

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

VOLUME No: 27, No: 3 NOVEMBER 1982



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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

MEETING PLACE: Museum Lecture Room at rear of Museum.

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

OFFICE BEARERS

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

EDITOR'S TRITE COMMENTS

It is pleasing to see the number of Trip Reports coming in on the Trip Report forms. Apart from helping in the preparation of the Newsletters, the flow of information into Records is being increased greatly.

For" this edition 7 of the Trip Reports came in on forms - if we can keep up at this rate, our Records Officer will be able to have some work to put in his Annual Report.

More forms are available at every meeting and will appear in every 2nd edition of the Newsletter.

GORDON NINNES

Annual Dinner

This year's Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 4th. The site for the Dinner is in the East Parklands by the Pond between North Tee., and Rundle Street. Bring your food, drinks etc. B.B.Q.'s are available. Due to start at 5.00 p.m.

*** * Annual General Meeting**

The 1983 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Museum Lecture Room **on** Wednesday, February 24th at 7.45 p.m.

Included in this edition is a Newsletter form that can be filled out and turned *in* prior to or at the A.G.M. This will enable you to think about in advance, whom you wish to have on the Committee and get their consent in advance making us less dependent on attendance on the night.

➡ EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING ⬅

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be held on January 3rd at 12 noon at the Speleovision Conference Office. BUSINESS: Proposed motion: "That from March 1983 the fee for Full Membership be set at \$14.50 and the fee for Associate Membership be set at \$9.00 for the first 2 years and equal to the Full Membership fee thereafter."

NOTE:

In addition to \$19.50 Full Members pay an A.S.F. Levy of \$3.50.
Family Membership is 1 Full member plus 1 Associate.

Library

BOOKS FOR SALE

			<u>Members</u>	<u>Non Members</u>
Occ. Paper	#1 (Reprint)	Cave Surveying	\$2.00	\$3.00
	#2 (Reprint)	Nullarbor Karst	\$2.00	\$3.00
	#3 (Reprint)	Caves of Coastal S.A.	\$2.00	\$3.00
	#4	Mullamullang	\$3.00	\$3.50
	#5	S.A. Cave Reference Book	\$6.00	\$8.00
		7 th A.S.F. Conference	\$3.00	\$4.00
	Cave Tourism and Management	#1	\$4.00	Not available
		#2	\$6.00	Not available
		#3	\$8.00	Not available
	Discover Naracoorte Caves		\$2.00	\$3.00
	Cave Diving in Australia		\$7.00	Not available

Membership List

David Ellis)
Mathew Ellis)

C/- John Ellis

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

LIFE	10
FULL	27
ASSOCIATE	41
TOTAL:	<u>78</u>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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HILTON. 5062
Phone: 43 4875

NOTICE!

When visiting caves at Naracoorte Caves Reserve or Tantanoola, please notify the Rangers in advance. Recently some CEGSA people have been refused admission because they did not do this.



Seen recently at Mannum - a sign on the approach to the ferry landing...
"QUE OTHER SIDE" Question: How do you get to the other side?

TRIP REPORTS

u.s.a.

MAMMOTH CAVE – KENTUCKY.

March, 1977.

TRIP LEADER
PARTY:

Ian Lewis
Tour Guide, 47 gawking tourists, one bird.

LOCATION:

Route 66, Appalachian Mountains, 2nd turn on your left

ADMISSION PROTOCOL:

- * put mind in neutral
- * lower the jaw
- * fork out 2 bucks
- * stick to paths
- * avoid air pollution (don't back-answer the guide)

GEAR REQUIRED:

- * camera, no flash
 - * screaming kids (2) (optional)
 - * bird for groping with at rear of party
 - * chewing gum, large wad "pop" tested at surface
- OR
- popcorn bucket for trail-laying
- * 3 cameras + floodlights (if Japanese tourist)

TRIP REPORT:

Large chambers, twists and turns, draughty corridors, many steps, many tourist parties, lights out for 2 minutes (bird useful here), lots of rock everywhere. I liked the handrails.

PROSPECTS:

I think this rather insignificant cave has no exploration potential, as our tour party reached the end in only 25 minutes.

Yorke Peninsula

7-8 August

PARTY:

Saturday:

Phil Skene, Chris and Karen Lane

Sunday:

Leigh, Dino, Brian, Dennis Thamm

Both Days:

Andrew Wight, Liz Butler, Bernie Maegraith, John McCormack, Kram Smith, Bill Ryan and Bill Nicholson.

CAVES VISITED:

Town Cave, Corra Lynn, 'Stone Cave'.

This trip was organised primarily for several new members who had expressed an interest in tackling Town Cave but were not able to come on the previous trip about a month before. Quite a number had already come up to Morialta beforehand to undertake abseiling and prussicking practice so they could get into the Ironman cave, while Bernie, Kram and Phil wanted to continue improving their SRT skills. An additional feature of the trip was the intention of Andrew, Liz and myself wanting to poke around in the lakes in far reaches of the cave.

