

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

VOLUME No: 27, No: 2 AUGUST 1982



N E W S L E T T E R



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

MEETING TIME: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.45 p.m.

PLACE: Museum Lecture Room at rear of Museum.

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT:	K. Mott, 3 Harcourt Road, Payneham	(h) 42 2441 (w) 227 2704
V. PRESIDENT:	M. Reardon, 5 Loxton Court, Valley View	(h) 263 4879
TREASURER:	J. Ellis, Box 468, P.O. Norwood	(w) 227 3018
SECRETARY:	D. Arnott, 10 Chapman St. Torrensville	(h) 352 6942
LIBRARIAN:	G. Pilkington, 66 Eyre Cresc. Valley View	(h) 264 2598
MEMBERSHIP:	J. McCormack, 30 May St., Sefton Park	(h) 42 2900 (w) 47 0830
SAFETY AND TRAINING:	J. McCormack. As above.	
PUBLICATIONS:	G. Ninnes, 7 St. George's Ave, Glandore	(h) 297 8202
RECORDS:	S. Flavel, Murray Road, Inglewood	(h) 380 5096 (w) 223 3866
QUARTERMASTER:	Meredith Reardon. As above.	
PUBLIC OFFICER:	G. Pilkington. As above.	

POSTAL ADDRESS: Cave Exploration Group of S.A. Inc.,
C/- The S.A. Museum,
North Terrace,
ADELAIDE. S.A. 5000

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COVER PHOTO

Some of the rubbish collected from Monbulla Cave, Penola

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

EDITOR'S TRITE COMMENTS

Welcome to the mid year edition. Thanks to some heavy contributions we have another bumper issue. We are very pleased to have our second in a row.

This month, we again have a detachable centrefold. Please use these when reporting your trips. They serve a double purpose.

- 1) They are a sheet for writing up your trip for the newsletter,
- 2) They can be placed in the Master Trip Record book after all the relevant material has been given for the Cave Master sheets.

Again, please use these sheets!!!

NIMBLE

CEGSA RECORDS DAY and B.B.Q. LUNCH

DATE: Sunday 26th September

TIME: 11.00 a.m. onwards

PLACE: 7 St. Georges Ave., Glandore (Nimble's place)

Bring your own everything for a B.B.Q. lunch. During the day we will be tackling the updating of the Cave Master Sheets. Among other things this involves going through a large number of Newsletters and lifting the information from them then placing it on the appropriate Cave Master Sheet. It is a very labour intensive job so we will need all the people we can get.

BE THERE AND GET YOUR BIT IN!

DEADLINE

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING.

DID YOU KNOW ?

CEGSA Members shopping at the Scout Shop are able to get a 10% discount on a large number of articles.

Present your membership card and ask for Bill Nicholson or Michael Stokes.

TRIP REPORTS

NULLARBOR - EASTER 1982

PARTY: Graham Pilkington and Max Meth- 9th to 25th
 Jill Meth 9th to 11th

WEBBS CAVE: N132

Air measurements taken from 21/4/82 to 24/4/82 mornings only. 60m. in beyond entrance chamber negligible air movement noted. Temperature 20-21°C, % relative humidity 51-52.

Cave very dry and dusty. The recent flooding and percolation of water from surface did not happen here. Very little water came in via the collapse entrance and did not reach more than 20m. beyond the entrance rubble.

NURINA CAVE: N46

Visited: 11/4/82 for 2 hours by Max and Graham.

Little evidence of surface run-off from recent rains but water pools below entrance muddied. No evidence of changed water levels. New debris only sand and gravel of maybe 1 m³ - source appears to be from small doline (8m diameter, 2m deep) and the collapse. No evidence of surface water run-in channels.

MADURA SOUTH: N62

Visited: 10/4/82 - 11/4/82 total 8 hours. Max, Graham and Jill.

Water entered cave from doline to reach second excavation pit with a minor overflow. Both pits flooded, the first collapsed. Water also entered via main roof-hole with minor addition from offset roof-hole. This water flooded the trench (dug 1947) causing slumping, and overflowed down the LH passage. The water reached the squeeze passage connecting the two major passages that start at the trench, but did not enter the terminal "chamber".

Examination of the end of the water-course showed that the water (and muds and sands) enter a black honeycomb the top level of which is the terminal chamber floor. A survey was made of the second to last RH passage of the RH branch from the trench. This was to complete Kevin Mott's cave survey. At the expected end of this 0.5 high, 6m wide tunnel it became 3m high and curved around a rockpile on the right. Straight on at floor level was a sand-shoot under a rock ledge that had a strong breeze blowing through it. This immediately entered a black honeycomb of caver dimensions 1m x 1m "passages" with 2m deep floorholes. Unfortunately the 1m x 1m was awkwardly irregular and I only managed to examine about 10 x 15m. At the western end it was filled with sand that probably comes from the stream-sink noted earlier.

A line of gravity readings were taken across the main cave tunnel but the method proved useless for cave prediction because the vuggy nature of the limestone above the cave and the honeycombing below it masked the passages accessible to cavers.

A full grown female grey-coloured kangaroo was found, alive, at the bottom of the 3m deep trench at the entrance to the south cave. It objected to Max trying to help it out so we cut away half the wall between the two pits and left it to get out itself.

WITCHES CAVE: N193

Visited: 21/4/82, 10 hours. Max and Graham.

I was with Kevin Mott the previous Easter when he located a draught coming from a "window" at the back of a low section off the entrance complex. That trip penetrated 200m into new 2m high cave of unknown width. The walls could not be seen for the columns. We stopped only because of lack of time and to make sure we knew our way out!

With this prior knowledge, I decided not to allocate the fortnight the cave needed for survey and exploration. Instead Max and I spent one day. We did a survey compass and tape traverse from the entrance to the nearly horizontal chamber past the constriction and then used hand held prismatic and tape to do a traverse of our exploration. This did not produce a useable map but enabled us to see which direction to go to get away from the entrance and acted as an invisible ball and string to follow out. Traverse length would be meaningless to quote as we did a few ip-dips that took us the long way around pillars. However, as the bat flies we got 320m from the entrance at one point with our prime path consisting of a nearly north line out to 290m then an arc around the entrance of another 210m. The 2m high path had by then turned due south (about 200m offset from the path taken to get there). Lack of time and Max's increasing lethargy (he was still suffering the after effects of the flu) forced a retreat.

