

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

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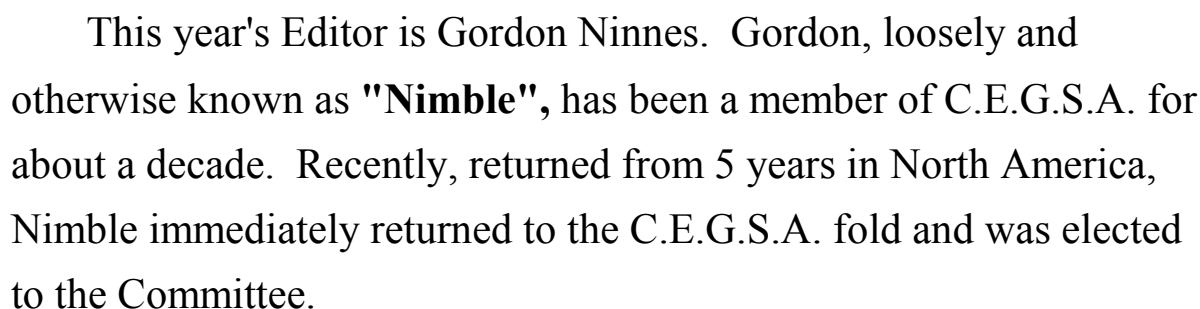
N E W S L E T T E R



CONTENTS

Volume 26, No: 1 May, 1981.

NEW EDITOR	Page 1
EDITOR'S TRITE COMMENTS	1
NOTE FOR MEMBERSHIP	1
NEW CEGSA MEETING ROOM	2
CEGSA / VSA DINNER	2
MAP FOR NEW MEETING ROOM	3
ON CAVING CONVICTIONS	4
NEW CAVES - NARACORTE	5
BURNSIDE MINES	6
PROGRAM	7
QUOTE	7



**C.E.G.S.A. NEWSLETTER,
25 THIRD AVENUE,
FORESTVILLE. S.A. 5035.**

EDITOR'S TRITE COMMENT

As always the Editor is crying out for articles. The due date for your articles in our next edition is July 22nd. By that time i should have enough material to fill at least 12 pages. The best source for this material is YOU. **You are the people who are the people who are the members of the Group; it is your activity that is being chronicled in this periodical. WHAT ARE YOU DOING!**

NOTE for MEMBERSHIP

Your dues are **OVERDUE**. If you do not pay in the near future this will be the last Newsletter you will receive.

NEW CEGSA MEETING ROOM

Later this year the Museum Lecture room which the Group now uses for General Meetings will have restricted parking; in fact no park. The alternatives are to fight for a park in North Terrace with everyone else or find a new venue.

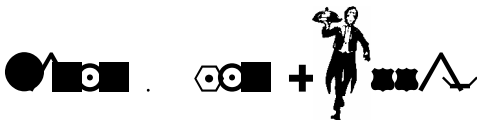
The new site was found by Gordon Ninnes who spent many hours looking at various halls. It is located on the corner of South Road and Gertrude Street, Glandore. Ample parking is available in Gertrude Street or the tennis courts behind the Hall (entry off Gertrude Street).

We will have the use of the main hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday for meetings. A small room off the side has been hired for storage of our records. This room is locked so does not form part of the main hall.

General meetings will commence in the new venue from June; the Committee meetings having commenced in May. It is close to all forms of transport; foot, bike, horse, donkey, car, bus, train, tram and hand glider; and for the daring abseil.

For map of area and location of hall, see next page.

KEVIN MOTT.



DATE: June 20th, 1981 - 6.30 p.m. (evening that is).

VENUE: Commercial Hotel - Naracoorte.