Andrew and myself provided ropes, hoping it would speed up the process of entry (and particularly) egress through the 33 metre shaft entrance. Almost everybody had their own abseiling device and so, apart from the obligatory mucking around on the surface, the entry was carried out fairly efficiently. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case with the prussic out as only a couple of sets of jumars were available. By the time the last few people had their turn to remove themselves from the bowels of the earth, they had become a little 'rusty*'. They just don't seem to make Ironmen the way they used to. Karen suffered most from the cold and unpleasant conditions while waiting at the bottom of the pitch, as she discovered the disadvantages of having a fast metabolic rate. We had taken metwurst, cheese and some oranges with us but had neglected taking high sugar content/high energy food such as chocolate and jelly beans. Feasting on such niceties would have given Karen a good boost before attempting the climb out, but as it worked out, she managed very well.

At the bottom of the shaft the masses dispersed in all of the two directions that it is possible to disperse in. The divers took the left branch dragging, lifting, pulling a 72 cu.ft. tank amidst much cursing, sweating and hurting to the two lakes. The first lake went to a depth of about 10ft. and followed the same crevice in which the dry passage leads. A number of stalactites below the present water level were observed - as well as signs of the very rare sub-aquatic gouldi wankaria! The second lake consisted of two pools, the deepest going down about 15ft. Thanks to Bernie et al for providing physical support in transporting gear and persevering with the whims of the divers.

I must apologise that I cannot expand on the exploits of those others that were present. In fact, I am not even really sure that this was the trip we took diving, gear with us....but it saves writing two reports.

Saturday night will remain in the memory of all those present for many a long year. The notorious Max Stone was encountered, providing us with copious quantities of the Curramulka lore and inviting us to inspect a hole on his property unearthed while he was ploughing. On Sunday, while most ventured into Corra Lynn, our numbers swelled by mobs of visitors, Kram and Bernie went off with Max.

Again I cannot say a great deal about individual accomplishments. Suffice to say that at least 90% of the cave between the entrance and bushwalkers chamber was explored by at least 10 people. We initially split up into two groups, and, within a matter of minutes had looped up with each other as well as finding 8 different routes back to the entrance. Bush-walkers chamber was discovered by one party while trying to find their way out - with me leading! I shall have to revoke my full membership!! A spot of trouble was experienced by one or two of the visitors when trying to free climb up an 8ft. near vertical step up, partly due to poor footwear and partly due to their lack of experience. Even though they couldn't match the task at hand, full credit goes to them for trying. That's what it is all about.

Kram and Bernie had still not returned from their sortie with Max and his hole when we withdrew from the cave after about 4 hours underground. They had called back briefly to leave a note and mud map with mention of this new hole. We quickly made ready to leave in great anticipation of miles of yet unseen passage, great waterfall-less waterfall pitches, thrilling pitchless pitches, huge cavernous ballrooms filled with thousands of variations of intricate calcite decoration, and a cave-dive which comes up at the second rock pile at Cocklebidy. The scene was set for an exciting and enthralling day.

Max Stone's property lies about 3km. NE of the Curramulka township. Upon arrival we discovered that Kram, Bernie and Max had been very busy. Using Max's tractor and a length of Kram's climbing rope they removed a 1m x 0.3m boulder - hence the proposed name "Stone Cave". The find was not quite as extensive as was dreamed by the tourist cavers, however, it was still quite as exciting.

The entrance was a 0.6m x 0.3m vertical slot shaped as a dog-leg. Both Kram and Bernie had already ventured into the hole after removing the stone, so could give first-hand advice on how tight and difficult it was. Motivated by insatiable curiosity and encouraged by many fans, I disregarded the advice of the pioneers to try and crack Stone Cave. The descent was quite easy, twisting around all the knobs and protrusions as gravity did all the work. About 8ft. below the surface the slot became uncomfortably narrow and further access was seriously impeded. By twisting one's shoulder 180°, moulding one's left leg into an available 3 inch crack and scratching one's bum with one's ear flaps then the widening crevice below the restriction could be viewed. The crevice dropped away about 5 metres and appeared to bell out at the bottom. Who knows?

Getting out was a real pig, just as the prophets of doom had foretold. The problem was that to place one's legs in the right position to provide the necessary propulsion one could not then place one's legs in the most convenient position to easily bend around the dog-leg. I was told that I would have to hurt myself to get out...the only other alternative was to hang by the slot until dead, and this vision was becoming more and more real after each attempt to make an exit. As it turned out, the light of the sun was once again reached, sustaining only minor scrapes, a very squashed thigh muscle and a badly torn shirt. Credit is due to whoever went into that hole second after seeing the pain and difficulty of the first person when trying to escape the deadly clutches of Stone Cave.

It was back to Adelaide after that, and most of the tired but happy speleos and thrill seekers stopped off at Dennis' for pizza and an ale before further dispersing.