This is another of those caves that will have to be quoted by extent of area rather than passage length. It is a maze of columns, pillars, false walls and spongework. The calcite decoration is ubiquitous and live. After the latest rains water was dripping everywhere even with a few filled rimstone pools. One now decayed rimstone dam wall was 0.4m high and up to 10m long.

The cave floor for the first 100m was surface wash-in but after passing through the window the floor changed to cave breakdown - sand, silt and flakes with flowstone inter-leaves. The typical floor was flat and sandy between rock/flowstone ridges.

A few bats (in flight) were seen but only one bat chamber noted. Dog-like tracks, droppings and sleeping hollows were fairly common right into the cave.

To map this cave will require a dedicated trip with people mapping the obstacles rather than fictitious walls. A real co-ordinated effort will be needed so that "end-of-survey" positions can be picked up by the next team. There are some natural constrictions that could be used to map the cave in chunks. I wish the unfortunate mapper the best of luck. Any wishy-washy survey would be almost useless because future extensions will take off from anywhere and need good location because of the interconnection problems.

THAMPANNA CAVE REVISITED

Visited: 22-23/4/82, total 19 hours underground. Max and Graham.

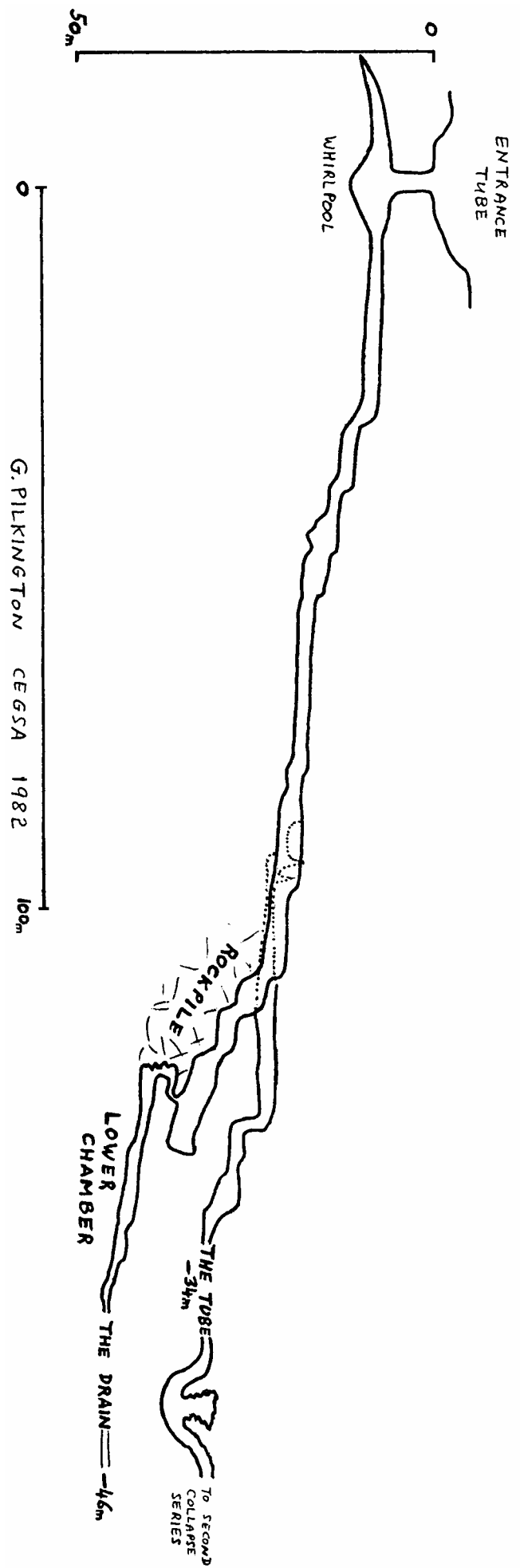
The first recorded entry to this cave was in 1975 by the local property manager Peter (Kelly) Nash. he travelled to the start of the drop down into the southern end of the entrance collapse series and also found the duck-under across the gravel bed and stopped at the 4m drop at the end of the next chamber.

W.A. cavers led by R. Webb accidentally found the cave in 1977 but did not have the tackle to enter. They returned in January, 1980 and found the start of the coffee and cream on the south side end of the entrance collapse series but failed to locate the duck-under.

