CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

Volume No: 25, No: 3 November, 1980

NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas

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Volume 25, No: 3 November, 1980.

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EDITORIAL

At various intervals the subject of conservation becomes very real and close to many of us. There are, of course, many areas that are obvious targets for protection and indeed some of those have already gained recognition. There are also many societies making various suggestions and using their influence to have particular items placed under conservation orders for future generations. It is interesting to look around and see just what these societies consider worth saving; where do they get their criteria? How does one item seem more worthy than another? Is it unique (really unique or just in this country)? Of course each list of worthy assets extends as further items are considered.

How many times have various caving groups taken a real look at the cave systems in their State? By that I mean what considerations have been made as to the suitability of the system, to policing, to preserve against 'tourist' pressures. Vulnerability, size, uniqueness, decoration, historical, biological, archaeological, etc., etc., these are just a few of the considerations which need to be thought of. Let's face it, all cave systems are unique, I can't think of one system which can be compared, practically, to another. It would be great if caves 'in-toto' could all be saved, kept for future generations just as they are. Unfortunately, to be realistic, this just doesn't seem practical or even possible.

Proper conservation means a considerable decrease in 'tourist' trips to many sensitive systems but again who draws the line, who polices the visits? Do you have the right to ban certain groups or individuals simply because they wish to see what lies beyond, what you may have already seen.

The debate could continue for months, years even and still there could be no satisfactory answer. There will always be pro's and con's for visits to caves. Recently our Group gave thought to these aspects and what measures (if any) it would be possible to take. The National Heritage Assessment Committee is just one of the National Organisations which considers and recommends areas or items worthy of preservation for one reason or another. Natural wonders such as cave systems will also be considered but there is a slight hitch.

Ask any person which caves they would like to be considered and each one will come up with a separate list. How do we pare down these lists? Let's also not forget that by recommending any cave the location will automatically become public news. This may increase the hazards of vandalism or just plain careless or ignorant visitors who are drawn to these places out of curiosity without realising the damage they cause. It seems practical to try and preserve those caves which are already known to the general public in one form or another.

However, again we come up with a new set of problems. The cave concerned my already exist on a National Park or Cave Reserve, it may exist on other government land or again on private land. Those caves that are eventually agreed upon which fall into the category of 'already known to the public', 'not under present conservation projects', and 'worthy of preservation' by their existence may indeed be great caves. However, I could list quite a number of others which won't get a mention. Some won't get mentioned because they are just too sensitive to became real public property because of their easy access and lack of proper policing.

I hope that those of you who advocate conservation (and indeed I am one of you) have also thought about these various aspects and can suggest ways to settle what I see as a never-ending dilemma.

On another aspect of conservation, it must be noted that groups such as ours, though small, can still assist in the overall picture in Australia today. We have supported the Franklin River conservation project in the past (still not settled satisfactory) and in this issue we continue with an appeal for the Great Barrier Reef. Our small voice blending with hundreds of other small voices can make a force to be reckoned with when necessary. Enough roaring and things can get done. A few individuals urging others suddenly turns into a large body but first you must do your part.

DOT PEISLEY
Editor

Flinders Ranges

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND, 1979

PRESENT: S. Flavel (Leader), D. Chapman, G. Robinson and G. Thurmer.

Fine weather remained with us for the weekend. The trip was organised to cater for bushwalking and caving interests in the group.

Friday night we arrived at a fine, secluded camping spot at the west entrance of Parachilna Gorge. Saturday morning we arose early, consumed bulk quantities of eggs, bacon, coffee, toast, etc., and proceeded to the rejuvenated ghost town of Beltana. After exploration of several ruins, for bottles, we proceeded to the old copper mines at Sliding Rock.

Arriving back at Parachilna Pub, arrangements were made with Jack Ireland, owner of Narrina Homestead to visit and camp near Narrina Lake (Woodendinna) Cave the following night. Saturday afternoon was spent conquering Mt. Mary, just north of Parachilna Gorge, where fine views to the west (Lake Torrens) and south (ABC Range, Wilpena) and east (Blinman, Narrina) were enjoyed. Return to camp via full Moon (light) was experienced.

Sunday morning more food was consumed and an assault on Mt. Falkland, 5 km to the south, was started. Even finer views were obtained from the summit. That night we proceeded to Narrina Homestead (via Blinman Pub and ice-cream shop). Jack gave us permission to camp north of the cave entrance which was found with relative ease. Eight people and 6 liloes descended into the exceptionally clear waters of Narrina Lake Cave and we spent 3 hours floating around in 21°C fresh water.

Monday morning we packed and left for Oraparinna hoping to find the large Oraparinna Cave and duly explore it. Directions to it proved to be conflicting and after 3 hours of searching at the approximate site (we thought) we gave up. (We were a mere 800 metres north of the entrance). We proceeded to the Youncoona waterhole on Enorama Creek to cool off. Several of the party started a bushwalk. The result was - a new cave found and entered, and two other promising entrances in the dolomite ridge located.

The new cave has since been named 'Yellow-foot Rock Wallaby Cave' (F33) and over 160 metres of passage has been mapped. Several bats and many bones were found in the cave.

STAN FLAVEL

Flinders Ranges

DECEMBER, 1979

PRESENT: S. Flavel, K. Pitman, Big Pete and G. Robinson.

The thought of a new cave not explored, with bats, bones and draughts in it enticed me back to the Flinders Ranges in what must have been the hottest time of the summer. South Australian cavers are dauntless. Not only was I, the finder of the new cave, drawn back, but three other budding speleos, Kathy P., Pete and Graham R.

The object of the trip was to explore, map and photograph Yellow-foot Rock Wallaby Cave, (F33). A base camp was set up at Youncoona Waterhole on Enorama Creek (flowing water with natural swimming hole was a life-saver after long caving trips).

From the camp it was an easy 1km walk to the cave. Bats were again observed in the cave (6 or 7) and assorted bones and skulls were noted. Mapping with compass and fibreglass tape produced over 160 metres of passage (mostly walk through). A dig of 12 feet to enlarge a breathing 10 cm hole proved partially successful as another low chamber (unexplored) was found with another breeze and bird feathers 110 metres from our known entrance. A reasonable grade 3(.4) map was produced and this suggests much more potential for inter-connecting passages.

A trip to Thunderdrum Cave was also executed in 120° heat. The cave has been previously mapped but it is out-dated as new sections were found. A 3 metre dig in silt pile allowed me to squeeze through to a new chamber? However, after another couple of hours a second route found us back at the crevasse in the main (long) chamber.

After exiting the coolness of Thunderdrum Cave the 1km. back to base camp was 'torturous'. A quick dip in our heated pool and it was into Blinman (20 km north) for much liquid refreshments.

It appears that there is much potential for new cave finds in this area. These 2 caves plus 4 other reported entrances appear in a band of tilted (limestone) dolomite that forms the Trezana Range.

Most evenings at base camp were highlighted by multitudes (30-40) of bats swooping down and drinking/feeding at our waterhole. Also, many large animals drank at this waterhole and many were not shy of human intrusion.

STAN FLAVEL

EDITOR'S NOTE:

These two articles were held up from the last edition through time and pressure on the Editor. For that I apologise and make amends by at last including them.