A good trip.

JOHN McCORMACK

JUST FILMING AROUND
TOWN AND CORRA LYNN CAVE,
CURRAMULKA

14-15th August.

PARTY: Kram, John McCormack, Bernice Magraith, Andrew White, Dennis Thamm,
and a Cast of Thousands.

Kremin Goes Down Under

Well who is Captain Kremin you say? Images of Kenny Everet and Carla come to mind! — A journey across the bounds of the universe in a cassette player! Kremin is a concept, and "Kremin Goes Down Under" (the video movie shot on the above weekend) is an extension of this journey. Our ropes bridge and plumb the abyss as Kremin crosses uncharted frontiers to adventure — that which caving is made of.

The filming goes on into the evening, the generator roars, mixed feelings become evident as a rain storm soaks generators, cables, cavers and spirits, the TASK grows more awesome, but a word from John spurs us on.

G U T Z Z!

Well our first exposé into Movie making started on Saturday the 14th when I set out on what should have been a simple drive over to John McCormack's place, the car laden with 3,600 watts of lighting, - "yes officer"... "my tyres"? ... "canvas".... "yes officer" (gritting my teeth with the ultimate self control needed here!).... "no officer".... at this point the concept of simplicity disappeared for this period of the trip and the many hours spent editing later on, so sporting a little yellow sticker, I travelled on to John's place, with the consolation of having followed the footsteps of many epic cavers, one of the most notable being Neil Smith, defected on Ian Lewis' 1977 Mullamullang trip, and in many other parts of the country.

After transferring all of the gear to Andrew's car, we struck out for Curramulka. Following a couple of litres of oil at Pt Wakefield amid an otherwise uneventful trip, we arrived at Town Well Cave and began rigging the lights in the pitch at about 11.00 o'clock or so.

A power surge from the 5ku power plant put the 1500 watt flood light out of action early in the piece, about two minutes after it was turned on to be precise! Undaunted we set to work with the remaining lights.

Dennis and Andrew abseiled in, Dennis lying off 30ft. down, and Andrew going to the bottom for what was to be a long sleep, while we "tried to get the show together" so to speak, on the surface. Dennis set up a 150 watt flood and a 800 watt spot at the 30ft. level, while we decided to get some footage of him setting the lights! So we sent Bernie down on a 30ft. length ladder armed with a 600 watt spot to light up Dennis! Well the spot blew up with a pop, darkness resulted, Bernie's karabiner jammed on the ladder rung and he stayed down! Andrew slept, John and I got some top footage of the grass, the sky, ropes and the entire scene on the surface upside down!

Well after the stuck karabiner routine we pressed on and eventually got some quite reasonable footage inside the Town Well shaft, that is after the flat battery in the porta pack knocked yet another hole in our tight schedule! Time passed on and Andrew woke up to install a couple of flood lights around the bottom of the shaft — nice job on the lights chaps. The camera, while filming at the bottom, didn't trip out because of excessive moisture, which was amazing!

So after an 11.00 p.m. dinner and the after dinner rain-storm, Gungho abseiled in and prussicked out, proceedings were adjourned until the next morning.

The next day the crew split and the first ill-fated "Gungho let's find the Pearl Chamber" mission was mounted! The pearl or chamber not being found! Subsequent missions have found the chamber.....but not the pearl! Keep going boys, it's down there somewhere! Meanwhile Motion Picture Industries changed location to Corrells Cave where, with the Invincible Captain Kremin, two prominent Adelaide Actors, some local talent and a cast of a thousand scouts, Kremin Goes Down Under was filmed. We blew a couple more spot lights and only used the tree fork once, though it may not seem that way!

A good weekend being had by all, we all got to play around with the camera and lights, and do a bit of acting. The movie is in the editing phase "Shriek" at the moment and has been rough cut onto 3/4" tape at present. You all, by now, may have seen the film or rough cut of our answer to underground avant guard movies! So please address any critiques, communications on continuity or content and any future contracts to John, Bernie or Andrew as I'm going to Asia for a while.

KRAM.

CURRAMULKA

7-8th August, 1982

PARTY: Kram Smith, Bernie Magraith, Liz Butler, Andrew Wight, Bill Ryan, Phil Skene, Chris Iane, Karen Green, Dennis Thamm and 4 visitors.

CAVES VISITED: Town Cave and Corra Lynn.

A new hole opened up on Max Stone's property approximately 4km. NE of Curramulka. A large stone was removed from the entrance, and two or three members slipped past constriction for a look. Does have potential, however, entrance (vertical slot between two protruding rocks) is difficult to get past particularly when trying to exit.

JOHN McCORMACK.

Upper South East

18-19th September 1982

PARTY: A. Jackson and J. Ellis

CAVES VISITED: Wombat and Fox

U58 - Photography - 1st stage of project to produce an audio visual of a trip through a cave.