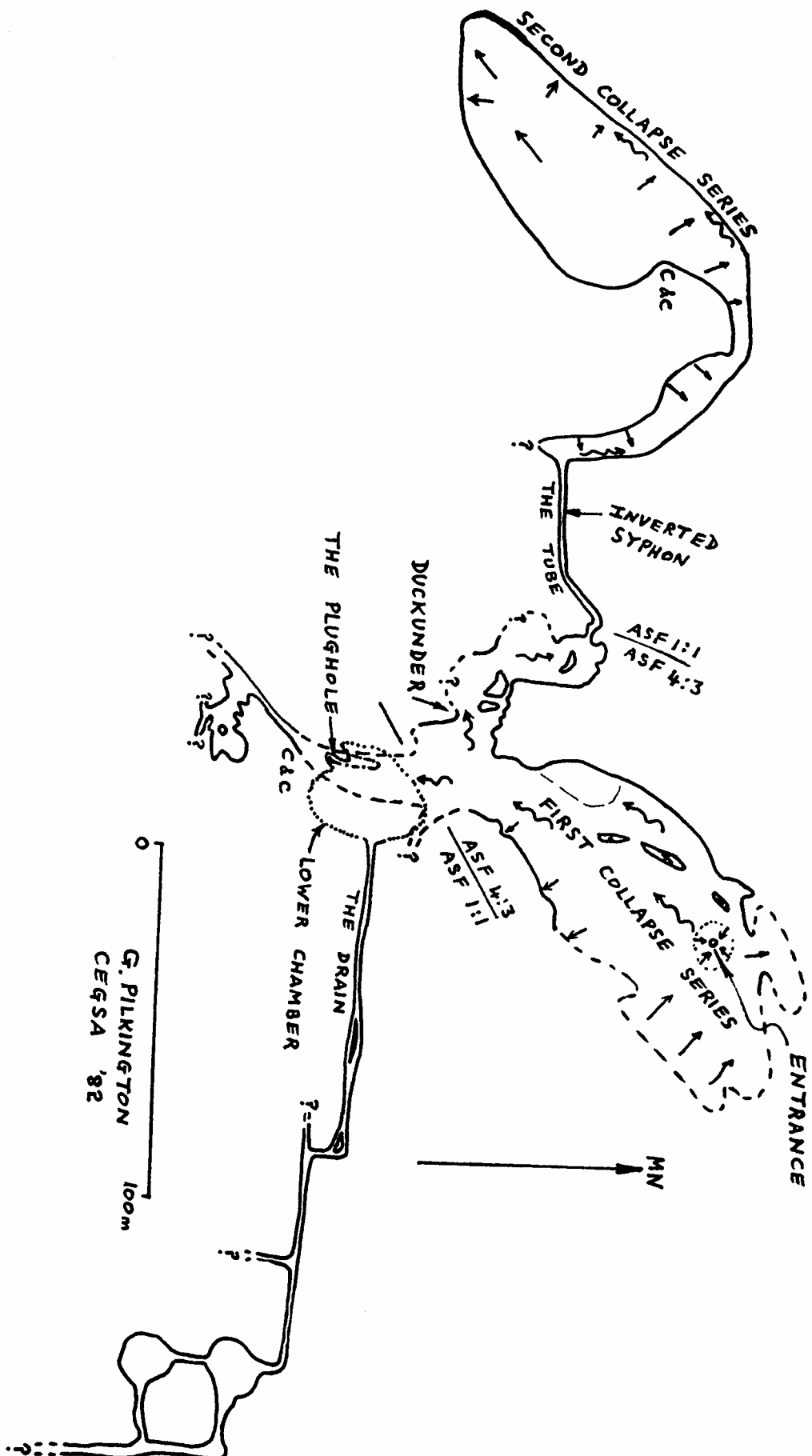
Last year, Easter 1981, Kevin Mott's party from CEGSA also accidentally found the cave. Its existence in the area was known but not its location nor entrance description. On that trip the coffee and cream was revisited and pushed for 20m to a strongly draughting impassable constriction. The terminal chamber below but just off one side of the final collapse was also noted. It finished in a sandy bedrock with a dried up pool and fine organic matter attached to the walls up to 3m high BUT NO MUD. The duck-under was re-discovered, the TUBE found and the second collapse series discovered. Thampanna was now an estimated 500m long. During this time a very strong air blast was making use of the same 3m diameter tube entrance that we were, necessitating belay ropes to be weighted to prevent whiplash to people up top attempting to drop them in.

The column of moving air was much too great for the cave so far discovered hence I planned on spending two days down there this trip. Enough time to map the known cave and have a good look for the suspected extensions beyond the coffee and cream and off the 2nd collapse series. So much for mice and men.

THAMPANA CAVE 6N206
PROTECTED SECTION



THAMPANA CAVE 6N206



Having visited Mullamullang a few days earlier, I expected to see drastic water effects on this cave. I was disappointed at first sight. On the surface the track that crosses its feeder depression was almost unaffected, although scree from the higher side of the doline had washed a couple of metres onto the rock platform that surrounds the entrance pit. We started our survey below the entrance but left the north end with the intention of doing that just prior to exiting - it was a muddy mess, at least for the Nullarbor. After reaching the duck-under we called a break in surveying while I showed Max the end of the entrance collapse series where the water vanished. We took our hammer and jemmy bar. The puzzle was that the duck-under obviously carried a large quantity of water (when flowing) yet was minor to the quantity that should flow to the south end. This ends with a rapid drop of 10m yet never floods the coffee and cream tunnels off one side near the bottom. Trust Max. He found a finger hole between two pebbles blowing air. This was 1.4m above an 0.3m deep pool in the chamber in the rockpile. This clean 10 degree-dip pebble slope soon yielded up its secret. Hidden under it was a large rock slab and under that (we and air went around it) a small water-worn pocket 3m long, 1m high and wide. Off the further end we found a gale blowing from a floor hole choked by three friendly rocks - they were leaning on each other. Five minutes of careful analysis later and the removal of one rock and we were through. This PLUGHOLE dropped alongside a large rockpile - part of the "terminal" collapse - into a 25m diameter 2m high chamber that lies beneath the entrance series but has a normal rock roof. There was evidence that it had been nearly completely filled by water very recently and had a large mud deposit. At the lowest point on the east we found another pool of water, this time with a cold breeze blowing over the top. We could see at least 5m over water and although looking blocked we had to go on. And on. We travelled for an estimated 150m of 1m high, 2m wide streamway I call THE DRAIN passing 2 side branches before reaching a collapse chamber 2m high and about 20m diameter. Beyond here we found about another 100m of collapse and 50m of streamway. We stopped partially because we had no survey gear and needed to return for it but I, for one, did not like my memory of the rainy sky we had left to go underground and the 150m of sump that would occur, AGAIN, if a downpour occurred. It needs a water level monitor to determine how long a person would be trapped (if not drowned) prior to the sump draining. The collapse areas at the end of THE DRAIN were not submerged during the latest flooding. These collapses are along old DRAIN tunnels as can be seen from the sketch map.

After exiting from the PLUGHOLE we both breathed a sigh of relief and suggested the next day was an ideal one to do surveying. To pass the time until dusk (did I mention the flies outside?), I took Max across to the coffee and cream blockage that for the last year I had dreamed of cracking. But after the DRAIN find, who cares? Still, we had the necessary persuasion equipment with us and leaving the DRAIN had somehow rejuvenated the idea that we might live to tell others. The rock roof and floor were hard, immobile and so near to being far enough apart that I hit out in frustration and demolished the right-hand wall. We went around the bastard. 10m beyond, after a little gardening, another collapse was reached that probably goes on, on the far side along a tight sharp flaky mess. I think we also located another air path into the area. This group of voids consists of interconnecting conical depressions of sand. Maybe 50m was added to the cave, which with the 330m (?) of DRAIN and previous finds makes Thampanna about 900m long to date.

