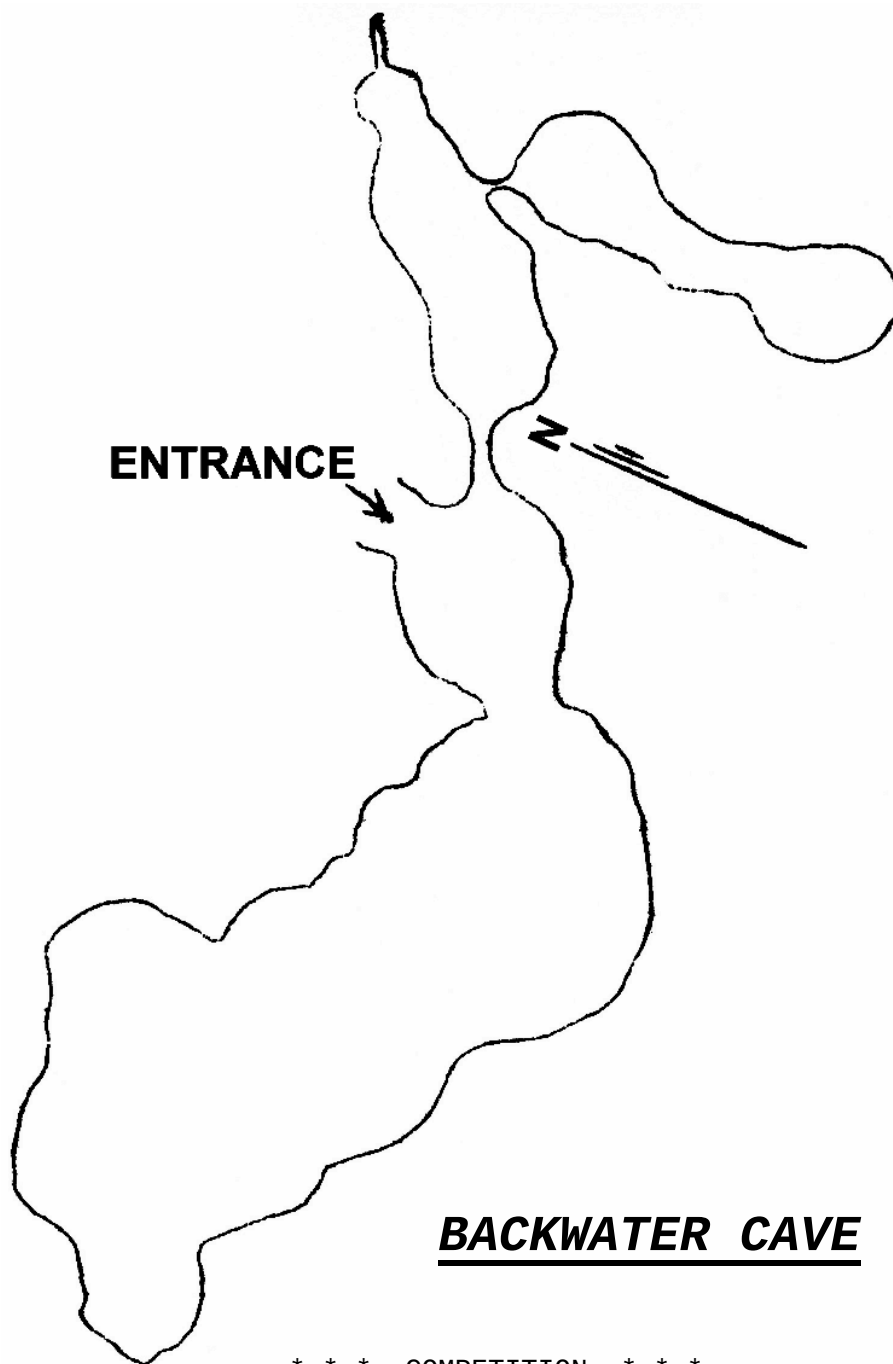
Upon arrival at Narrina we visited Jack Ireland, the owner of the station, and obtained permission to set up a base camp at Woodendinna Spring about 300 metres from the Lake Cave.

The following morning we spent an hour or two in the Lake cave as most of the party, although enthusiastic, were reasonably new to the mole-like experience. It was interesting to see that the water level was about a metre and a half higher than my first visit, so consequently the passage off to the right-hand side of the entrance was almost completely full of water.