U22 - Reconnaissance to examine site of proposed gate and to take final measurements. Trip through rest of cave, damage noted:-

- (a) base of slot - digging of steps
- (b) passage below slot — large scale excavation
- (c) large rock cairns (needless) built in passage to decoration chamber.

ATHOL JACKSON.

SURVEYING FIELD DAY - MORIALTA

29th September 1982

The aim of the field day was to use a technique used by Mott and Cundy several years ago to teach the basics of cave surveying. This involves laying out ropes over suitable terrain and obstacles to create a pseudo cave. People are then fed into it to try to map all or part of it using different techniques. After the exercise they can compare their map to the actual layout and other groups maps. They can then see where they went wrong.

I duly arrived at the venue with the full Mott entourage in tow, wife, son and dog. Being the first ones there we strolled out through the general run of tourist types preparing barbies to find a suitable site. I am reminded by the honourable A.P. Spate, Esq., that time spent in reconnaissance is seldom wasted, especially if you have a patented celestial navigator.

A dog's tail is of no use if the beast in question is wandering around strange trees.

This task having been accomplished Julie and I retreated to the car to drag out our own B.B.Q. and join the throng of tourists in one of man's basic needs; the consumption of food.

The pseudo cave, named Morialta Cave, was laid out using natural features which included 2 trees, creek bank, creek and tourists who insisted they had the power to walk through walls. No reports of further extensions have been received so I doubt if this ability would be useful to the serious caver. Further tests have proved inconclusive due to the feeling of looking through cracked rose coloured glasses.

Aspiring cave surveyors were prepared for the exercise by a simple lecture explaining the objects of task they were to perform and some hints. Several glasses of red wine were extremely useful here. Prior to entering the cave, contestants had to run up a nearby hill and go behind a bush for 45 seconds. We all know you have hiked to cave entrances and the excitement of finding one combined with the expectation of actually entering it tends to lead to a painful build up of bodily juices. If you have to go you have to go.

Ahh! now we feel more comfortable, back to the trip report. A party was fed into the cave from each entrance at intervals of 5 minutes. Parties consisted of 3 people. An interesting twist is to blindfold one member (failed light you see).

There is still a large group of residents and tourists wanting to know why grown people would be crawling along pathways and creeks, when, if they had any brains at all, they wouldn't even be there.

At certain points within the cave string was placed across the cave to represent low-roof heights; one in the water section and one in a dry section.

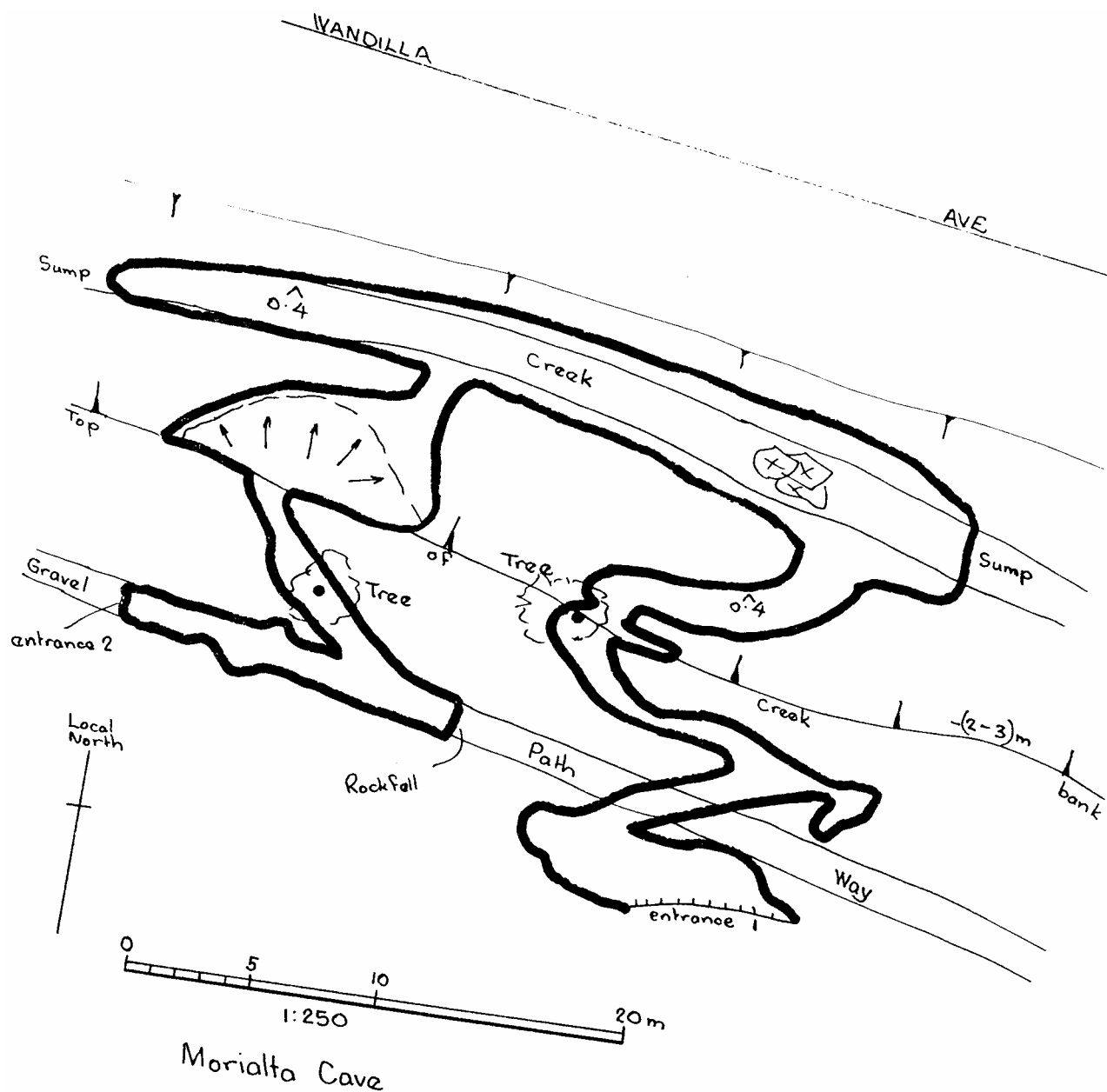
During the proceeding a somewhat perturbed ranger stormed onto the scene. A report of a disturbance had been received. After a precise brief description of the happy happening he joined in the spirit of the festivities. Those who were not muddy were trying to avoid those already muddy. The situation of who had right of way in a low narrow passage seems only to have been resolved by primitive democracy. He who is fresher and stronger wins unless one party packs up their cave and goes home.