The next day, an early breakfast and ready to spend a good day surveying the second collapse series and maybe the DRAIN. What was that about mice and men? Charlie, the Mundrabilla Station Manager roars into camp, screeches to a halt and asks if we are interested in looking into a blowhole he found the day before. It was noon before we re-entered Thampanna. The blowhole was 8m deep with a 3 x 4 bulb at the bottom 2m high. No blow, just hole.

We continued the survey through the duck-under and down to the start of the TUBE at -34m and stopped. A fascinating display of hydrophobia was what did it. Max, the unknowing, was for continuing the survey. He could feel the wind howl, see the void ahead and had been indoctrinated on the wonders of the TUBE and the second collapse series, by myself, for the last six months. So what do I mean hydrophobia? Well, see, the tube was nearly sumped off and had been a couple of weeks earlier if the tide marks at approximately 10mm intervals meant anything. In fact it was 2m underwater when the level first stabilized after the 180mm downpour in April. The tide marks do not appear until the level had dropped to almost (?) the top of the tube. They may be related to the daily cycle of air movement. Since the TUBE needs at least 2m of water head before flowing, it is indeed a dynamic phreatic passage like Dr. Joe Jennings said.

I should also mention that the water was very clean with negligible bottom deposits. I suspect that the water entering Thampanna contains very little mud or other debris; mostly grass, twigs and rabbit droppings.

A bit of clean water shouldn't have stopped me you say? But I've been along that tube. It has an inverted siphon further on that must have remained flooded or the level at the start could not have maintained its' level. This U tube has a vuggy roof and in fact is hollowed out, enabling air to bypass the flooded tube. It would have been silly to ruin our survey gear and my health, by taking it through on a duck dive when the sump should be dry for the next few decades. So we explored instead. A strong draught was detected along the "powdered cream" west wall of the chamber after the duck-under, but a section of wall I leant on leant on me and that stopped that. While I recuperated we located a bypass of the gravel bed in the duck-under - lower but sandy and half the length.

We did not have the time to do the cave justice by an accurate survey and still reach the DRAIN so we did a line traverse with prismatic and tape, estimating horizontal and dropping verticals. The coffee and cream was at about -33m (same as the TUBE) while the DRAIN pool surface was at -45m. Estimated maximum depth of Thampanna found to date is -48m in the DRAIN collapse area.

Next trip I hope to complete the survey of the known cave, then make another survey trip necessary. It will be wise to familiarize some cave divers with this cave in case rescue of dry cavers trapped by floodwaters eventuates. Remember, if you come on my next trip, you too can go down the DRAIN.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

NARACOORTE

PARTY: Liz Butler, John and Melina Healey, Bernie Magraith,
John McCormack, Dennis Thamm, Andrew Wight, Anya Radeka.

CAVES VISITED: Cathedral, U47 (formerly S102), Victoria Fossil and Fox Cave.

DATES: 15th - 17th May and 23rd May.

Two trips in two weekends. That has almost doubled the number of trips to Naracoorte I have been on in as many years. Blame it on these new el-keeno members.

Most of the party arrived at the Cave Reserve either Friday afternoon or evening of the 15th while Bernie came down on Saturday. At the crack of dawn, Saturday morning, at around 10.00 a.m. or so, the party set off for a day's practice of vertical caving techniques at Cathedral Cave. Both SRT ropes and a wire rope ladder was rigged on the pitch, and various pieces of equipment were available for use. Considerable imagination and ingenuity was demonstrated by some members and rather novel methods of abseiling were devised.....and some definite disadvantages became evident when one attempts an upside-down abseil.

This mishap was coped with relatively easily, having occurred in ideal conditions - in daylight on a dry pitch. In more hazardous conditions on a very cold, wet pitch deep within a cave, such a mishap can quickly snowball into major problems. Unfortunately, South Australia only has a small number of vertical pitches on which to gain experience. Furthermore, our caves are, in many respects, quite tame when compared to some systems which may be encountered interstate or indeed overseas. It is quite plain that for those who dream of tackling some macho caving they must be very practised in the necessary climbing techniques. Total familiarity with one's equipment is a must.

End of Sermon - back to the trip report. Not to be deterred, our ever-keen additions to the club proceeded to explore Cathedral. The extensiveness of it was quite surprising as I had never been right through the cave before, and that was only following the well-trodden (and therefore easier) paths. Time did not allow an extensive search to find a recently discovered (?) section of the cave mentioned by the Ranger.

Perhaps the highlight of this particular trip was witnessing the stirring of the colony of bats in their exodus from the cave for their nightly hunt. It is an extremely impressive spectacle to be amongst a large number of bats flying in small confines, often feeling the wind from their wings, but never colliding with me or with the others present (several members of the Magill Adventurers, a scouting group visiting Naracoorte).

Saturday night was spent at the Commercial Hotel, being joined by Bernie who came down specially for the occasion. It was difficult to leave the warm, hearty atmosphere which our merry band created while crowding near the log fire, with full bellies and glass in hand. A port around a roaring campfire was encouragement enough to face the chilling night. However, it was b.....cold and the fire didn't roar, and the port was R.S., so sleeping bags were unbagged.

Great plans were made for Sunday. Beekeepers, U47 (S102), the muddy crawl between Tomato-Stick and Cathedral (ha, ha), and perhaps even Butterfly extension were to be attempted. Unfortunately, the party suffered a high casualty rate at this stage. Bernie decided to return to Adelaide, and Melina came down with a stomach wog - the worst kind, even one's prejudice doesn't seem to help. John remained at the Cave Reserve with his daughter in hope that she might recover later in the day. Meanwhile, the remainder headed off to explore the reaches of U47.

After obtaining permission from the very receptive landowners, (just talk to them about greyhounds) it was not long before we had rigged up ladders on the entrance pitch and were into it. The rock pile at the bottom of the entrance chamber was quickly crawled up-and-through, and we had made the main chamber. An excellent example of how much cave may be discovered if one is prepared to push slightly more difficult routes.