In the afternoon the party set off for Narrina Hut, still full of enthusiasm. This meant a drive half-way around Narrina Pound in 4-wheel-drive vehicles. The scenery was tremendous as the track followed ridges most of the way in order to avoid the red clay pans in which it is so easy to bog any vehicle.

Late in the afternoon we located the cave entrance, after shifting several dead trees strategically placed over the entrance. Vic Linke had mentioned the need for approx. 30 metres of ladder, and so we duly fed 30 metres of ladder down an entrance of approx. 1.5m x 0.5m. At this point one of our valiant newcomers, Tony Endacott, was roped up and proceeded to descend. After 4m he called up to say that he couldn't descend any further as it was too narrow.

By this time the rest of our party were getting anxious to head back to camp. However, seeing I had come all this distance (and being a little stubborn), I wanted to see for myself. Being a little less in weight, I was able to descend approx. 5m before looking down another 10m or so to a nicely stacked excess of wire rope ladder. The cave went nowhere and I was able to see how Vic Linke could say that but for the strength of his companion he would still be stuck half-way down. Needless to say it was not quite up to the standard of the Lake Cave. However my curiosity was satisfied.



BACKWATER CAVE

*** * * COMPETITION * * ***

We need good quality black and white photographs for our front cover. We need them now! Are you going to be the lucky one? Submit your photograph now. It can be of anything related to caves, caving or caving personalities?! We offer a prize of a \$20.00 voucher generously donated by ADELAIDE PARTY AND CAMPING HIRE - so get clicking and rush your photos in!!!

FREE !!!

A great opportunity exists for you to update your collection of Newsletters. There are many issues of back numbers going **FREE.**

Great reading! Historical value?!

The following day we went into Blinman for a check-up on one of the vehicles and while there called in at Oratunga Homestead where I had a rewarding talk with the owner who told me the **cave I was looking for was in a** creek bed, but the creek was on the top of a range of hills about 10 kilometres from where our directions had led us. (This of course led me to doubt that Vic's companion had actually found the cave).

That afternoon we left our vehicles at some yards out from Backwater Bore and hiked the 7 kilometres to the top of the range of hills off to the right and then proceeded to search in a westerly direction along the top of the range.

After 3 kilometres we found the entrance which was at the bottom of a 10m diameter depression at the top of a valley. Backwater Cave itself was quite a thrilling discovery for our group (bearing in mind we are amateurs) because it is such a large cave.

The main cave consists of two main chambers being in succession, 50m and then 150m long with an average width of 3.5m with a constant slope down of 35 degrees. Off the first chamber, however, there is an entrance to a further chamber of 40m x 15m at the end of which there is a squeeze of approx. 15m which would go much further with easy removal of material to give a little more room to negotiate. Again off this chamber there is a squeeze through into a chamber off the right-hand side which is 35m long and averages 15m in width. There is an average height throughout of approx. 6-10m.

All things considered it is a cave with a lot of potential and warrants a lot more time than that which we had at our disposal.

On our last night I went with 3 volunteers into the Lake Cave again to try and penetrate the right-hand water-filled passage. When I had been in the cave before, the natural bridge on the right-hand side of the entrance was almost a metre out of the water and a friend from Tasmania and myself had swum to the end of a 15m passage and after diving under at the far end we had surfaced in another smaller chamber.

However, this time we could only swim about 10m along the passage and despite the semi-determined efforts of Colin McRae, we were unable to penetrate further.

As you may have gathered the party members were by now very enthusiastic moles and as a result we have 5 new Associate Members.

DAVID WRIGHT_

ANNUAL V.S.A. / C.E.G.S.A. DINNER

This year it is CEGSA's turn to make the arrangements for the "bunfight" to be held in June at Naracoorte. We guarantee that you will have a great time whether you go for the caving or just to socialise. This event is one of the few times when the majority of members can meet and go caving with another group. The dinner weekend usually has a competitive (though friendly) spirit with some kind of games being played. Last year through sheer force of numbers the VSA scraped in to win the sporting events so I hope that CEGSA members will turn out in droves to drive back those impertinent Victorians. (They think they can come over here and give us a load of cheek). Let's show them, let's see you at the dinner helping our side to win back the honours.

For those more dedicated to underground activities there will be trips to various caves to make it a pleasant and varied weekend giving total satisfaction all round.

SWAN REACH AREA SEARCHING FOR CAVE ENTRANCES FROM RIVER

November, 1979

PARTY: Robyn and Ron Allum, Peter Bell, Stan Flavel, Sylvia
 and Martin Usher, and Meredith Reardon.