Corra - Lynn

19/20th July, 2/3 August and 20/21 September, 1980.

CEGSA PARTICIPANTS: Graham Pilkington (1,2,3) Max Meth (1,3) George Parker (1,3) and John Ellis (2).

VISITORS: 19/20th: Banksia Park Adventurers approximately 35.
2/3rd: Scotch College approximately 25.

The first two trips we introduced people to caves on the Saturday morning, then left them to explore the cave themselves. We were always there if needed. Five Banksia Park Adventurers accompanied us for the rest of that Saturday.

The major achievements of the three trips were as follows:-

1. Exploration of leads off the area past Skeleton Maze, to no avail. Few locations are now easy or possible extension sites.
2. Re-survey and completion of the Limestone Bridge, Great Collapse and links to the City Cross area. All previous 'conflicts' have been eliminated.
3. Live assassin bug collected from Skeleton Crevasse. Similar to one seen in the Jawbone in 1977.
4. A spider hunt in Jawbone area was unsuccessful. I have previously seen one dark 5mm spherically bodied 20mm long spider amongst the many threads of this area.

The threads connect in a network on the roof and have isolated threads linked to the floor. Maximum roof height that the spiders tolerate is about one metre so that most threads are along the sides of passages under overhangs. I have never seen a thread in a draughty location, they seem to only occur in sheltered cul-de-sacs.

5. An improved version of the Mark II dirt probe was tested in the Skeleton Crevasse and Maze areas. The improvements consisted of looser sleeves to eliminate 'locking' and larger holes on one side of each sleeve to allow easier bolt alignment. All probing was fruitless except that the extent of some dirt blocks have been quantified. An old-style dig by George produced another 10m long passage with roof and floor holes but blocked by the usual dirt.

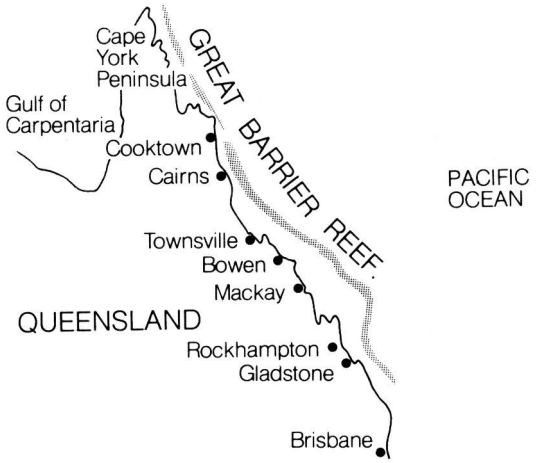
The general lack of interest in this great cave can only be attributed to the lack of a major discovery since 1973, when 1 km was added. Bits and pieces since then add up to nearly another 1 km but experience in Victoria Fossil Cave, Blackberry Cave, Mullamullang and others shows that only the major single finds produce enthusiasm. One day Corra Lynn will do it again.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

The Great Barrier Reef under Threat!

From an Australian Conservation Foundation leaflet asking people to **'Save the Reef'** I have gathered some information for you.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF
DOESN'T BELONG TO ANYONE,
TO QUEENSLAND, OR TO AUSTRALIA
IT BELONGS TO THE WORLD.



WHAT IS THE REEF?

The Great Barrier Reef stretches along the Queensland coast from about Gladstone to Torres Strait. In the South the main reef lies from 60 to 160 kilometres off-shore, but in the north they are immediately adjacent to the coastline.

The gigantic size of the Reef is staggering – it covers an area of about 250,000 square kilometres (twice the area of England) and approaches 2,000 kilometres in length (more than the distance from Melbourne to Brisbane).

Its name implies that it is one big reef but this is not so. It is a maze of about 2,500 reefs, some only a few hectares in size while large reefs may be up to 50 square kilometres.

The view from the air is spectacular. Patches of pale turquoise grade into deep blue and are occasionally studded with green tree-covered coral cays. The builder of this gigantic reef system is the humble coral polyp. It's an anemone-like animal consisting of a bag with feeding arms around the mouth. The arms or tentacles collect microscopic food from the water and feed it into the body which is supported by a cup of limestone.

The polyps are usually welded together through their limestone skeletons to form a coral growth. While the coral may form the solid structure of the Reef there are many other animals, plants and birds which form important parts of the Reef system. The richness and diversity of marine life has only begun to be understood. Every year scientists and tourists from many countries visit because of its unparalleled scale and complexity among the world's reef systems. It is widely acknowledged as a natural wonder of the world.

The Australian Conservation Foundation is seeking to have the entire Great Barrier Reef Region declared a world heritage area under a UNESCO Convention. There has been a strong measure of national support for this, but the Queensland Government has so far blocked the nomination.

A listing under the Convention does not carry any absolute legal guarantee of protection, but creates a climate of international recognition which carries great moral and political sway in the safeguarding of an area. There has already been one major oil spill on Torres Strait. It would simply be a matter of time before a spillage occurred, once drilling was allowed. More recently the Queensland Government has raised the possibility of recommending oil exploration, but, as before, widespread protest has occurred.

The threat of oil spillage is not the only threat to endanger the Reef, others include:-

- limestone mining
- run-off pollutants from the mainland
- Crown of Thorns starfish plague
- large scale illegal fishing - upsetting the balance of natural systems
- poor control over tourism

AN OIL SPILLAGE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES

A Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has been set up by the Commonwealth Government to begin the massive task of protecting the reef. Its responsibilities cover the 500,000 square kilometres of reef region including the reef and surrounding waters.

The first Marine Park in the region, the Capricornia Section of about 12,000 square kilometres (embracing only 2.4 per cent of the Region) is currently being established and a second Marine Park is being finalised for North Queensland near Cairns.

The Australian Conservation Foundation believes that the only sure way to protect the Reef is to set aside the entire Region and it is concerned about the fragmented approach to declaration and the sharing of control between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments.

Until the entire Reef Region is fully protected, the only protection is the Commonwealth Government's moratorium on drilling which has no ongoing force in law and could be reversed overnight.

What/Who is the Conservation Foundation?

It is concerned that energy should be available to meet the reasonable needs of Australians, but believes that adequate supplies of energy can be made available without the risk to priceless heritage.

Even the oil companies agree that the Reef is, at best, a poor to fair prospect for oil. At best, would meet our energy needs for only a few years. The choice basically, is between taking a chance on harming the Reef or moving a few years sooner to alternative renewable energy sources.

ALL YOU NEED TO HELP SAVE THE REEF IS A PEN AND PAPER

If you realise the danger the Reef is in, this is what you can do to help. Write to the Prime Minister showing your support for full protection for the Great Barrier Reef Region as a marine national park and its nomination by Australia as a world heritage area under the UNESCO Convention.

For further information of issues or membership:- Write to:

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION,
6726 Glenferrie Road,
HAWTHORN, VICTORIA. 3122

Nullarbor

August (roughly)

PRESENT: Ron Allum, Peter Rogers, Terry Reardon and in part, Robyn Allum and Jenny Collom.

CAVES: N56, N1, N2, N49 and N37.