Upon coming to the second lake in the main chamber, I was fortunate not to sustain a serious injury. After having told the cave-divers in the party not to bother with their masks, they were demanding my left one be served up on a platter. Two of them stripped down to try and see if the sump 'went', trying to do some roof sniffing. Apparently, when this lake was first discovered, the cavers were able to get through to another rock pile beyond by the process of roof sniffing. At that time, though, the season had been quite dry which meant the water level was abnormally low, allowing access without requiring scuba gear.

Worse was yet to come. We found another large chamber which led to another sump - the third lake. Even the knowledge that it had already been dived did not console my grief-stricken friends. The only thing I could do to quieten the terrible noise of their great weeping and knashing of teeth was to promise a trip the next weekend (hence the two trips in two weekends). After making our exit from U47 we decided to return to the cave reserve to see if Melina was fit enough to join us. Unfortunately, the effects of Saturday night were still lingering so the Healeys departed for Adelaide. It was 3.00 p.m., plenty of time to hit a cave with our whole heart, so we did. A touristy through Victoria Fossil. I fully recommend this trip. The Ranger was extremely interesting and well informed, while some of the tourists very nearly demonstrated, would-you-believe, human intelligence. It is remarkable what only a few minutes in a cave can do for even the most hopeless of cases. But more surprises were still to happen. Even our cave-divers began to show signs which distantly resembled that of a thinking being. Andrew suggested we spend the night at his parents, only a few miles away across the border, and what's more, collect together a few items of diving gear to crack U47. A good time was had by all, the Wights living up to their reputation as ragers, renowned throughout the state - but then Victoria is a pretty small place.

Andrew was able to dig up some top diving gear - old boot-fin 'straps' a sawn-off spear gun, even a bicycle pump with an extra long hose. We did Fox Cave instead.

Fox Cave is a really good cave; so good, in fact, that I thought this new breed of cavers would demand three trips in three weekends. One must have quite a lot of time to satisfactorily explore this cave completely. We raced down to the sand castle chamber, blew some film, raced down to the pretties getting geographically embarrassed on only two...three... a small number of occasions. A good cave. Note: ensure you obtain the key to the "fence" gate from the Ranger. We were assured that there was no lock, therefore, no key would be required.

The following weekend, Andrew, Liz, Dennis and myself were accompanied by Anya to dive the U47 sumps. Only one steel 72 cubic foot tank was taken down as it was intended to ferry people through the second lake to the small chamber beyond. The swim was very shore! and in fact could have easily been done while holding one's breath. The water of this 2nd lake laps at the base of a large rock-pile, which still remains impassable. The third lake was dived only by Dennis. He found that it went down about 15 feet, however, it unfortunately didn't develop.

I would like to thank all those who came on either or both of the weekends. Two very enjoyable and exciting trips. I was impressed by the 'cave' sense displayed by various members, which allowed me to enjoy my caving and not worry too much about others.

JOHN McCORMACK

CEGSA / VSA DINNER AT PENOLA

This years' dinner, despite the late notification, turned out very successful. There were 41 people at the dinner, 26 CEGSA and 15 VSA. Those who attended the dinner found the food quite enjoyable and the hospitality only exceeded by the character of the fireplace. Compared with the events of some previous years the dinner was somewhat subdued in the physical respect. (Bun fights to the plebeian uninitiated).

The main caving 'project' for the trip was a clean-up of the Monbulla Cave system. Over the years the entrances have been progressively filling up with various forms of rubbish. Coils of wire, barbed and plain, chassis and assorted iron mongery making up the bulk of it.

Subsequent to an article appearing in the Penola Pennant in which CEGSA appealed for assistance from local service clubs the owner cleaned up one entrance personally, after having done so he was pleasantly surprised to find he actually had a decent cave with lots of pretties.

Undaunted (well outwardly at least) we commenced work on the main entrance where the 'Sims metal' pile was 2.5m high and 10m diameter. Work was supervised by the 'Grand Master' of rubbish dump scrounging and collector of junk invaluable; the one and only Fred Aslin (remember the name next time Meredith). That night only a few remnants of junk was left lying on the surface to be carted away next morning. Not bad after an 11.00 a.m. start.

Sunday some people explored the Monbulla system while a few die-hards started disembowelling the rubbish from the other entrance, this was more difficult as a carcase of a long deceased motor vehicle was prostrate in the entrance. Loose bits and pieces of junk around this carcase were gradually removed to free it. The top half of the car severed from the bottom by those well known tools of good speleo junk collectors. Chisel, hack-saw and hammer. With the top half removed it was easier to remove the wire underneath. Later that day the owner of the property rendered his assistance and loaned his log roller and tractor to help in removing that which remained of the car. I gather that tractor load of rubbish for the dump had to be seen to be believed. Literally defied gravity.

All in all something like 15 trailer loads of junk were transported to the 'dump' which according to our chief dump assessor was 'low grade'.

Because of the classification I did not undertake a survey of this dump, thus proving to the followers of Nullarbor trips that I don't necessarily survey **every** dump. Actually I didn't want to be around when the council workers next visited the dump.

Many thanks must go to the land owner for letting us do this work. Graham and Nimble for use of trailers and the members of VSA who assisted.

Thanks must also go to Athol for arranging use of the Buffalo Lodge Hall as a sleeping venue and the use of the football club showers.

KEVIN MOTT.

BURNSIDE MINES

PARTY: K. Mott and P. Clarke

DATE: 3rd July, 1982

This was a quick trip to show Peter the mines. First stop was the Magill stone mines. Since the last brief trip there, in?, suburbia has encroached even further. The point where everyone gathered and looked at a small mine has now been covered with fill so some suburbanite can have a back-yard that does not slope at -50 degrees.

One of the mines is obviously used by young locals exploring their bodies and we have a collection consisting of jeans, 2 sweat shirts and a blanket. Anyone wish to claim them?

After this we made our way to the Glen Osmond area where due to the lateness of the hour we only had time to look at the 'original mine'. Entry to this is now barred by a gate which would fail dismally as a cave gate. Access can be gained through the side if you are small enough. Anyhow the thought counts.