The aim of the trip was to slowly raft down the river from Nildottie to Wangulla, however we achieved our aim a great deal faster than anticipated - we were sitting in the rubber raft inside a motor boat with a 50 h.p. outboard!

We launched the boat at Walter Flat and headed upstream to the cliffs opposite Wangulla where we investigated some overhang & niches. A 'dug out' in this area was the largest hole we saw all day. We dined in an idyllic spot under the shade of eucalypt trees and proceeded to the lagoon where Stan photographed some of the local birds. Yes! -- the birds were out in full force, pelicans and spoonbills and many others along the river and galahs and sparrows nesting in the cliffs.

The remainder of the cliffs upstream yielded no results, so we rested for a while under the shade of the weeping willows while an awful desire for ice-cream brewed within us! On to Nildottie Saveway Store! The walk uphill and half km to the store was rewarded by ice cream which gave us strength for the return trip.

The cliffs opposite Nildottie in the lagoon need to be checked out still as these cannot be seen from the main river.

The day was highlighted by an interesting return trip; including a look at the area around the Black Hill Marble Mine; a fossick around some rocks, stable, house and farm machinery.

And dinner at the hotel in Birdwood.

A good day - maybe next time the rafts and canoes may appear and everyone who says "I'll be there" will be there. (I must say after the party I had the night before the day nearly didn't materialise into anything more than "a day after the night before" for me either).

A note on the limestone in this region. It is crumbly and rich with well preserved fossils, early Miocene - 20-15 million years old.

MEREDITH REARDON.

HENSCHKE FOSSIL CAVE OPERATIONS

Since Christmas, four trips have been made to continue the excavations in this cave.

On the January 4-6th weekend, CEGSA members, Fred Aslin, Neville Pledge, John Bernardo, David and Craig Laslett and Harry Baker, with 19 other volunteers (?) descended on the cave. Excavation proceeded in three areas: the main passageway, where slumped, spilled and mixed dirt was removed in a major cleanup operation; a narrow side tunnel going towards the quarry and a wider buried tunnel also going eastwards where several bones of the giant Mallee Fowl (**Progora**) were found. An abundance of **Thylacoleo** (marsupial lion) fragments was found in a pocket in the cleanup area. An incisor believed to be of the giant rat-kangaroo (**Propleopus**) was also recovered.

Five weeks later, (February 9-10th) we were back: Fred and Jan, myself, Dot Peisley, Harry and seven others. The cleanup in the main passage was finished, and proper excavation continued downwards in amongst large rocks. The buried side tunnel also was pushed further, now curving around to the south, following the original cavern wall.

A very narrow (2-3 inches) air space provided incentive, as we could just see along it for several metres. An odd-shaped object could in fact be seen on the silt surface for the whole weekend, resolving itself into a skull as we dug closer. Just before we finished on Sunday, this skull was reached, with difficulty, and we found it to be from the extinct giant echidna (**Zaglossus ramsayi**) - about twice as large as the modern mainland echidna.

On March 8-9th we had 17 participants including Jan and Fred Aslin, myself, David Laslett and Harry Baker. Deep excavation in the main passage continued, reaching a depth of some 3.4m below the original silt surface. Work in the narrow side tunnel extended the excavation another metre forwards, finding a fragment of a large bird bone, possibly a black swan. In the buried tunnel, the area of the **Zaglossus** skull (H4) and the adjacent areas H5 and G5 were excavated. These were roughly 1m square, but only 45cm deep. To work here, we had to dig out the underlying rock, an awkward and tedious job.

The last trip for the season was on March 29-30th, with Fred, Meredith Reardon, myself, Jim Cundy and at least ten others. A clean-up in the region of the original excavation A1 was followed by the stabilization of a large loose boulder that had prevented excavation of the adjacent area A2. This done, Meredith and Maria Tysza started to excavate A2, and found the prize specimen for the weekend, an articulated partial skull and jaws of the giant wallaby **Protemnodon**.

I carefully excavated this fragile specimen and managed to get it safely back to Adelaide. Such articulated remains are extremely rare in cave deposits.

We also excavated in the buried tunnel, following the cave wall further around to the south, in areas I4 and J5. The tunnel will go a little further, but is narrowing rapidly. Finds included jaws of tasmanian devil and native cats.

NEVILLE PLEDGE.

NARACOORTE

26-28th January 1980

PARTY: Graham Pilkington, Ed Bailey, Jonathan Bailey.

CAVES TAGGED: U7, U9, U34, U35, U44, U48, U49, U50, U72, U99.