While all of this was going on, I as leader of the 'expert' party was taking a measurement in the low water section. Suddenly there was panic; the water was rising - impossible.

At that stage there was an excruciating pain in the abdomen. I leapt up only to find John Ellis pouring water on me and Rendle jumping on my stomach.

Having been disturbed from my dream John reminded me that no one had turned up yet and what were we to do. After a session discussing compasses and comparing the ease of operation of several types, we packed up the B.B.Q. and both headed for home.

KEVIN MOTT.



Flinders Ranges

29-1st September 1982

PARTY: Kerry Ninnnes and Michael Coghlin (Spike)

We left early Sunday afternoon and arrived at Oraparinna Creek at 5.30 pm. Next day we visited Thunder Drum Cave where we spent approximately 15 mins. Water had been through since the last time any had visited. Also there was the remains of a kangaroo approximately 4m. from the entrance.

Tuesday we visited Eyrie Cave for approximately 1 hour after going out of our way for about one hour.

KERRY NINNES.

Corra - Lynn

4-5th September 1982

PARTY: Graham Pilkington, John and Matthew Ellis; Charni Pilkington, Shane LePastrier, John and Melina Healey.

I had to vote on Saturday morning so I told participants to get to Corra Lynn for 10.00 a.m. It was 10.15 when I arrived ready to apologise to everyone for my tardy arrival but found that Charni and I had the place to ourselves. For something to do we pitched our tent. John and Matthew arrived around 10.30 John and Melina about 11.00 with Shane at 11.30. By this time we'd all had lunch and basked in the warm still day. YES, there was NO wind at Corra Lynn!

Only John Ellis and myself had been into this cave before. It was Charni's first attempt at tackling fissures which she did with-a-little-bit-of-help-from her friends and a belay.

After arriving at Bushwalkers Chamber I instructed CEGSA newcomers on the art of returning to daylight. John Ellis and I then went to the Twin Pits to finish the survey of that area while the others explored around Octopus (probably; after a false start of two). About 15:00 Shane and Matthew joined the survey party to help push a promising dirt-blocked tunnel while John Healey set out for the surface with the girls.

Half an hour later we stopped work on the dig and continued the survey. A message arrived that John Healey would wait for us after all - he'd done enough sightseeing and would now like to leave. It took another half hour to survey down the Twin Pits then we regrouped in Bushwalkers Chamber.

On the way out, the essential point I made about the tricks caves play on cavers was more than adequately illustrated. The major difficulty with a cave like Corra Lynn is that there are so many junctions in such a short distance in what at first sight seem identical situations that cavers get a memory overload. They don't have the time to memorize a path while following someone who has.

On regaining the surface John and Melina decided that they'd had enough and left for home. Shane had tea with us then left to stay in comfort? with "friends". He said he hoped to be back to wake us up at 7 a.m., leaving his gear just to prove the point. We rose late at 7.30 having missed our good morning caller. The four hardies delayed as long as possible - airing sleeping gear and tents, packing for the trip home - but gave up and descended at 9.20. Shane arrived around noon after running out of petrol and getting a flat tyre at about 6 a.m. So he tells us. Anyway, it means that we did not see him for the rest of the trip.