KEVIN MOTT.

TOWN WELL CAVE - CURRAMULKA

PARTY: Susie Sweetman, John Healey, Bill Ryan, Dennis Thamm, Karen Jones, Tom Porritt, Sharon Howard, John McCormack and Shane LePlastrier.

PATE: June, 1982

Primarily, this trip was prompted by Tom Porritts' desire to see the cave while visiting Adelaide, as well as being an easy alternative to the more involved Flinders Rangers trips which had been advertised. Departure was scheduled at 8.00 a.m., however, it became more like 8.45 a.m. After a pit stop at Port Wakefield, a previously designated rendezvous, we arrived at Curramulka about 10.45 a.m.

The pitch was rigged with 5 ladders (however 4 could have done the job) and a climbing rope. With the time spent refitting spare abseiling tackle and instructing the uninitiated, it was getting close to 1.00 p.m. before the last person (me) descended. Sharon had no desire to climb the pitch so she served the more than useful role as surface coordinator and belayer. This was necessary as we had one late arrival, and others were expected. In fact, a total of 10 other people had intended coming as well. It was fortunate they didn't because the cave could not possibly accommodate that many people. Even as it was, a traffic engineer would have had a field day applying his queuing theory.

I am not exactly sure what everybody got up to in the cave. Unfortunately, I was required to stay on the surface for most of the time (oh! its good to be needed). I am sure everybody did as much caving as they wanted. Some small pieces of rubbish were removed from the far reaches of the cave (flash bulb, pieces of polystyrene). A bit gross.

The climb out proved to be a rather big task for those with only a little experience. It is no mean feat to climb this pitch (30m), especially after spending lengthy periods crawling through the cold and muddy conditions. However, everyone managed adequately whether they made their exit via the ladder or (prussicked ?) out. Everybody was out of the cave by 4.30 p.m., and the cave locked up and left at 5.00 p.m. While on this topic of vertical caving, I would like to reiterate a few points made by Rod McDougal (CEGSA Newsletter Vol. 26 No: 3 pp 11.)

- (1) Never let a complete novice onto a long pitch. ("Novice" may not simply imply no caving experience. Sufficient rock climbing etc. and general fitness may be appropriate to allow the person onto the trip.)
- (2) In the case of cavers with some experience, find out what ladder climbing they have done, and recommend against too big a jump in the height. Again, experience in other areas and similar factors may still be relevant.
- (3) Don't attempt to persuade reticent or nervous people to go down a cave unless you are sure of their ability on similar pitches. While some people may gain encouragement or confidence from some friendly support, and be capable of the pitch, others may be too embarrassed or unassertive to say no, and go ahead even if they still doubt that they can do it.
- (4) If someone doesn't go in, don't make them feel left out. Don't show any disappointment or ridicule them, but support the sense of their decision. Point out that having people on the surface **IS** important, and that they may still have a role on the trip into this particular cave.

On the subject of what is a long pitch, for any individual, all sorts of factors need to be considered. However, since in CEGSA we are probably talking about South Australia I would personally recommend that the most careful decisions be made before allowing beginners into any cave with a pitch of the order of Mairs or Town Caves. Town Cave in particular should not be treated with disrespect. Although only a small cave, it is very tight and arduous, and reasonably cold, especially if the team is lingering at the bottom awaiting the climb. Furthermore, it may have a reasonable fall of water on a climber during the winter, and these factors greatly accentuate fatigue.

One last thought. Without holding myself up as being knowledgeable in law, I believe that considerable legal responsibility befalls a caver running a trip with novices involved. I do know that in this State, the obtaining by the club of a signed indemnity against a claim for damages in the event of injury is worthless to the trip leader, except in as much as it gives a general warning to all that some danger may be involved. Thus, if you are in a position where you are entrusted to controlling, advising, and protecting a novice you are responsible to a large extent for his safety. Cavers generally would probably not sue a fellow caver in the event of injury.... *** this may NOT be the case with their relatives. Think about it.

It is worth keeping these in mind if leading a party with new members or outsiders present. A couple of occurrences have arisen both in S.A. (and in fact, at this cave) and interstate recently mainly due to the lack of experience. Caving is a difficult and potentially dangerous sport. Just try to imagine getting through some crawly sections or letterboxes with a fractured femur.

A final comment regarding this trip. Some new members were so excited by the cave that talk of cleaning out the well was overheard. That's enthusiasm!

JOHN McCORMACK.

QUOTE:

From Kevin Mott speaking on his Nullarbor Trip.

"..... of 113 features visited 23 were not found"

Charni to Graham while Graham was explaining uses of his cave vacuuming device.

"..... don't be silly daddy....."

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

CAVING AT NARACOORTE?

There are some official requirements if one wishes to do any caving at the Naracoorte Cave Reserve, either as an individual or a representative of a recognised club. A book has been made available at the Rangers office to list every party which enters any cave on the reserve, giving such necessary details as size of party, time entering the cave and expected time of return. It is not enough to just tell one of the Rangers your plans without ensuring it has been recorded, and certainly not suitable to leave a message at the kiosk (Heaven forbid!).

The purposes of the book are two-fold. Obviously, it would be used as a ready reckoner of who is where if any mishap should happen to occur. Secondly, it provides a record of usage of the caves which is very necessary information for management purposes.

In addition, the Rangers prefer that caving trips are planned to be finished before 6.00 p.m. as that is their home time. Nobody wants to dig somebody out of a cave after they have already knocked off for the day. And think of the advantage - all that more pub time, beside the roaring fire with full bellies and glass in hand.....

Finally, according to official OFFICIAL regulations, the Rangers at the Cave Reserve are to be given at least a weeks notice of any pending trip. In practice, it is okay for CEGSA / VSA members to ring them up during the week prior to going down. Possibly for interstate people it would be advisable to write a couple of weeks beforehand to enable time for a reply. You will find the Rangers to be accommodating guys, and very interesting to talk with. Keep them on our side.