This was Jonathan's first real caving weekend (he's 7) hence we had a good excuse to take it easy. Basking in the sunshine, strolling between cave entrances with the occasional dip into cool walk-in caves. A good way of doing speleology. We tagged most of the caves visited but did not tag U1 (does the Vic-Fossil really need tagging?) nor U8 because of the blackberries and definitely not U100 because it's buried under burnt limestone - we might have to use a steel dropper for that one.

The only serious caving done was in Lost Cave, U34, which had a damp "sump". The entrance chamber pool was absent but the high water marks indicated that the sump should be traversable at all times. Unfortunately for us cavers, although only about 4m long, the sump-passage is of the squeeze type for large cavers. For those not in the know, Naracoorte's cave water levels reflect standing water level - there is no stream water. After a photographic session in the chamber past the sump-passage, I did some exploration of passages on the NW side of the entrance "pool". These are much more complicated than previously mapped and reminded me of Lower SE flattener caves like Furness's, L146. It consists of a 0.2 to 0.5m high phreatic maze at the usual water level, sticky mud floor with the occasional patch of flowstone, columns etc. A pool 0.2m deep was found in one passage but it had clean calcite decoration all around and in it, therefore, exploration did not proceed to the other side. This cave needs a new survey of the maze which is estimated at 100m of passage.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

SOCIAL NEWS

A spontaneous pre-wedding party held at Ric Hutchins' place at Norwood was well attended. The evenings' celebrations went very well with everyone seeming to have a good time. The bride-to-be and groom-to-be arrived and joined in the convivialities but unfortunately they had to leave moderately early. I'm happy to report that the wedding and reception took place without a hitch and Kevin and Julie Mott are now residing in their honeymoon cottage. Congratulations to you both.

SOUTH FLINDERS RANGES

26, 27, 28th January

PARTY: Roslyn and Peter Clarke.

After a late start from Broken Hill (lunchtime) on the Saturday, we drove to Bagalowie via the old Waukaringa goldfields north of Yunta, and "Baratta" H.S. We obtained a key from Kevin Pyecroft at "Bagalowie" H.S., and then selected a suitable camp site on the edge of Buckalowie Creek opposite Clara St. Dora.

Following a meal to help digest the dust of the afternoon's driving, we had a quick look inside the daylight chamber. We realised that the key given to us must be for Mairs. On Sunday morning we acquired the key for Clara St. Dora from Kevin, and then spent some time traversing the ridge with the hope of finding another entrance but of course, no such luck.

We spent about 3½ hours that afternoon doing a "touristy" and photographic trip in Clara St. Dora. We were very impressed. Daylight saving gave us the opportunity to look at Mairs, from the top only that is. It will still be there when next we visit.

On Monday morning we struck camp and headed south through deserted Johnsbury to Orroroo, where we partook of cold squashes at the local tavern (38°C in the shade that day). The station tracks we took back to Yunta led through some quite beautiful country, especially over the saddle between Black Rock (2753 ft.) and High Slate Hill.

PETER CLARKE.

C.E.G.S.A. HUT

Our hut at Naracoorte is due for demolition within twelve months. This means we must re-locate our activities off the reserve. No decision or viable alternatives have been suggested at this stage.

What are your opinions? Come along to a meeting to discuss this or alternatively contact a committee member or write to me, your Newsletter Editor. We need to know what you want - do it now!!

DOT PEISLEY.

CORRA - LYNN

16-17th February, 1980

PARTY: Graham Pilkington, Max Meth, George Parker, Stan Flavel.

VISITORS: Ken Johns, Judy Whitehouse, Bill Parker, John and Simon.

Saturday's nine hour trip was to Bushwalkers Chamber. While the others explored the area, three of us surveyed from central B.C. (RDF 4) to the back of Mott Spott Maze (RDF 5). This was a line traverse to find the error in previous surveys and then a tidy-up of some uncompleted passages and roofholes. The floorholes were explored but have yet to be surveyed. Mid-afternoon Simon and Bill left the cave to repair a carbide light while the rest of us started a dig at the bottom of the Twin Pits in the NE - Bushwalkers Maze. A skeleton, reasonably intact, was recovered from the original floor of the pit. Probably possum. We left the cave at 7 p.m. to see Ken and Judy setting off to Adelaide.

Sunday's caving started 9 a.m. and again concentrated efforts in the Bushwalkers area. A survey was made of the central-east side of B.C. to complete the Ian Lewis map of the chamber. Some of the close-by eastern passages were also surveyed.