This trip was conceived on the notion that all of us just wanted to get out of Adelaide and have a casual driving holiday on the Nullarbor. Past diving trips there had been focussed on Cocklebiddy pushes and for those people, had turned into more hard work than pleasure.

Well, with this casual 'holiday' feeling, Ron's itinerary for the 5 days were as follows - dive in Warbla, two dives in Weebubbie (one a twin tank dive), a dome trip into Mullamullang, including snorkelling in White Lake, dive in Tommy Graham's, a rockpile dive in Cocklebiddy and, if time permitted, a look in Pannikin Plain Cave - what else would you expect from Ron?

It is not my intention to detail all of the dives, but my first Nullarbor cave dive, Warbla, warrants some description, as a lesson for those who wish to cut corners.

Entrance is gained by a 60 ft ladder pitch - the shortest drop into this massive doline. Tanks and diving gear are lowered and each diver has two trips from the ladder to the lake. The rock collapse in the doline is in places, difficult to negotiate carrying heavy gear. After some distance into the dark zone, the cave closes off by means of a 40 ft rock slope covered in guano which is feet deep in places. This slope is terminated by a small lake; this lake gets quite a covering of guano by the time all gear and people get to its edge.

Kitting up in this unsavoury place is no fun and it is hard to imagine that this grotty little lake should lead to anything. However, it does. The diver is rewarded for his efforts, once he has penetrated beyond the sinking guano, he is greeted with crystal clear waters filling white walled passages and further dry chambers. Although a lot of work was put in getting here, one still feels it is a privilege to enjoy this wilderness.

In an effort to make life easy, I decided that upon surfacing, I would leave on all my diving gear and carry the reminder out in one hit. The idea of taking all the wet gear off in this guano filled area was very off-putting. Having trudged 3/4 of the way up the guano slope, I lost footing and fell over - head to toe in guano - sticks like glue to wetsuits etc. - lesson learned.

The next two days saw two superb dives in Weebubbie and a trip to near the dome in Mullamullang. White Lake was snorkelled and does not 'go'. Apart from the usual dead specimens of the bats - ***Chalinolobus* morio and Nyctophilus Geoffroy I**, one dead specimen of ***Chalinolobus* Gouldii** was found. In all caves visited, there was a colony of bats ranging from about 10 - 100.

Pete's cooking played havoc with my stomach on the scheduled day for the Cocklebiddy dive so we decided to look at Pannikin Plain. This cave had had little underwater exploration, however there were reports of reasonable potential.

By good fortune we stumbled our way into the northern passage first and Pete dived it with a set of small tanks. He returned with the good news of 'no end in sight'. That afternoon Ron and Pete dived with larger tanks and reached the end of the 240 metre guideline, and still the underwater passage roared off.

The following day, the three of us dragged twin 90 cu.ft. tanks in and reached 500 metres before our safety margin of air consumption forced us to return. The passage still goes on as far as our lights could operate. Further pushes in this section would be difficult as decompression problems become a reality - the average depth of the roof in this section is 85 ft. The floor is about 130 ft. There is the added difficulty of the dangerously unstable entrance rockpile. The south end lake was dived but choked off into a narrow slit.

The dive, in Tommy Graham's capped off a brilliant trip can't wait to get back there!

TERRY REARDON

Great Taste

A cosy gathering of members recently chatting over coffee were discussing the trend to bad taste in clothing in the '**trendy**' modern man. Oh such awful things we see when we haven't got a gun!

We had a good laugh over things like 3 earrings in one ear, clashing colours and other such things. Who would wear such awful colours as blue and purple or (horror of horrors) purple and yellow, and we had a good shriek over all this. However as we were giggling over this it was suddenly apparent that one of our company was wearing just such a lovely combination. Wondering whether we should be embarrassed or just go on being rude, we look the easy way out and just howled with laughter as we thought of more unlikely combinations that we saw walking the streets

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POLISH NULLARBOR EXPEDITION 1981.

A team of Polish Speleologists intend to be on and in the Nullarbor from mid March to the end of May, 1981. They will study the caves and how these relate to the hydrology of a semi-arid area.

CEGSA will be helping the study by supplying information and cavers. Co-incident trips are scheduled for Easter and for the May school holidays. Interstate speleo's (and trogs!) welcome.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

Burra

28th September, 1980

PRESENT: K. & J. Mott, G. Pilkington, E. Bailey & Family, T. Bailey, R. & D. McDougal, D. Arnott, N. Smith, J. Smith, I. Popov and S. Barrow.

For years an old newspaper article from the S.A. Register of 8-11-1861 has been a nemesis haunting the feeble minds of those poor, wretched, unwary souls; called 'cavers', unfortunate enough to be thrust into the knowledge of its existence.

This article describes the traumatic wanderings of an ardent journalist into the depth of the dark jaws of 'subterra incognito'. I am not sure if he meant

i) unknown realm below the earth or

ii) unknown nautical vessel causing panic and confusion.

Translation can be tricky, especially when you only get 28% for Latin and it's all foreign to you.

The cave described in this article (reprinted in this Newsletter) has eluded the many cavers attempting to locate it. Possibilities of it being finally located emerged during a casual conversation with a colleague at work. He mentioned that his father-in-law owned a property with a cave on it in the same general area. His description of the cave matched that of the newspaper article.

Tension mounted. Would the newspaper article be factual or an extended filament of a sadistic imagination. As the day of reckoning drew closer, more people expressed an interest in the trip. It was agreed to rendezvous at the Service Station at the northern end of the Gawler bypass at 9.30 a.m. and then the Eudunda P.O. at 10.30 a.m. Due to circumstances beyond his control (naturally) and a rare habit of not exceeding the speed limit, the leader was late again. With the majority of the party in tow, we headed off to Eudunda to meet Trevor, Bill and George. When finally we arrived at the farmer's house our lateness turned into a blessing as he was also late and only arrived home shortly after us.

As did our esteemed colleague of yore, we jolted and sweated our way to the cave along dusty roads. Those who intended visiting the cave availed themselves of the necessary requisites. I don't think the owner has ever had any visitors to the cave go through so much fuss over the sorting out of gear. The entrance to the cave is …….as described in the article.

Normally the owner usually lowers himself down with a rope using the log over the entrance as a tie-off point. This log is of dubious solidity, so the ladder was tied off to an adjacent limestone outcropping.

The entrance is 1.5m x 1.0m and drops about 6.0m into the cave. The roof of the first chamber dips about 20 - 25° to the west. The original article describes this part of the cave fairly accurately as this chamber is in the order of 10m long and 3-4m wide. Roof height varies from 0.4m to 3m. The 'kind of passage' referred to in the newspaper article is actually a lower section of the same chamber. The entrance chamber being the top of a collapse into the lower portion of the cave. Roof height in this lower section averaged 0.6m and the floor was strewn with 'knobbly knee kausing' type rocks. Just prior to reaching the 'stalactite wreathed' chamber was an area that appeared to be where the water sumps. Quartz crystals also littered the floor.