JOHN McCORMACK

EMERGENCY CALL OUT PROCEDURES

The S.A. Police STAR Force have been provided with a list of experienced cavers nominated by CEGSA, one of whom shall be alerted in the event of a caving emergency (lost or injured caver, cave-in). These people each have a further list of cavers who can be contacted if necessary. These cavers who may be called upon have expertise of the particular caves and area concerned, or have specialist skills which may be needed.

The first competent caver who arrives at the scene becomes the "Search Co-ordinator" and acts as liaison officer with the Police. The Police conduct the rescue and exert overall control (for obvious legal implications). CEGSA is called upon for assistance or to provide expert information.

Earlier this year, the opportunity arose for the first combined CEGSA / STAR FORCE cave rescue. A young male, after already having spent some time in Corra Lynn with 3 others, went back to retrieve his jumper at about 5.30 p.m., ALONE! When he had still not returned after a reasonable time had elapsed, the trip leader then re-entered the cave going back to the location of the jumper - which was still there. He left the cave and called upon the help of the landowners. Eventually the Police were notified which then resulted in CEGSA being placed on alert via Graham Pilkington and shortly before 10.30 p.m., only hours after Graham had returned from the Nullarbor. Before any further action was required, the lad was found safe, sound and no doubt very relieved after about 5 hours alone underground.

Prior to the set-up of this formalised method of operation between the Police and CEGSA, we had already been involved in a potentially difficult rescue operation. A young woman dislocated her shoulder while pulling herself along using her elbows in a tunnel in Victoria Cave at Naracoorte. As she was unable to move freely herself, and no-one present in the party had the experience to treat the dislocation, a Dr. Williams from Naracoorte Hospital was called in to treat the woman while still in the cave. The Doctor was successful in reducing the dislocation and, after receiving some pain killers, the woman was fortunately able to exit without the need for a difficult removal operation using a stretcher.

If an emergency occurs on a CEGSA trip, wherever in the State, two members of the party should be immediately dispatched to contact the local Police, while one person remains with the injured member. (Hence, the need for a minimum of 4 members per party). The Adelaide Police - STAR FORCE will then be called out, who in turn alerts CEGSA. As a matter of course. Trip Leaders taking trips to remote areas should know the whereabouts of the nearest telephone to the cave, and inform the remainder of the party.

JOHN McCORMACK
Safety and Training.

EMERGENCY CALL OUT LIST (submitted to STAR FORCE)

ADELAIDE:

Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View (w) 272 5711 Ex. 87 (h) 264 2598
Kevin Mott	3 Harcourt Road, Payneham (w) 227 2704 (h) 42 2441
Terry Reardon	5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley (w) 79 7901 Ex. 226 (h) 263 4879
Meredith Reardon	5 Loxton Court, Hope Valley (w) 258 8596 (h) as above
Athol Jackson	6 Hudson Avenue, Rostrevor (w) 259 6795 (h) 337 8759
Ian Lewis	3 / 68 LeFevre Terrace, North Adelaide (w) 503 235

SOUTH EAST:

Fred Aslin	29 Elizabeth Street, Mount Gambler (w) 087-253 530 (h) 087-251 233
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AREA EXPERTS:

ADELAIDE:	Ian Lewis Grant Gartrell Max Meth	EYRE PENINSULA:	Terry Reardon Meredith Reardon Ian Lewis
FLINDERS RANGES:	Terry Reardon Stan Flavel Ian Lewis Dot Piesley	KANGAROO ISLAND:	Kevin Mott Ian Lewis Grant Gartrell Max Meth
LOWER S. EAST:	Fred Aslin Jan Aslin Kevin Mott Gordon Ninnes	MURRAY:	Kevin Mott Graham Pilkington

AREA EXPERTS continued

NULLARBOR:	Kevin Mott Terry Reardon Ian Lewis	UPPER S. EAST:	Fred Aslin Kevin Mott Gordon Ninnies Ian Lewis
YORKE PENINSULA:	Graham Pilkington Max Meth Ian Lewis	SINKHOLES - CAVE DIVING:	Terry Reardon Ian Lewis Ron Allum Peter Stace Phil Prust

EMERGENCY CALL OUT - CORRA LYNN

DATE: 25th May, 1982

TIME: 22:25

S.A. Police STAR Force was called out to find and rescue a young male lost in Corra Lynn Cave. I was contacted by telephone at 22:25 and put on immediate call out. The Police informed me that four (4) persons had gone for a look in Corra Lynn Cave and then exited. One had re-entered to retrieve his jumper at about 17:30. When he had not returned in a reasonable time the trip leader had re-entered and gone to the location of the jumper which was still there. He exited and called on the Corrells (property owners) for assistance. Don Correll (the Police called him a caver) and one of his sons started a cave search.

It was arranged to send the STAR Force vehicle immediately to Corra Lynn and that I be picked up by a Police car and, together with cave maps, be taken to Corra Lynn. Estimated pick up at 22.50. Max Meth, then at his parents in Mansfield Park, was to be called up only if found necessary after arrival at the cave.

I collected my caving gear and 5YI maps, with 2 sets of 1:1000 copies and sat down to wait. At 22:40 I was notified that the lad had been located safe and well and that I was stood-down.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

ACCESS FOR THE DISABLED INTO TANTANOOLA TOURIST CAVE

I quote from the Preliminary Management Report submitted by Mr. E. Hamilton-Smith to the Department of Environment:-

"... In considering the issue of access to the cave, particular attention has been paid to the potential opportunity for access by aged or physically handicapped persons. Few caves in Australia are able to offer this opportunity, and every effort should be made to utilize the potential offered by the Tantanoola Cave ..."

When the new pathways and ramps were designed for the interior of the Tourist Cave, emphasis was placed on access by people confined to wheel chairs, yet with seemingly callous indifference to the feelings of the disabled, a flight of steps was left within the cave. A mistake of this type is excusable but for the following reasons.

- a) During the design stage of the ramps within the cave, it was pointed out to Mr. Hamilton-Smith, by an advisor, that without altering the paths and the steps within the cave or touching any features, a ramp could be constructed which would give the disabled in wheelchairs access to the whole of the cave.
- b) From the Preliminary Management Report and I quote:-

"... It will probably be necessary to retain the small flight of steps near the foot of the ramp as there is inadequate space to replace these with a ramp. However, with assistance, these could readily be negotiated with a wheelchair...."