The dig in the Twin Pits was initially made in two spots - central and south-end. The major excavation was in the centre from which about 1m was removed during the weekend. The walls of the pit are coated with knobbly cave coral which extended beneath the dirt floor to a buried, rotted flowstone floor. The flowstone was about 0.1m thick and supports the dirt pile that we had dug through. An air space of 0.1 to 0.2m exists beneath it, with a change of rubble and grey dirt above, to a reddish sand below. There was no evidence of any fossil material. In my opinion, the pit is the best site in the cave for getting down to the next level below the presently known ones, if such exists. The other deep pits, all in the same area, are much narrower, tend to pinch in with depth and have nowhere to stack excavated dirt. However, it will be no easy task to dig out the Twin Pit!

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

FLINDERS RANGES

Easter 1980.

PARTY: Rod and Di McDougall, Sue Roberts, Simon Barrow, Mike Rochler, Dave Turner, Phil Skene, Ric Hutchings, Meredith and Terry Reardon and visitors: Bernie McWraith, Jenny Collom, Colin O'Donnel, Sally Wills, Judy Whitehead.

Planning a Flinders trip is becoming increasingly difficult as landowners are becoming less tolerant of the increased numbers of people wanting to enter their properties. It is sad to report that the Manager of the Buckalowie Creek Caves, Bill Turner, has now banned camping at the caves site, and it is recommended that future trips to that area write for permission well in advance to enter the caves.

So after meeting at No: 5 Loxton Court at 7.30 p.m. most of the party headed off to Orroroo Pub where to rendezvous with the remainder of the team and camp at Orroroo Caravan Park. Stan Flavel's party of eight also met us at the Park.

An early start saw us enter Mairs Cave by 1100 hours on Good Friday. While most people laddered and abseiled into the cave, Ric and I tagged Mairs and Clara St. Dora caves and Dave Turner photographed the entrances. Rod and Phil organised the extraction from Mairs and all were out by about 1430 hours having had a good look at the cave.

After lunch we headed off to Mattawarrangala Station to meet the owner Jane Warwick. I decided to take a short cut but after an hour or thereabouts, it became obvious that we were "geographically embarrassed". The team were a bit edgy, so after a studied examination of the topo map, we decided that we were at Tommy Hawk bore and proceeded hence. By 1730 we had met with Ms. Warwick (who had heard reports of Mt. Sims falling in!) and were setting up camp at Mt. Sims Caves.

A few of the party had become stricken with headaches, probably from the dust and the less-than-good roads.

With the help of a few I set up the mist net over the entrance, however the result was negative. While there were several bats flying overhead, none had come out of the cave.

After dinner, a sizeable party entered the cave and after usual problems with the gate, most of the party followed the main drag to lake level and explored the bottom chamber. In fact the gate problem was slightly embarrassing as McKnuckle, after removing the locks, couldn't get the gate to budge. G-picks, screw drivers, levers and the like were called for, and when these eventually arrived, it was discovered that the barrel bolts had not been unlocked! The gate opened easily after this was remedied.

A couple of us descended to the Pancake Chamber and explored this region. There was a lot of vegetation debris and some insects in this area. When we moved to the lake chamber a small mouse was seen to scurry across the clay floor.

The lake level was estimated to be down about 1/3 of a metre from that of the level of the June trip last year. Difficulty was encountered in locking the barrel bolt on the gate and it was left unlocked. The RHS lock is sufficient to hold the gate firmly, the next trip should take a file and doctor the LHS barrel bolt.

Early in the morning next day, Dave Turner located a substantial rock filled doline about 1km SE of Mt. Sims Cave. The removal of some large rocks might see another good cave. Reports of the Mt. Sims Cave falling in were unfounded.

We had arranged to meet Stan at Oraparinna National Park H.Q. at 12 noon so we quickly looked through Arcoota Creek Cave for bats but again in vain. By the time vehicles were topped up with petrol and stomachs with pasties and goodies, it was 1330 when we got to Oraparinna. Stan had left 15 mins. prior, but we caught up with him looking for Oraparinna Cave. Once the cave was located 21 cavers entered via one of two entrances. With this no. of cavers, in such a dry dusty cave,

the caving became unpleasant and most had had enough within an hour. A few of the more adventurous explored right to the very limit of the cave. No bats were seen although there was guano present.