The 'stalactite wreathed' chamber appeared to be the end but Graham declared it was merely blocked by fill. A little cautious suicidal rock pulling opened the area enough to enable the admitting of a weary body. There appeared to be a breeze here but as any further excavation would be terminally suicidal, the attempt was halted. The betting on which rock was the key rock had to be abandoned due to insufficient applications for the position of Chief Rock Puller.

If there was any further extension from the part of the cave the original author was either extremely miniscule or suffered a severe case of disorientation and described his way out.

After exiting from the cave and being thwarted in an attempt to tag the cave; the drill bit being **AWOL**, half the party returned to Adelaide and the rest jostled and bumped their way along a mixture of dirt and bitumen road to Burra Creek and Worlds End where a delightful evening lunch was indulged in.

Another trip to this delightfully pleasant area needs to be organised to survey the cave and check for further caves. More caves may not exist as the immediate area has only this lens of limestone amongst the quartz rock.

KEVIN MOTT

BURLEEYUNG CAVE, near KOORINGA

A correspondent gives us the following account of a visit to this cave; which is said to be situated about 16 miles south of the Burra, between Mr. McDonald's station and the Adelaide road: -

> "**Having heard several glowing accounts of the marvels pertaining to Burleeyung Cave - its beauty, magnitude, and peculiarity** - I and **two other gentlemen determined to visit the locality to verify for ourselves the testimony of the witnesses, one of whom said he had penetrated the subterranean labyrinth to the distance of a quarter of a mile without finding the end .....**

After providing ourselves with sundry requisites, and undergoing the intermediate process of jolting and sweating along a dusty road, we arrived in due course at the mouth of the cave, which, by-the-by, it would be almost impossible to discover without the assistance of a guide - being situated on the top of a hill and insignificant in appearance, it might be passed by unnoticed.

The mouth of the cave is a hole, oval in shape, about 5 feet long, 2½ feet wide and 20 feet deep. Descending this shaft by means of a rope, we found ourselves in a tolerably large chamber, extending to the north-west about 20 feet, the sides and top being rough, jagged rocks, and the bottom thickly strewn with loose stones.

All was stone and rock, hard and flinty, no earth or soft ground was to be seen anywhere. Arriving at the end of this chamber by the light of our candles, we came to a steep slope westward. The top being likewise sloped and very low, we were obliged to lie close to the rock and cautiously lower ourselves down some 10 or 12 feet, where we emerged into a kind of passage running north about 20 yards.

Some parts of this passage were high enough for a man to stand erect; in other places we had to crawl - a not very pleasant method of locomotion, what with the merciless excrescences of the rock overhead, and the sharp, rough stones in our path beneath. However by perseverance and not a little exertion, we presently found ourselves in another chamber, smaller than the last, but still sufficiently large to admit for resting, our scathed limbs in an easier posture.

Here the top and sides were completely encrusted with beautifully white stalactite wreathed in fantastic forms, and reflecting back the feeble light of our candles with tenfold lustre. Having rested ourselves and procured some of the most beautiful specimens of stalactite, we proceeded through small apertures into other chanters and the further we penetrated the more beautiful did they appear and the more difficult our progress, until at last we were obliged to halt, as the apertures beyond were too small to admit of our squeezing through.

We could see that there were other cavities, some of considerable size, but as we did not altogether relish the idea of being locked in the jaws of **'subterro incognita'**, we reluctantly abandoned further research, and after securing more stalactite specimens, returned to the surface.

The task we accomplished, thus quickly described, occupied an hour in performance; so we were glad enough again to breathe the purer atmosphere, and behold the genial light of heaven. I may further remark that the rock was chiefly hard, flinty spar and that there were several fissures in the rocks of considerable extent. Every part we visited was perfectly dry; no traces of water being visible anywhere. "

Reprinted from "THE S.A. REGISTER" - 8th November, 1861.

CORRECTION TO MAP

Maps numbered CEG 1210, CEG 1211 have several incorrect map numbers.

For	U114	read U119
	U115	U120
	U116	U121
	U117	U122

KEVIN MOTT
(for Records)

17/10/80

QUOTABLE QUOTES

We know that Neville (our Museum Rep who's forever digging up bones in Henschkes) is a little absent-minded but he floored us all with: **Oh! I keep forgetting there's another Fossil cave.**"
(We were discussing Victoria-Fossil Cave at Naracoorte).

Book Review

Neil R. Montgomery - "SINGLE ROPE TECHNIQUES - A Guide for Vertical Cavers".
Sydney Speleological Society Occasional Paper No: 7, 1977.
(Selling price between $7.50 and $10.00)

This book is referred to in caving circles world-wide for its comprehensive coverage of S.R.T.

Chapters list:

1. **ROPES FOR ABSEILING AND PRUSIKING**
   - Desirable Properties
   - Rope Fibres
   - Rope Construction
   - Diameter
   - The Rope Market
   - Care of Ropes

2. **BASIC ROPE KNOTS**
   - Features of a Good Knot
   - End Loops
   - Midrope Knots
   - Rope Joins

3. **ANCHORS**
   - Natural Anchors
   - Chocks
   - Pitons
   - Bolts

Excellent illustrations accompany the text for clarification of techniques. This book is for beginners and advanced S.R.T. Cavers and enables you to read about techniques and practice them in your home while you're lounging around!
A sample page from the book appears overleaf.

MEREDITH REARDON

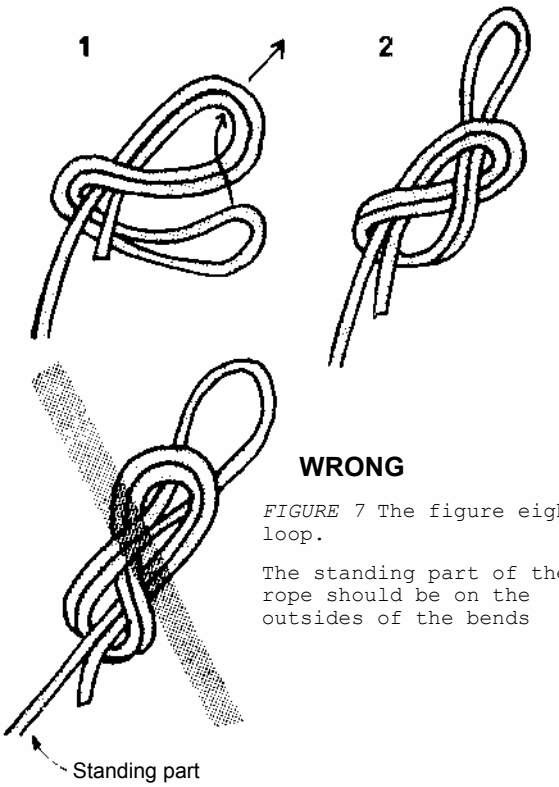


FIGURE 7 The figure eight loop.