What a completely irresponsible statement to put into a report. Firstly Mr. Hamilton-Smith is degrading and embarrassing the disabled by forcing them to ask for help from strangers. Secondly it is obvious that if the steps are narrower than the ramp it would be extremely difficult and dangerous for tourists and guides to lift a wheelchair down or up steps in a confined space. Perhaps the author should try this type of exercise before he makes such a recommendation, which brings to mind a further point - who would be liable for any insurance claim if an accident did occur whilst a guide or tourist was 'assisting' a person in a wheelchair to negotiate these steps?

It was pleasing to note in the report the following two items:-

- a) A ramp should be provided from the roadway outside the Kiosk to the Kiosk entrance, thus providing access for the disabled from the road to the cave entrance.
- b) That toilets for the disabled could be erected between the existing toilets and the Stores building.

To emphasise the point that Mr. Hamilton-Smith does not understand nor in fact visualize, the requirements of the disabled and elderly, it should now be noted that with all the effort and expense involved to lower the entrance to the cave and install ramps etc. for the disabled, there is no way that a person in a wheelchair can reach the ramp to the kiosk or the toilets because the road from the car park and proposed picnic areas to these facilities is too steep for them to negotiate.

The reason I have written this article is because the Management Report for Naracoorte is now being prepared and perhaps Mr. Hamilton-Smith should seek professional advice from people with expertise regarding the requirements of the disabled and elderly and this time, make allowances in his report so that these people can enjoy some of the pleasures of the reserve.

GORDON PETERSON

FOOTNOTE:

Even though the Management Report for Tantanoola Tourist Cave has not been published, work on the ramps and the entrance to the cave has commenced. After a meeting with the Director of the Department of Environment, Mr. Bob Nichols, I am now pleased to report that a ramp is being installed within the cave bypassing the abovementioned steps and that the destructive and disfiguring proposed battering of the cliff face at the cave entrance has been eliminated and a cutting with near vertical sides is being constructed. This will minimize the destruction of the Up and Down Rocks which must be protected at all costs due to their geological features.

REMEMBER:

"The physically disabled are only as disabled as others would perceive them to be."

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

John Johnson	'Cumbully', Quarry Road, Willunga	(h) 085-562 332
Gary Stevenson	30 Roberts Crescent, Smithfield Plains	
Liz Butler	9/62 George Street, Norwood	(h) 332 9497
Andrew Wight	As above	
Anya Radeka	'The Radeka Dugout' ¹ , Box 75, Coober Pedy, S.A.	
Chris Lane	102 Rosart Street, Parkside	(h) 271 5385
Shane LePastrier	12 Morris Grove, Klemzig	(h) 261 0675
Bridget Wilkinson	13 Walker Street, Millicent	(h) 287-33 3862
John Healey	27 Germein Street, Semaphore	(h) 49 2268
		(w) 260 1066
Bill Ryan	22 York Place, Woodville North	(h) 268 9742

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

LAST YEARS COUNT

LIFE	10	10
FULL	24	27
ASSOC.	<u>35</u>	<u>33</u>
	69	70

I know of at least 10 ex or potential members who have indicated their desire to continue their membership. Last years total has been (almost) surpassed - all bar the shouting.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Bernie Magraith	43A Lurline Street, Mile End	(h) 352 6969 (w) 51 0421 ext. 290
Nicki Lee	34 Fisher Street, Norwood	(h) 42 9056 (w) 271 0191

TASMANIAN WILDERNESS SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIPS DUE - SEE MEREDITH

Olegas Truchanas Slides - an audio visual evening you must attend:

	Thurs.	2nd
	Fri.	3rd
	Sat.	4th
	September at 8.00 p.m.	

The presentation has been acclaimed throughout Australia. Olegas Truchanas an adventurer, photographer and wilderness explorer. Tickets available from the Scout Outdoor Centre, Pirie Street, City or mail order with a stamped self addressed envelope to:

T.W.S.,
16 Alguna Crescent,
Rostrevor, S.A. 5073

ADULT: \$4.00
CONCESSION: \$2.50

PROGRAMME

<u>AUGUST:</u>	29th	Surveying – Morialta	Kevin Mott
	28,29,30th	Kangaroo Island	John McCormack
<u>SEPTEMBER:</u>	4,5th	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
	8th	Committee Meeting	
	11,12th		
	18,19th		
	22nd	General Meeting	Museum Lecture Room
		Speaker: Duncan Mackenzie	
		Subject: Himalayan Trekking Trip	
	25th		
	26th	11.00 a.m. onwards. B.B.Q. lunch and Records Day (See article this edition pp. 1) 7 St. Georges Ave., Glandore (Nimble's Place)	
<u>OCTOBER:</u>	2nd	Friends of S.A. Museum Dinner	
		Pavilion on the Park - See Graham Pilkington for more details	
	3rd		
	9,10,11th	(Long Weekend)	
		a) Lower South East	Kevin Mott
			Gordon Ninnnes
		b) Flinders	John McCormack
	13th	Committee Meeting	
	16,17th		
	23,24th	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
	27th	General Meeting	Museum Lecture Room
	30th		
	31st	Some Murray River Caves	Gordon Ninnnes
<u>NOVEMBER:</u>	6th	CEGSA Address to Friends of S.A. Museum (Good turnout required!)	
	7th	Snorkelling - Pt. Noarlunga Reef	Meredith Reardon
	10th	Committee Meeting	
	13,14th		
	20,21st		
	24th	General Meeting	
	27,28th		
<u>DECEMBER:</u>	4th	CEGSA ANNUAL DINNER – Venue to be set, suggestions welcome.	

TRIP CONTACT LIST

Kevin Mott	3 Harcourt Road, Payneham 5070	(h) 42 2441
		(w) 227 2704
John McCormack	30 May Street, Sefton Park 5083	(h) 44 2900
		(w) 47 0830
Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View 5093	(h) 264 2598
Gordon Ninnnes	7 St. Georges Street, Glandore 5037	(h) 297 8202
Meredith Reardon	5 Loxton Court, Valley View 9093	(h) 263 4379