We headed off latish Saturday night for Narrina Lake Cave. We had difficulty in interpreting Stan's location instructions so we camped near where we thought the cave was. However Stan came up early in the morning and relocated us and all descended into Narrina Lake cave. Jenny and I took SCUBA tanks in and dived into more chambers. This cave is a memorable dive! All had a refreshing dip and after we all returned to Blinman and inspected the Blinman Mines. Stan had reported 50 or so bats drinking at the permanent springs at Enorama Creek where he was camped. So Sunday night we all camped there and the mist net was set up at the pool, however only a few bats came to the area. Three bats were caught - two Gould's Wattled Bats" Chalinolobus gouldii and one Tadaridea planiceps Flat Headed Mastiff Bat. Judy collected some parasites from the bat for identification.

That night we all sat around the hot camp fire, told stories and sang to the accompaniment of some rank guitar playing - much Four Crown Port was drunk too.

Next morning saw a tent cramming session in Simon's new \$45.00 Target/K-Mart dome tent. The trip leader was hungover and spent the day on his back. A trip was run into Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby Cave and bats reported in there.

Although we did not get to Wooltana Cave, we managed to get through the remainder of the rigorous programme and I am, appreciative of the enthusiastic way the team got going early etc.

I would like to thank those who took cars, making transport easy to arrange. We are grateful to the landowners who allowed us to enter and camp on their properties.

<u>CAVE</u>	<u>MANAGER/LANDOWNER</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
F3 Mairs Cave	Bill Turner	Orroroo 18U
F4 Clara St. Dora		
Mt. Sims	Jane Warwick	Hawker 12G
	Mr. Lillecrap	212 1366
Narrina	Jack Ireland	Blinman 4
Oraparinna	N.P.W.S.	Wilpena 480001
Orroroo Caravan Park	Mrs. McNamara	Orroroo 116

TERRY REARDON.

NARACOORTE

Easter 4-7th April 1980

**PARTY: Graham Pilkington, Ed and Jonathan Bailey, Max Meth
George Parker, Ann and Charni Pilkington.**

The time was spent investigating numbered and un-numbered features that had been located on the Kevin Mott trips but for which we had no description of the cave, usually due to a blocked entrance.

The first thing looked at was a hole by the roadside east of Naracoorte that was not numbered on the location survey because it could have been incidental to road-making activities. The entrance is at the base of a 1m high cutting on a level with the road. It is a 1m by ½m rock-walled hole but was filled with rocks to near the surface. After a few helpful hints to the rocks with a rock-buster sledgehammer, access was gained to a small low cave extending 17m away from the road. Total passage length found was 37m (centre-line method), with an average height of 0.4m but reaches 2m in one spot. Several surface features in the adjacent paddock could lead into similar caves. The cave is close to an old swamp level (before draining) and shows water marks on the lower walls. The cave was surveyed to ASF grade M43.

U107 was visited. The owner said that a group of cavers (CEGSA?) spent a few days digging out the entrance in about 1972. The entrance is a horizontal passage 1m by 1m in cross section, starting from the bottom of a doline. After about 5m it spreads out into phreatic spongework 0.4m high but due to rock flanges, dirt and the prospects of hard work, we looked elsewhere.

This turned out to be Stonehaven Cave, U70. The entrance was blocked by a 3m high mound of household rubbish. This mound just reached the surface through a 1m by ½m roof window. Access was gained by carting a pile of rubbish in bags and buckets half a km to Georges Combie. For economy of effort, cans were mainly extracted. We set up a chain gang of extraction, movement, flattening hammering and bagging. Even Charni helped. When enough debris was removed, I laid a path of rock over the broken glass and slid down the pile into the cave. Ed followed. We did a quick examination of the large - about 10m by 20m - chamber but could find no obvious extensions. It appears to be a collapse chamber that maybe reaches base level in one corner at -12m.

The most northerly known caves of the Naracoorte system are the two Possum caves which, although separated by only 80m do not connect and are kilometres north of the nearest caves. 300m north again is U109 which was a ½m deep depression with a rock-blocked hole in the centre. The rocks had obviously been there a long time because it was very weathered, all sides, and was crushable with bare hands! Most of the effort was in preventing the jigsaw collapse pieces from falling down the hole. The owner had given his permission to shift rocks as we saw fit but then went on to describe the cave. It was one of few owner's descriptions that actually did just that. The cave is a 2m slope into a 10m long curved chamber 0.5m high and 3m wide. A rabbit's Paradise, except for obvious overcrowding, with soft silt-filled flatteners. Some bone material was present.

While in the vicinity, George, Max and I looked in the southern of the two Possum caves. We spent much longer than expected because of chasing breezes at the bottom. Maybe we located the source but lack of time, space and a bucket prevented a breakthrough. Oh well, next time.