The standing part of the rope should be on the outsides of the bends

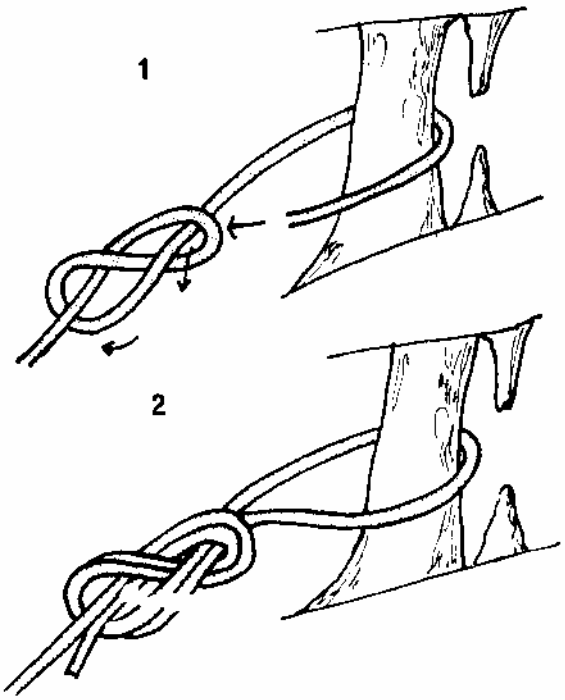


FIGURE 8 Tying the figure eight loop around a standing object. A single figure eight is formed and the end is woven back through, the figure eight.

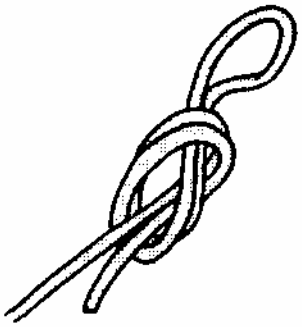


FIGURE 9 The overhand loop.
FIGURE 9: The overhand loop.

MIDROPE KNOTS

In pitch riggings, a rope often needs to be secured to an anchor some distance from the top of a pitch. Both the bowline and figure eight loop are suitable. The bowline is formed as already shown in Figure 6, but in a doubled portion of the rope (Figure 10). The figure eight loop is tied as shown in Figure 7, and connected to the anchor with a karabiner and sling (Figure 11).

ROPE JOINS

Rope joins are frequently required in pitch riggings and in forming slings. For joining equal diameter ropes, the figure eight bend and the double fisherman's knot are excellent and very similar in performance. For unequal rope diameters, the double fisherman's knot is preferred.

DOUBLE FISHERMAN'S KNOT

The double fisherman's knot takes a little practice to tie, but has an unmistakable, aesthetic appearance when formed properly (Figure 12). Each half of the knot is tied separately and then the halves are drawn together.

FIGURE EIGHT BEND

The figure eight bend (Figure 13) is formed in much the same way as one method already shown for the figure eight loop (Figure 8). A figure eight is formed in one end and then the other end is woven through it. The standing part of each rope should be on the outside of the first bend.

An analogue of the overhand knot is found in the overhand bend (ring bend, water knot) which is faster to tie and less bulky than the figure eight bend, but harder to untie (Figure 14).

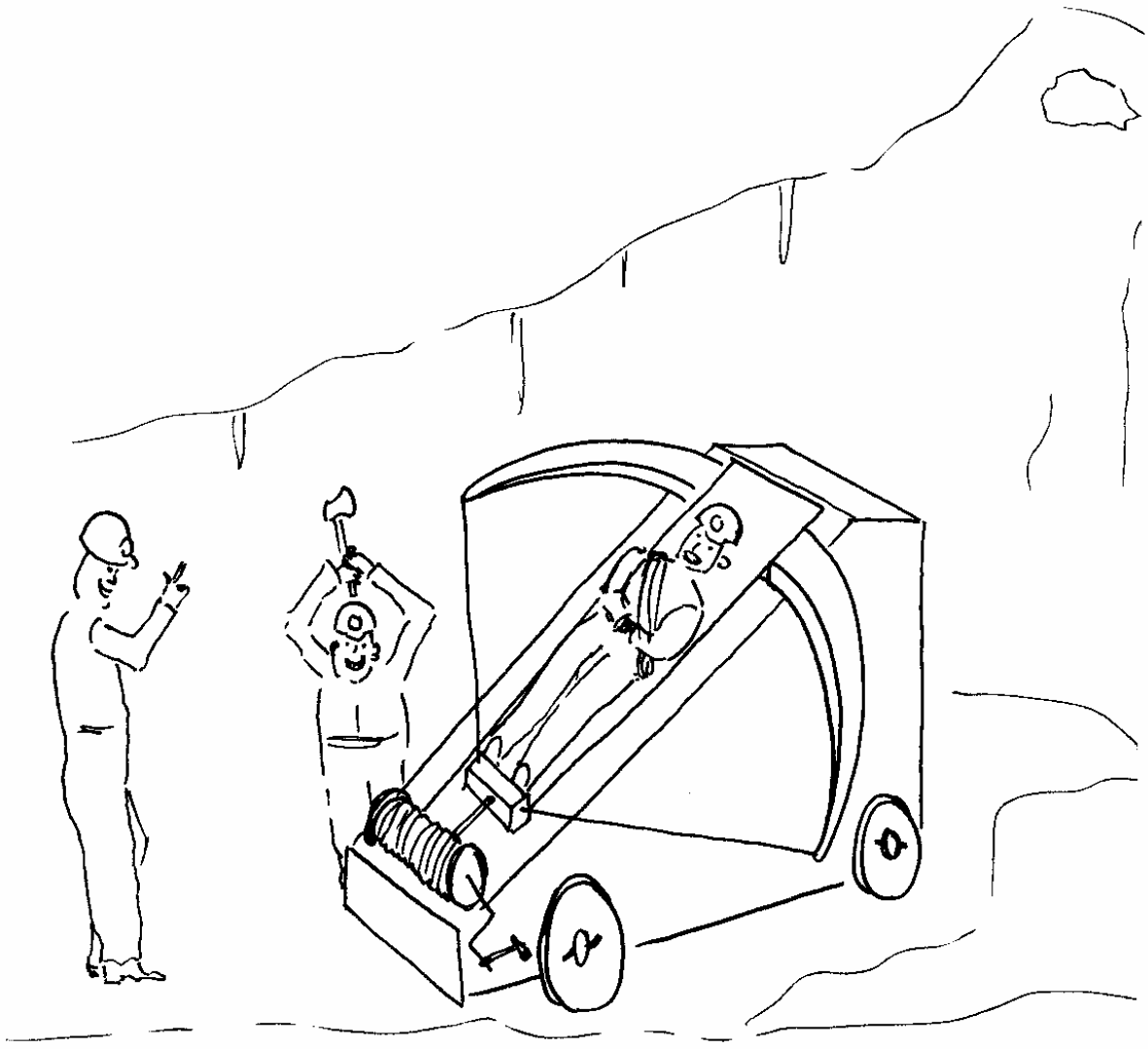
ERRATA Volume 25, No: 1, May, 1980 **not** Volume 24, No: 4, May, 1980

Page 12 - should read:
"two Gould's Wattled Bats" **Chalinolobus gouldii** and one **Tadariea planiceps** Flat Headed Mastiff Bat. "

Page 12 Oraparinna - 480001

NOTE: **Please ring Terry Reardon at** home **only - not at work - embarrassing getting 6 calls a day!**

NOTE: This years **"Spirit of Caving"** - Martyn Carnes is now in England and getting into the potholes there.



"10, 9, 8 ....."

BUT I TELL YOU, SCALING POLES DO EXIST!