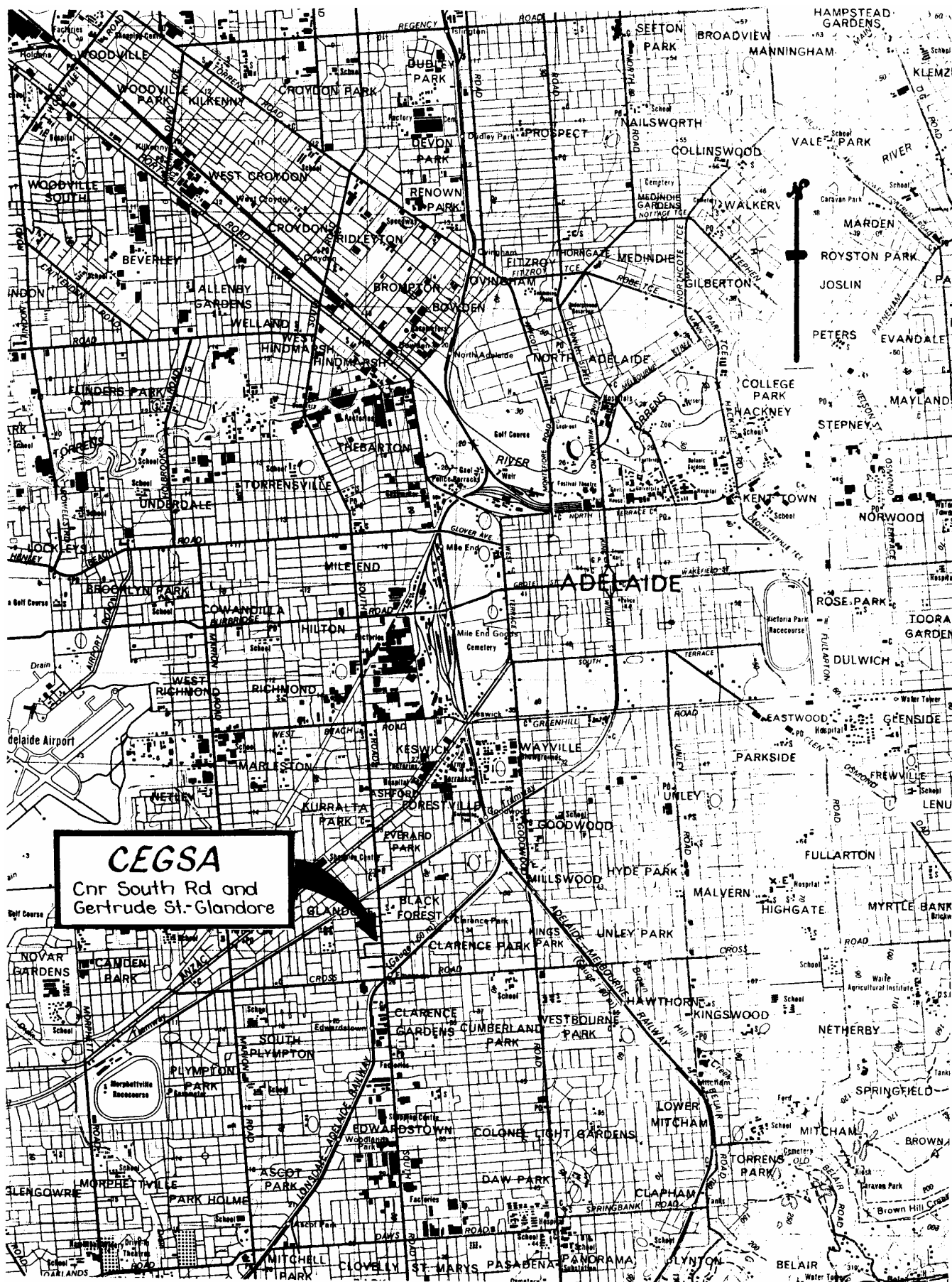
COST: Approximately \$5.00 - \$8.00.



This is an annual function not to be missed. Join in the caving, revelling, socialising and mixing with lesser cousins - the Victorians.

If you have missed out before, come along and find out what makes cavers tick. (Fleas or lice if you prefer).





ON CAVING CONVICTIONS....

Spirits of Caving were much to the fore at the 13th A.S.F. Conference at Melbourne University. There was a spirit of fun and a spirit of fellowship. There was a spirit of concern in four papers addressing the problems of cave conservation and management. Discussion following these papers disclosed not one, but several spirits of conviction. The problems would seem to be well defined.

Is caving primarily about people?

Is caving primarily about caves?

Does the scientific investigation of caves provide solutions or merely add to the problems?

O.K. You've heard it before. It's been the subject of editorials in this Newsletter. It was discussed at WACCON. And anyway, its hard, probably too hard. Right. And there are too many of "them" and too few of "us". Right again.

Suppose we assume that in a given region there is little potential for new discoveries, and that the known caves have been surveyed to a 'satisfactory' standard, adequately documented, and photographed with skill and sensitivity. What then should the people do whose knowledge and experience has been gained in documenting these caves? Should they turn them all over to a Service which in the field is undermanned and underpaid, and which is likely to be subject to much more political pressure in the future than it has in the past? Should they relegate their documentation to archives and their experience to memory?

Caves were always about caves. They didn't need people - not when they were undiscovered, their drainage systems intact. Now they need people. Concerned people. Informed people.

So there it is. Some of you are at the top of the pitch - you've done it already. You can see how you could have done it better. Some of us are at the bottom. Some of us are halfway up.

You called "Climb when ready".

How about getting back on belay?



NEW CAVES.. NARACOORTE

This year there has been two new caves opened up in the Naracoorte area. In both cases the caves were reported to the National Parks staff at Naracoorte, who asked us to investigate.

U123

This was reported as a collapse in sand near Hynam following heavy rain early in January. During the weekend of January 10th, 11th, there was a trip to Henschke's Quarry for excavating and to show some people on post conference trips the Naracoorte caves.