Changing direction slightly, Max and George found another hole in the Smoke Cave area reminiscent of the original Saddle Cave - a 0.08m diameter hole with a breeze coming out. They returned to camp complaining about the sketch because the hole they located was twice the distance marked from U42. They had misread the sketch because it was not to scale and assumed that the hole they set out to investigate was U20. That's how we now have another potential cave. Anyway, we did get to do some excavation of the correct shaft. Max and George spent quite a time extracting large heavy tree trunks from it - probably the old cover - before I went to help, not that I make a habit of absenteeism for the hard parts, more of a dedication really. Just to prove the point, I got the job of filling buckets at the bottom while they had to haul them out the 8m deep shaft. The digging was easy. A mixture of dirt and an old decayed rubbish tip.

We sorted out the two later. NPWS disposed of the undesirables in the Council Tip. Talking of rubbish, U20 is a mess. It rivals Robertsons now and recent dumping is obvious. Has anyone got a 200 tonne dump truck handy? Seriously, we should attempt to stop further dumping and examine the question of clearing up the mess.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

CORRA - LYNN

15-16th March 1980

PARTY: Graham Pilkington, Max Meth, George Parker and George.

I had glorious plans for this weekend. I was going to lead the troops on a long hard surveying trip to the Twin Pits Maze, but you know how it is.

Well it started like this, Max and George P. have been rabbiting below ground as well as above and had accumulated a tidy sum of little extensions that I had not yet caught up on. So, I thought that if I left it until later, they would not get done this weekend, therefore we would complete them rapidly before travelling to Bushwalkers. They are all in the Old Section of the cave and the Wombat Runs. The other finds that they have made I had managed to tidy-up when going near them. Unfortunately for me they had probed all over the place, 10m here, 20 there, nothing to get your teeth into except dirt squeezing into them. You have to pack all the survey gear, travel to the next one, unpack and set up, take a few measurements and then start all over again, time consuming eh what?

The most interesting bit surveyed was a set of passages off the bottom of a pit SW of the Drumstone that located part of a water path that flows from the Cauldron and under the Drumstone. The Lower Level in this area is mostly silted up. The pit was obviously an important hydrological link.

Another fascinating piece of cave that this time has been known for some time but never mapped, is a roofhole above a floorhole west of the Drumstone. The floorhole has been mapped. The roofhole went up 10.5m. It appears to be a set of fissures connecting minor enlargements at each "cave prone" strata level. The entrance is on the lower Middle Level while the largest chambers are the Lower Level and the higher Middle Level. The higher Middle Level has a rock choke half way up the chamber that splits it into two independent walking passages with a connecting climb through a jack-knife.

I never did get to Bushwalkers.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

Another of our members who has kept pretty quiet about things is Frank Hendriks. Our congratulations (somewhat belated though they may be). Frank has been married for some time and is now a proud father of a little girl.

Whispers are that another engagement is in the offing for another of our "hardy" male chauvinist cavers too - how the mighty have fallen!

NEW PHONE NUMBER

Jim Cundy has moved to a new house, still at Coomandook. Hence he is now on the phone at "Yumali 73 3030".

Best time to ring is between 7-8 p.m.

RIVER TORRENS WATER TUNNEL

March 16th, 1980.

PARTY: Ed., Trevor and Jonathon Bailey plus seven members of the public. (self-guided).