ED. BAILEY

Flinders Ranges

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND

PRESENT: John Ellis, John McCormack, Ken Johns, Meredith and Terry Reardon.

VISITORS: Karel and Barb Lengs, Cheryl Bass, Peter Rogers, Julian and David.

CAVES: F1, F11.

The above team left Loxton Court in 3 vehicles and headed north into one of the most spectacular thunderstorms we had seen. We made Orroroo Pub with 20 minutes to spare for some refreshments. By 2.00 a.m., after hot wiring our Kombi ignition (which had failed) we bedded down near Oraddock.

An early start Saturday morning enabled us to get to Enorama Creek and set up tents by noon. We then set off to Narrina Lake Cave. The lock on the gate of this cave was in bad shape - an hours hitting, graphiting, oiling and swearing couldn't get it open. It was decided to hacksaw the lock off. Pete, Cheryl and I took scuba gear in and spent about 30 minutes underwater, turning it into a Cat. 4 dive. The remainder of the party enjoyed further exploration of the cave.

We returned to Enorama Creek on dusk, however, the weather was very poor - consistent driving wind prevented any mist netting for bats and hampered a good session around the campfire.

The following morning greeted us with rain and more winds. We carried on with our intentions and set off to find and explore Yellow-Foot Rock Wallaby Cave. Several of the team pushed potential lead-offs, but nothing substantial was added to the existing passage. I managed to capture two bats, as yet not positively identified. Some bones were collected from a remote part of the cave and have since been identified as a species of rat-kangaroo believed extinct in Australia for 30 years and probably longer than that for South Australia. The matter will be further investigated.

For the reminder of the day, the team split into groups and combed several square km of the Trezona Range seeking further caves. Unfortunately nothing significant was found.

Late afternoon found most practicing S.R.T from a rope suspended from a tree. Late afternoon also brought still conditions and enabled me to set up a mist net over the waterhole. Only one bat was netted despite the heavy bat activity in the area (the recent rains produced large bodies of water in the creek and provided more drinking and foraging sites for the bats). This bat, a **Gould's Wattled Bat**, was released later with a small glass ampoule containing some luminescent Cyalume glued to its back.

The purpose of this exercise was to see if the bat could be tracked visually and hence learn something of its foraging habits. With people stationed at strategic vantage points, the bat was released. In accordance with Murphy's Law this bat look a bee line directly away from the nearest observers and disappeared into the trees. However, the bat was easily visible for the 200 metres before it disappeared in the trees. Used with discretion, this technique should be a useful tool in understanding the habits of these fine mammals.

Rod and Di McDougal and Phil Skene arrived after spending the previous day walking in Chambers Gorge. A great night was spent, a few ales and jokes capped off a good day.

We had arranged to meet Ian Lewis, Stan Flavel and Kathy Pitman at Melrose at 12.00 noon Monday and to everyone's surprise all parties were on time. After pies, pasties and ice-creams, we set off for the Mount Remarkable Blowhole. After a short march to the cave, the pitch was rigged with ladders and all but 3 bottomed the cave. The usual frogs were present and all

enjoyed the pitch and cave. Ian was interested in diving the lake at the bottom but it had changed drastically from his last visit 3 years prior. The bottom passage had collapsed, making any diving attempts beyond consideration. After de-rigging the pitch and striking some difficulty getting vehicles up a slippery slope we headed for Adelaide - E.T.A. of 12.30 a.m. finished another great trip to the Flinders.

TERRY REARDON

Lower S. E.

OCTOBER, 11-13th, 1980.

PRESENT:- K. Mott, J. Mott, G. Pilkington & Charni, G. Parker, B. Parker and F. Aslin.

The purpose of this trip was to continue the relocation of caves in the Lower South East with the emphasis on those in Woods & Forest land. CEGSA is supplying information on caves on W. & F. land so a plan of management of Forestry land can include the caves contained therein.

On the way down, Mott almost forgot to collect the 'metre stick' from Jim. Luckily he remembered at Ki-Ki so it was only a short detour. Had he forgotten completely he would have looked pretty silly suspended across cave entri as a scale stick.

We were fortunate weather-wise as only light showers occurred occasionally on the Sunday and Monday. The majority of photos taken during the weekend made use of a 28mm wide angle lens because of the size of features and the limited distance available for photography.

L134 was rephotographed to show the senseless deposition of rubbish. The cave is historically interesting as it was used as a watering point for horses pulling coaches. Now not content with piling rubbish in the entrance, the owner has taken to filling it up with sand! Surely he'd be better off selling it as garden loam.

L20 has been upgraded by the local Lions Club so was rephotographed to record progress to date. With the rubbish removed it now looks quite respectable and worthy of show. The storm water has also been diverted away from the cave.

CAVES LOCATED: L1, L39, L61, L76, L84/85, L96, L97, L99, L117, L120, L186, L187, L188, L189, L190, L192 and L193.

CAVES PHOTOGRAPHED: L1, L39, L61, L76, L85/85, L96, L97, L99, L117, L119, L120, L134, L181, L187, L188, L189, L190, L191 and L192.

CAVES TAGGED: L1, L39, L61, L76, L84/85, L96, L97, L99, L117, L120, L186, L187, L188, L189, L190, L191 and L192.

CAVES SURVEYED: L188 and L192.

KEVIN MOTT

S. A. Mines ~ An historical and present day perspective.

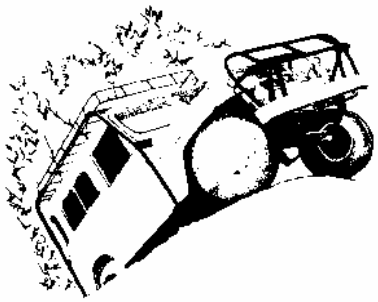
For March 1980 General Meeting - Royce Wells will be speaking to us about **'Mines - past and present'.**

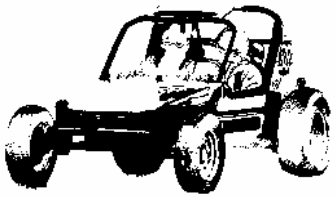
We will follow up this interesting introduction to S.A. Mines with a field trip probably to the Burnside or Glen Osmond area on the Saturday after the C.M. Let's go mining!

More information later.

MEREDITH REARDON

RECREATION VEHICLES
CODE OF ETHICS





1. Keep to the laws and regulations on recreation vehicles. They change from State to State.
2. Others have a right to peace and solitude - avoid noisy driving or riding near settlements and general recreation areas.
3. Keep to constructed vehicle tracks. Drive or ride off roads only when you have special permission.
4. Alpine areas, swamps and vegetated dunes are easily damaged. Avoid them.
5. Respect our wildlife. Stop and look, but never disturb or chase animals. It can affect their survival.
6. Keep the environment clean. Carry your own - and maybe other people's - rubbish home.
7. Keep all fire restrictions. Extinguish your fire before leaving. Don't let your exhaust emit sparks.
8. Keep to restrictions on use of public land. Respect national parks and other conservation areas.
9. Get permission before driving on private land. Leave livestock alone and gates as found.
10. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and quiet with an efficient muffler.
11. Take adequate water, food, fuel and spares on trips. In remote areas travel with another vehicle.
12. Join an appropriate and responsible recreation vehicle club if you use your vehicle mainly for recreation.
13. Help in bushfire emergencies and search and rescue, if you are properly equipped and able.