We went to the Crystal Maze via the Rope Crevasse to make it easier on Charni (and ourselves). I let John lead the way after saying "north-east please." Obviously I was not quite with it that day and John had never been to where we were going. After we started going through definitely low bits that I did not recognise and figured we'd entered the section I came to survey, without me noticing, I called a halt. We had arrived at an impressive floorhole. Very impressive. It was the top of the ramp into the Crystal Maze - almost the spot that we'd started from. We had entered via the Crystal Chamber hence only I knew where we were. This time I led, confusing all by repeating the previous trip instead of backtracking. Even Charni noticed that we seemed to be going in circles, which as I said earlier is some feat for initiates to 5Y1, but especially a 7 year old. At the critical point I did the required passage swap and we entered the '77 find and commenced surveying 2½ hours after starting out. The awkward initial section was completed and the survey stopped in the first walking section. It was time to leave.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

Lower South East

16-18th October 1982

PARTY: K. Mott, G. Ninnes, G. Parker, W. Parker, F. Aslin, K. Ninnes, Spike (Michael Coghlin).

CAVES VISITED: L5, L210, L211, L213, L214.

This trip was twofold in purpose. The first was to continue removing the rubbish from Monbulla Cave (L5) and the second was to do some mapping and location work with Fred in the Gambler area.

Unfortunately we were unable to move much more out of Monbulla Cave, due to the fact that there was, at that stage, only Kevin, Bill, George and myself for the morning, we were only able to shift 2 more loads. However, the rest of the pile has been loosened up and the actual floor can be seen. Another 3 loads should do it. CAUTION! In the loose dirt and rubble there is some liquid chemical in small glass containers. It is not known what the chemical is, but the vapour will play hell with your eyes if our attempts to disperse it have failed.

After the morning work Bill and George headed for Naracoorte while Kevin and I went on to Mt. Gambier. After a quick hello to Jan Aslin we took Fred on board and spent some time doing a surface survey on a line of dolines. Next we did the location work for two small holes in the pine forest, neither of any note. (L210 + unnumbered). Then moving onto the limestone quarries, located and mapped another small cave (L211). This cave has a small, waist deep, pool in it. On the way in I managed it by stepping on rock fins at the side. Those fins are not very strong and on the way out I discovered that it was waist deep.

Sunday morning, joined by Kerry and Spike, we again did some surface plotting work, first on another row of dolines (no numbers) then a joint feature (unnumbered), then a tube (unnumbered) all located in the area around the limestone quarries. Then moving into the quarries we did a surface survey for location of L212 and other features. Kerry and Spike tried unsuccessfully to dig into this cave through another reported entrance.

After lunch we again spent time recording locations for holes in the forest. In the process 2 more were given numbers (L213 and L214). L214 proved to have a reasonable cave beneath it which we mapped. One interesting feature of the afternoon was Fred, Kevin and I being left in the cave with the rope on the surface while Kerry and Spike headed back to the Mount. Fortunately (or not, depending on your point of view) we were able to remove ourselves.

We then returned to L212 to do the underground survey. We were warned that the cave had neck deep water in it so it was a pleasant if not particularly warming, surprise to find that, it could be navigated without going deeper than the naval. Despite the water and other hazards (?) a grade 3 map was completed and we exited the cave at 11.00 p.m. The next morning we found that the minimum temperature the night before had been -1°C and the grass temperature -6°C. It must have been about that when we got out of the cave. Many thanks to Jan for the soup when we returned to Elizabeth Street.

Next morning after some more location work near Tantanoola, we visited the tourist cave to view the redevelopment and after coffee and cake headed for Naracoorte. There, Kevin and I demonstrated the operation of the rescue stretcher to some of the park staff, then we headed home.

NIMBLE.

FLINDERS RANGES

October Long weekend

PARTY: J. McCormack, Bill Nicholson, Trevor Frick & Darren Sickerdick.

CAVES VISITED: Clara St. Dora, Arcoota Creek, Narinna, Wooltana, Yellow Foot.

Only activity was to replace the padlock on Clara St. Dora.

CORRA LYNN

23-24th October 1982

PARTY: Graham Pilkington, Max Meth, George Parker, Shane LePastrier, and John Johnson (23rd only)

Saturday was the big day. The day planned for the breakout from Bushwalkers Chamber into vast new cave. We took all the necessary ingredients - willing diggers, refreshments, extendable dirt probe, 1.5m bar and the usual hammers, crowbars etc. Also a complete survey of the area to show that we were not just loop-the-looping and we even took an attack plan.

However, the site was too good. Many false "far walls" later we discovered that the cave also liked the place and had placed a massive rock collapse there. It may be that we should have completed the NE Crystal Maze survey first as this lies above, somewhere, at about +12m.