After returning from a trip to Fox Cave the Ranger asked us to look at a new cave that had just opened up. The cave was in a lucerne paddock and the entrance was 2.5m diam. and 7m deep, with cave development at the south west end. Due to the sumping the walls were undercut. The initial investigations were made using the farmers fixed wooden ladder as the walls looked ready to jump out and bury any trops silly enough to venture down. A minor collapse occurred while Henry Shannon was in the hole. It was impossible to get into the cave exposed because of the amount of loose sand. The feature had intrusions of clay in the wall. The hole formed part of a large complex doline, and this collapse was only one more in what appears to have been a series of collapses in the past.

It was suggested that the hole not be filled in yet but that it be monitored on successive trips to see what effect, if any, the winter season has on it. When it has stabilized it could then possibly be filled with clean fill.

U125

This cave was uncovered by Telecom during cable laying on the 3/4/81. The Telecom crew was warned they may strike caves on the proposed route and laughed it off as a joke, till they did. The cable was looped around the hole about 0.9m in diameter and reported to the Ranger.

As we were at Naracoorte that weekend for a Henschke's Quarry trip, the Ranger asked us to have a look at the cave. The entrance was in an unstable condition with a funnel of sand (loosened by the cable layer). The area around the entrance was cleared back to the caprock to minimise the chances of burying the first person down. Once the entrance was cleared we had to cut the tree roots in the entrance which restricted movement.

The puzzling thing during entrance clearing was the amount of tin and "conglomerate?" actually lying around. Once through the tree roots the view was astounding. A sand cone/rock pile leading down 8m to the floor of 20 x 30m chamber. Off the sides of this chamber were several 'dug' passages. The most promising led SE for approx. 15-20m. This ended in a rock blocked passage with a breeze. The cave runs parallel with U7.

Telecom have subsequently visited the cave quite frequently. The cave received substantial publicity in the Naracoorte Herald.

KEVIN MOTT.

BURNSIDE MINES

This trip far exceeded our wildest expectations for attendance with 31 people attending the trip.

Royce wells from the Dept of Mines was our guide for the trip and our motley convoy finally met him by Penfolds winery after being delayed as usual by Mott. The tour started at the Magill stone mines where Cornish miners hewed slate by hand using wooden wedges and water. Their skill at reading the rock and their boundless energy in mining has to be seen to be believed. We could certainly use them on digging trips. Any minerals found were an added benefit.

The next port of call was the Burnside gold mines and the waterfall Gully manganese mine. Those who worked the gold mines were either very fit or were crossed with mountain goats. At this stage Royce entertained us with a delightfully gruesome story of the female ghost who inhabits the area around the mine.

We next visited the Glen Osmond group of mines. They are the most controversial group of mines in the area. They are the first mines in Australia and the silver lead content of the ore is up to 6 times as rich as that of Broken Hill. Because of the size of the Broken Hill lode it became uneconomical to work the mines and they eventually were forced to close. Some reopened at various times for short bursts of mining.

The mines are at present the centre of controversy. Suburbia in its usually insidious crawl is rapidly approaching the entrance to the mines. Some houses are actually situated over the top of some shafts. Inbuilt long drop toilets perhaps. As they build houses and roads over the shafts and seal them up they cut off the air circulation causing moisture build-up, with subsequent timber rot and rock fret and insurance claims. The Council has been asked to set aside some reserves to preserve the mines but while delays continue, subdivision encroaches even further.

If the mines ever become viable under different economic circumstances, a lot of expensive houses will need to be bought out.

Funds are currently being sought to preserve this part of our national heritage. CEGS.A should help fight to preserve these mines and perhaps develop them as a tourist asset. Those who attended the trip will certainly agree the mines tour was a day fruitfully spent. Let us hope something positive will eventuate before the mines are desecrated too much by insensitive developers seeking nothing but a quick profit.

Anyone having photos or knowing of photos of the mines and the areas around the mines, should contact Kevin Mott as the Council is seeking photos for a submission to the Heritage Commission.

KEVIN MOTT

PROGRAM

JUNE	6-8	Flinders Ranges - exploration	Kevin Mott
	10	Committee Meeting	
	20	CEGSA / VSA Dinner	Naracoorte
	24	General Meeting	
JULY	8	Committee Meeting	
	18-19	Corra Lynn - exploration	Graham Pilkington
	26	Mt. Compass	Kevin Mott
AUGUST	2	Punyelroo Cave	Ed Bailey
	8-9	Mt. Gambier - photography	Kevin Mott
	12	Committee Meeting	
	26	General Meeting	

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QUOTE

Neville Pledge at Naracoorte during a Henschke's trip

"I'd really like to take advantage of this woman tomorrow but I don't think I would be able."