THIS CODE IS VALUABLE ONLY IF YOU OBSERVE IT

Prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Science and the Environment in consultation with recreation vehicle clubs, relevant State and Commonwealth authorities and other interested groups.

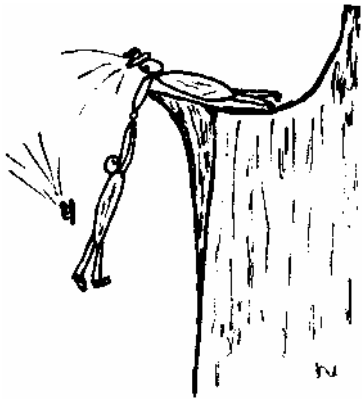
14th ASF Conference

South Australia has the privilege of hosting the Fourteenth Australian Speleological Federation Biennial Conference. A Sub-committee has been established to represent CEGSA in the organising committee. The members 'elected' are Ed Bailey, Athol Jackson, Kevin Mott, Michael Rochler and myself.

CEGSA is the only A.S.F. Society in S.A., but the Flinders University Speleological Society have been invited to co-host the Conference because they are another State Speleological Group. Maybe they will affiliate with the A.S.F. in the future.

Present arrangements are that accommodation, meals and sessions will be at Flinders University (Adelaide Suburbs) from the 3rd to 7th January, 1983. This enables cavers going to S.A.'s major caving area - the South East - to get to other areas before or after the Conference because they must pass through Adelaide either way.

It has been decided that a theme would give the conference some continuity. This co-ordinated third of the sessions will be on ***'The use of visual aids in Speleology'.*** It is hoped to follow the conference with a speleo-film festival to illustrate (har hum) one form of visual presentation.



Keep in touch for the next cliff-hanging episode!

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

S. W Tasmania ~ *LET'S SAVE IT!!*

THE DAMS ON THE LOWER GORDON

1. Conservationists support the Tasmanian Government's decision to preserve the Franklin River, however we deplore any further projects in the S.W.

   The dam on the Lower Cordon Rive (above the River Olga):-

   i) will flood some 110 square kilometres and with its 55 km of roads, quarry, worksite village and power-lines, will compromise 500 kms of pristine wilderness.

   ii) has not had an environmental impact study. The Premier (Lowe) has indicated the dam will be built regardless.

   iii) will produce only 118 megawatts - only 4 years uptake of the H.E.C. predicted demand increase.

2. The following information is supplied by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

WRITING LETTERS is one of the **MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS** of getting the point across. Here are **TWO EXAMPLE LETTERS,** concerning the **SOUTH WEST.**

They are to help you if you find it hard starting. Do use them as examples - don't copy them word for word, but change them and **ADD YOUR OWN CONCERNS AND INDIVIDUALITY.**

TO THE PREMIER OF TASMANIA, C/- Parliament House, Hobart, Tasmania, 7000.

I am writing to you about the Tasmanian Government's decision to build a new dam on the Gordon River and to declare a Franklin River National Park.

The Gordon and Olga Dam will be environmentally very damaging. Why was it chosen ahead of other less damaging alternatives such as thermal options? Could a decision on the Gordon and Olga Dam not be delayed for the short time until coal reserves are known?

Could you please let me know the type of legislation envisaged for the protection of the proposed park and the reasons why the whole of the area put on the Register of the National Estate was not included in it?

South West Tasmania is a wilderness with potential which can only be realised if exploitation of timber and water resources and exploration for minerals all stop. I believe that there should be no more dams built in the South West, no further destruction of forest and no more encroachment into the area by immense exploration organisations.

Could you please let me know how the Tasmanian Government will deal with future development applications for the South West? Also, when will the Government declare the national park as promised and how safe from revocation will the park be?

I eagerly await your reply on these issues.

TO THE PRIME MINISTER, C/- Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

The Tasmanian Government decided on the 11th July this year to establish a national park to protect the Franklin and Davey Rivers in South West Tasmania. This decision came after calls for the preservation of the South West from a number of authoritative organisations and from unprecedented public support.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has asked that this area be declared a national park. More recently, the Australian Heritage Commission has placed the whole area on the Register of the National Estate and Tasmania has declared it as a Conservation Area.

However, the Tasmanian Government is to allow the construction of new dam in the South West. There are also very severe threats to this National Estate area from mining and forestry. I believe that there are alternatives to these projects that should be followed **outside the** South West.

I consider it unacceptable for the Federal Government to either provide or authorise the borrowing of funds to finance projects which have a detrimental effect on the South West. Rather, the Federal Government should only be encouraging or financially assisting efforts made by the Tasmanian Government to protect the area.

MEREDITH REARDON

NOTE FROM THE CO-EDITOR

I am pleased to announce that new printing machinery recently installed has allowed me to produce your Newsletter in its usual size. It is hoped that a re-print of the last edition will be carried out during the Christmas holidays and that you should receive it with the next issue following this edition. I wish to thank all Cegsarians for their help and support during the past year and take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous and safe New Year.

Happy trogging, **JAN PETERSON**

Annual Dinner

Each year our Annual Dinner draws together a number of our group in a social environment. We often see people who for one reason or another cannot go caving or attend meetings regularly and we seem to have a good (great even) time! Our usual Dinner evening is held at a hotel where we dine, make speeches and drift home if there doesn't happen to be a band.

After much debate, nail biting and thought the Committee decided we would do something different, be innovative even. Instead of the usual room with a long table squashed in, food rushed to be served and dodging other patrons at the bar, salad table or (ahem) conveniences, we have booked some conference rooms at Conyingham Street, Glenside for **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, at 6.30 p.m.** at a cost of $12.00 per head.

For this we get privacy, an intimate atmosphere and excellent food catered for by a private caterer with a deliciously different menu. No rush, no 'intruders'; walk around, chat, sit in lounge chairs, dance to taped music or watch film, all at your leisure. It will be a night to remember - see you there.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S PRESENTMENT.

Annual Dinner time is on us again, and with it the presentation of awards. The President's awards are Leather Medals. But who gets them?

Each President has free scope to decide, but essentially the recipient must have been actively caving (armchair or otherwise) during the last year, and have done something that others should take note of. Usually the something is an item the receiver wishes to forget! However, the President's task is to sort out those genuine instances that highlight basic caving or speleological do's and don'ts, avoidable dangerous situations or simply something funny. The medal is also used to thank CEGSA members for their contribution to the Group, sneaked in indirectly as a laugh at sone embarrassing predicament they had had.

Personally, I prefer to award the medals to 'newer' members who are establishing themselves as contributing Group Members. Prefer is not exclusive.

And remember all yee holders of yone medals they are **TO BE WORN**, especially at Annual Dinners; they are not just draw fillers. Kevin has a list of all recipients : **BEWARE those** attending the Dinner (which of course is compulsory).