6.30 a.m. Sunday and Max commenced re-working the steep steps down to the cave. The rest of us weren't so silly, we had breakfast and prepared for the day's surveying trip to the Crystal Maze. 7.30 and we were all ready - had even fed Max. It was 9.30 before we had done enough to the steps to satisfy Max. By now it was getting hot anyway; the scouts had arisen saying something about Sunday mornings are for sleeping-in not listening to road gangs at work.

Arriving where the survey of the September trip had left off, I set Max and George at two dirt blocked tunnels that had air space and potential. I'd not surveyed them last trip for that reason. Besides, Max and George weren't on the last trip. Shane and I then continued surveying along the through path. We did 9m. It took the rest of the time to do a side passage that ends in a complex block collapse that rises 6m and drops 3m. The time was lost trying to get past to ? tunnels beyond. Only one small tunnel off the collapse was located but a side tunnel at the start was surveyed 15m. to another block collapse.

Max and George met us and we returned to "base" for refreshments and to see what they had dug into. One passage ended at 5m. but the other rejoined the main through-tunnel 3m. past the new end survey point. This loop was surveyed in. Another side passage off the loop was not surveyed; it had been pushed for 11m. and had a weak breeze at the end (the cave at that time was stagnant).

So another 12m. down the main run was surveyed with nearly 100m. added to the map and an additional 20m. found. About half of the "stick diagram" addition of 1978 to the Crystal Maze has now been mapped.

GRAHAM PILKINGTON.

River Murray

31st October 1982

PARTY: Gordon Ninnes, Lynne Ninnes, Ian Ninnes, John Ellis, Dave Boseman.

This was a trip to have a look at a few caves in the area, have a bit of a look at the scenery and give the family a day's easy caving. After picking up John at Crafers we proceeded by easy stages to some un-numbered features between Mannum and Swan Reach, west of Walker Flat.

After wandering around examining the few small holes we moved onto Swan Reach for lunch. From there we went to Portee Cave. Portee Cave is a small cave out in the donga west of Blanchetown. A quick look at the map assured us that the map is a rather vague representation of the cave. At least one, or if Ian is to be believed, two, wombats were seen in the eastern section. If anyone wants to visit the cave, permission should be gained from the Adelaide phone number, as it appears that Portee homestead is vacant. Also, the track to the cave is only accessible by car from the homestead end and the fence is not on the section line.

From Portee we ventured onto Punyelroo cave. After carrying Ian down the cliff face, we entered the cave, following 5 locals using one gas lamp between them (??). Lynne stayed at the main intersection while John, Dave, Ian and I headed north. The cave is just Ian's size. He could walk upright and while we 3 had to bend over. After reaching the end of the map Ian and I turned back while John and Dave pushed on as far as they could, Ian and I pulled in about 200 metres of nylon fishing line that some clown had laid as a guide (???).

If anyone ever asks, this is a cave that can be done by a 3 year old as Ian is only 2 yrs and 9 months.

GORDON NINNES.

Letters ---- Letters

2nd September, 1982

Dear Sir,

As one of the five authors of the Tantanoola management report I was interested to see Mr. Peterson's rather intemperate attack on Elery Hamilton-Smith in the CEGSA Newsletter (27 (2): 14-15). Elery has a wide and deep experience in very many areas including the sorts of social issues that Mr. Peterson criticises. He has also been one of the most successful speleologists in this country in research and exploration and more recently in encouraging management authorities (and cavers for that matter) to be more forward-thinking and professional.

What upsets me most, however, is Mr. Peterson's trite final sentence below his footnote — it contradicts his first sentence under point 'b' where he says "Mr. Hamilton-Smith is degrading and embarrassing the disabled". My experience as an ex-cave guide, now as a manager of a tourist cave complex and numbering among my friends two who are confined to wheelchairs, is that those who are embarrassed and feel degraded are the able when asked to assist.

Whilst it is perhaps degrading for the disabled to have to ask for assistance my experience again is that many of these people are extremely keen to add to their range of experience — at whatever the cost of "embarrassment" to themselves or others. This is where Mr. Peterson's final sentence has some meaning but it is not as simple as he implies and in fact it is not the disabled who need to be rid of embarrassment and degradation but it is the rest of us mental cripples who put the disabled in the position of having to ask instead of behaving naturally and courteously when the need arises.

Mr. Peterson overlooks the fact that our (ASF's) report was a draft document and as such was expected to be circulated for public comment and, hopefully, practical suggestions. That the Department has apparently gone ahead with development without such a review is unfortunate as the Mr. Petersons of this world would no doubt have materially improved the report with their suggestions. Yes, we may have overlooked the difficulty of access from the carpark and proposed picnic areas (in retrospect we didn't say anything about picnic table design for the disabled either - quite important). We may have discussed it at the time of preparation of the report (now 2½ years ago), frankly I do not remember but there is room for limited parking for the disabled along the road to the caretakers house. The site is a very difficult one for public access — just listen to the puffing of the visitors who have walked up from the lower carpark. Without the sort of site disturbance that one assumes Mr. Peterson would not agree with cannot be made much better.