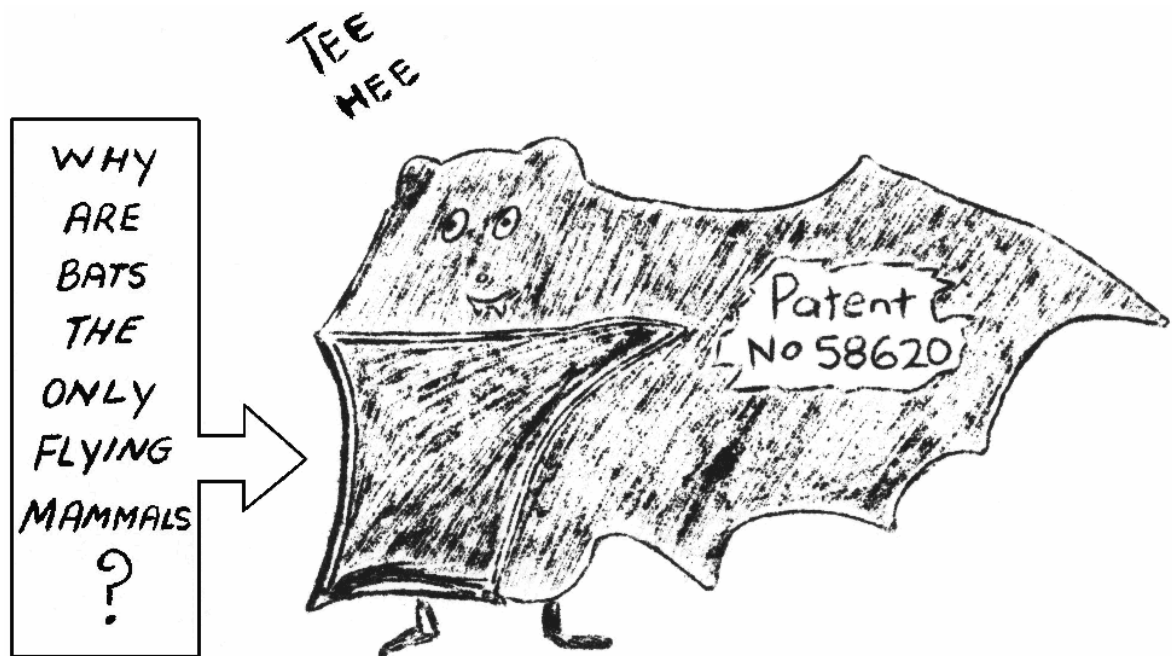
The organisers of this trip, (the Adelaide Festival of Arts) went to great lengths to ensure that the trip members obeyed caving etiquette of the highest order. After paying the admission fee (50c. each), we were requested to remove shoes and socks and were divested of all heavy articles. These items were safely kept for the tunnel visitors in numbered boxes. The procedure itself was designed to ensure that the delicate cave floor was not damaged by high-heeled shoes, sandal buckles, three-cornered jacks or cameras. Smoking and eating were also forbidden. The air temperature and air movement within the tunnel were kept static by an ingenious system of double doors, and these possibly would also have helped maintain air pressure should any of the tunnel walls or floor have been punctured.

In the ante-chamber (between the double door entrance) we were briefed on the correct behaviour required of us, viz. to keep moving in one direction, not to go back, but to call for assistance if necessary from the attendants seated strategically throughout the tunnel.

As we proceeded, it soon became obvious that we were not on firm ground. The plastic floor surface, resting directly on the river water, yielded to the pressure of various parts of the anatomy that were rapidly sent flailing in all directions. Young Jonathan (aged 7), at first exhibited vocal symptoms typical of an hysterical novice caver, but rapidly cheered up when the exit came into view, whereupon he suddenly declared that he was enjoying it. To improve our progress we lowered our centre of gravity by attempting to crawl, but we soon discovered that this procedure proved no quicker (or easier) than walking. The tunnel was devoid of even the most common cave formations, however, this was just as well considering the uncontrolled limb movements of some people. Falling water, (believed to be from the Torrens fountain) was observed through the transparent ceiling.

At the exit, the organisers waited until all trip members had regrouped, before allowing us to leave (again through the double doors). This in itself is sound caving practice. It is unfortunate that the caving standards were so unusually high, as this tunnel is doomed to suffer the fate of some other endangered Australian caves. It will have been completely dismantled by the time this Newsletter goes to print.

TREVOR BAILEY



By courtesy of
Meredith Reardon.

*** P R O G R A M M E ***

JUNE

11	Committee Meeting	66 Eyre Crescent Valley View
14,15,16	Flinders Naracoorte	Kevin Mott N. Hallett
25	General Meeting - Mullamullang	M. Smith
28,29	CEGSA/VSA Dinner - Naracoorte	

JULY

9	Committee Meeting	23 Dorset Street Brahma Lodge
13	River Murray.	Kevin Mott
23	General Meeting - Rescue Film,	Kevin Mott

AUGUST

2,3	Corra-Lynn	Graham Pilkington
13	Committee Meeting	5 Loxton Court Hope Valley
27	General Meeting	

TRIP CONTACT LIST

Kevin Mott,	3 Harcourt Road, Payneham	(w)	227	2704
		(h)	42	5540
Graham Pilkington,	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View	(w)	272	5711
		(h)	264	2598
N. Hallett,	44 Lambert Avenue, West Lakes Shore.	(h)	49	3965

EDITORIAL NOTE:

As you have read, there are fewer trips this quarter. It is about time that others, apart from Committee Members, led some trips. It is possible you have one planned, if so contact me and they will be publicised at our meetings.

DOT PEISLEY.