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Visible activity of CEGSA appears to have been low this year. Behind the scene the Group has been continually moving ahead. Outside organisations have made use of the Group's expertise. Several scouting groups have asked for speakers and leaders for caving trips. The State Emergency Service (Noarlunga) asked the Group to conduct a cave rescue course and liaison was established with STAR force of the S.A. Police.

Dot organised a successful caving course which was conducted in conjunction with W.E.A..

Liaison with the Woods and Forests Department may hopefully lead to better management of caves on Woods and Forest land. Many hours have already been spent on this exercise and help is still needed to complete it.

The long drawn out event of ladder making was finally completed and we are now waiting for people to collect their ladders. Our 25th Annual Dinner is coming up on November 29th and promises to be a night to remember. Founding and older members are being especially invited to this gala event.

KEVIN MOTT

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ladders can be collected by contacting our Quartermaster.

TREASURER'S (brief!) REPORT.

The General Account (Account No: 1) is very close to the budget estimates that I prepared at the beginning of the year. Income from all sources (including a $100.00 donation which, admittedly, was not foreseen) is almost equal to the estimated income of $740.00 The bulk of the income has cow from Membership Subscriptions which have totalled $550.00. Expenses, still with a couple of months to go before the end of the year, seem about right. At the moment, the Club has a Bank Balance in this account of $313.00.

The Library Account (Account No: 3) is not close to the estimates, mainly because sales of books and publications have not been as great as expected ($28.00 as against an anticipated $100.00) and because of recent purchases of new books (for instance, Ian Lewis's Cave Diving Book) which will, of course, be sold at a future date. Despite this, the Bank Balance remains at a healthy $268.00.

The Club also has an account with the Hindmarsh Building Society with a balance of $2,495.00. It was decided that these funds should be set aside in case money was needed for a new or modified Naracoorte Hut.

PHIL SKENE

CEGSA : BUDGET 1980

General Account No: 1

	Budget	As of end September, 1980
Income:		
Membership Subscriptions	$600.00	$550.00
Newsletter income	10.00	-
QM income - equipment fees	80.00)	66.45
- hut fees	20.00)	
Motifs	10.00	-
Bank Interest	20.00	13.18
		Other 104.80
	$740.00	$734.43

(continued overleaf)

CEGSA : BUDGET 1980

General Account No: 1 (Continued)

		Budget	As of end September, 1980
Expenses:			
Newsletter		$300.00	$250.00
Newsletter postage		80.00	53.68
Membership expenses		10.00	36.65
A.S.F. Levy		200.00	171.50
QM expenses -	hut electricity	30.00	19.27
	hut maintenance	10.00	-
	equipment maintenance	20.00	-
	equipment purchases	70.00	57.72
Contingencies		20.00	52.00
		$740.00	$640.82

Library Account No: 3

Income:		
Sale of books	$50.00	$2.00
Sale of Occasional Papers	50.00	26.00
Bank Interest	30.00	8.34
	$130.00	$36.34
Expenses:		
Helictite	$8.00	$8.00
Library books	52.00	-
Books for sale	50.00	65.50
Contingencies	20.00	-
	$130.00	$73.50
	Balance in Bank:	**$268.18**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

This year saw a downturn in CEGSA's membership. Full Membership stands at 28, and Associate Membership at 31. Together with 10 Honorary Life Memberships, this brings the total to 67 Members (previously 82).

Of the 1979 members, 30 did not renew their membership. Of those, 8 are either interstate members or had left for interstate or overseas. (These are only those known to me, and there may well have been others). It would seem reasonable to expect non-renewal by these people, but this still leaves about 20 who have progressed into other interests. Every group expects a turnover in its members, but this drop seems surprising in one year. CEGSA's membership over the years has always fluctuated, and perhaps we are at present in one of the downswings. A group like this is only as strong as its members, and hopefully some of those people will rejoin in the future.

There are many and varied reasons as to why members may be moving on. To stem the tide we need to attract new blood and to this end the D.F.E. courses may promote membership. Additionally, after my exam, I intend putting together a display for either public areas or places frequented by people interested in the outdoors. This will consist of photos of various aspects of caving in a poster type layout, and could be placed in malls, camping stores or other places.

If you have any ideas on how a membership drive might be bettered using other simple techniques, please don't hesitate to put them forward. If you have any thoughts on how membership can be made more attractive, either as a new, current, or retiring member, these would be well received. I and other members of the committee have mostly been in the Group for a number of years and the views of new members or their expectations might give insight on the promotion of group membership.

ROD McDOUGAL

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

As you are probably aware, the Club has never owned any gear for single rope work (abseiling or prussiking). The reason for this is that the greatest care must be taken with this equipment and the only way for this to occur is for individuals to own their gear and be responsible for its use.

Activity has been going on in single rope techniques (S.R.T.) for some years now, with individual people trying their own ropes, rappel racks, prussiking devices and assorted other gear for experimenting with different techniques. These people have trained others in S.R.T. using their own equipment. The Club, therefore, has relied on these individuals to train other members in S.R.T.

We are hoping to be successful in our application to the Department for Recreation and Sport for a 50% subsidy for a complete set of S.R.T. gear and bluewater rope in order to train members. The gear will be for training only and not available for hire. The advantages of the efficient S.R.T. system over cumbersome ladders on long pitches will be apparent and members will be encouraged to purchase their own gear.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DOES THE CLUB PROVIDE FOR MEMBERS' USE?

LADDERS: Made by the Club - sturdy fencing wire and aluminium rungs, ferrelled together. 25 or 30 feet, which can be joined together for long pitches. (50 cents per ladder per weekend).

ROPES: Assorted lengths of laid rope for belaying or ladder pitches. (50 cents per rope per weekend).

HEIMETS: For your friends when you take them caving. 25 cents per helmet per weekend

OTHER: Survey equipment, geo-seismic gear, carbide, gate keys and assorted relics from past trips (like telephone gear from Nullarbor - Mullamullang 1966 Expedition.)

MEREDITH REARDON

PROGRAMME

DECEMBER:	6 - 7th	CORRA-LYNN	G. Pilkington
	10th	COMMITTEE MEETING	23 Dorset St. Brahma Lodge.
	27 - 31st	A.S.F. CONFERENCE	Melbourne, Vic.
JANUARY:		POST CONFERENCE TRIPS	
	24/25/26th	LOWER S.E. - Location, Survey and Exploration	K. Mott
	28th	GENERAL MEETING - Résumé of Conference	
FEBRUARY:	7 - 8th	MT. ECCLES	R. McDougal
	11th	COMMITTEE MEETING	66 Eyre Cresc. Valley View
	21 - 22nd	TOWN CAVE - Curramulka - S.R.T.	Phil Skene
	25th	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	

NOTE: For 3 weeks over the Christmas Period a Sydney Group proposes a visit to the Nullarbor area. For further information, if you wish to join them, contact Terry Reardon.

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TRIP CONTACT LIST:

G. Pilkington,	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View	(W) 272 5711 (H) 264 2598
K. Mott,	3 Harcourt Road, Payneham	(W) 227 2704 (H) 42 2441
R. McDougal,	216 Beulah Road, Beulah Park	
P. Skene,	4 McRae Street, Windsor Gardens	(W) 227 4144 (H) 266 0196

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