I am sure that Elery and the others on the Naracoorte planning team will be more than happy to discuss any suggestions that Mr. Peterson or anybody else might like to make on the Naracoorte plan but I believe that such suggestions or criticisms can be made in a less abrasive manner than Mr. Peterson's article or indeed with the sense of confrontation apparent in this unduly long letter.

Yours faithfully,

Andy Spate,
Investigation Officer, Karst,
National Parks & Wildlife Service
Tumut District.

31st August, 1982.

Dear Sir,

I am surprised by the vehemence of Gordon Peterson's comments upon the Tantanoola Conservation Park Draft Management Plan (C.E.G.S.A. Newsletter, 27 (2):14-5). However, I accept this as merely indicating how strongly Gordon feels about the issue.

One correction is necessary — the report was not prepared and submitted by me, but by a study team of the A.S.F. Commission on Cave Tourism and Management.

There is no question that we fully agree with the thrust of Gordon's comments, namely, that as many people as possible should have full access to the park in an independent way. However, all cave development is a trade-off. We assessed five different track arrangements endeavouring to find the best possible compromise between minimum obtrusion into the cave environment on one hand and full accessibility on the other. Each one of these would constrain at least some potential visitors to a marked degree and every one would constrain all visitors to at least some extent; that is inevitable.

The arrangement which provided the best ramped access was rejected for two reasons : its obtrusiveness and the extent to which it was incompatible with the proposed clearing of the original floor.

We did not say that the proposed steps should be retained, but only that it may prove a necessary compromise. The necessity or otherwise for this can only be assessed fully when the floor is cleared. If it does prove necessary, the problem will not be one of narrowness as Gordon suggests, but steepness. Hopefully, when excavation is completed, the steps will prove to be unnecessary, or a sixth arrangement will be worked out which will still more adequately meet the dual criteria of minimum obtrusion and maximum accessibility.

Gordon then gets carried away by suggesting that in any case the exercise is pointless because the entry ramp to the kiosk will be inaccessible. This is utter nonsense - the ramp commences on the service roadway with quite adequate parking and unloading space for motor vehicles.

More importantly, he suggests better attention to these matters at Naracoorte. He and others will be aware that much greater problems are presented at the Naracoorte Caves. Those of us involved in the study team will more than welcome any proposals which Gordon or others can present to us.

Finally, and on a more personal note, Gordon may or may not be pleased to know that I do have some experience of work with handicapped people, and in fact discussed the Tantanoola options with a group of them. Their major concern, which I share, was the problems of those whose interests could not be met at all in the Tantanoola Cave, e.g., the blind. They and I would welcome any more constructive proposals on more extensive accessibility at Naracoorte or elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
Elery Hamilton-Smith.

2nd November, 1982

Dear Sir,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to read the two previous letters received from Elery and Andy, thus allowing me time to include a response in this issue of the Newsletter.

I apologise to Elery for assuming he was responsible for the final drafting of the Preliminary Report and if my comments seemed harsh then I am sorry, but also pleased, because they will have re-awakened the interest, and in fact, the necessity to cater for the needs of ** 13.2% of our population. The handicapped. The people whose interests I am prepared to fight for.

For the past 25 years both in Sydney and in Adelaide, I have been closely associated with handicapped people in Repatriation Hospitals, Artificial Limb Factories and various other Societies. In fact I have been married to a handicapped lady for over 22 years and it has always been my experience that these people have pride, and despite what Andy states in his letter, the majority of handicapped people DO NOT prefer to seek assistance from the public as was clearly stated by Mr. N.J. Kennedy, who is a handicapped person in a wheelchair, and who acted as spokesman for the protesters who were picketing the front entrance to Edmund Wright House in Adelaide and who were protesting at the lack of adequate access for handicapped people.

** Figures from Statistics Bureau in "Breakthrough" No: 10

Mr. Kennedy stated in Adelaide Advertiser dated Saturday 17th October, 1981, that their protest was not directed solely at Edmund Wright House, but that the building 'was an example of the problems the disabled had with access. He went on to say that : "Disabled people don't want to ask for help always. We have our dignity." and he then continued with : "Disabled people are not second-class citizens."

Once again, unintentionally, we are forcing these people to seek public assistance simply because we are neglecting to observe their particular needs.

I am fully aware that the ramp that will provide access into the whole of Tantanoola cave for handicapped people will appear somewhat obtrusive, but nowhere near as obtrusive as the one in Victoria Fossil Cave (which was designed for handicapped in wheelchairs, but failed due to alterations carried out by a person or persons unknown (?). With properly designed lighting the ramp in Tantanoola would be most unobtrusive.

With regard to parking and unloading space for motor vehicles as Elery outlined in his letter, I concede part of Elery's point that cars do negotiate this road, but no tourist busses carrying elderly citizens or handicapped people has ever been known to use this so-called facility, and in fact, these vehicles carrying elderly citizens have pulled in and then driven away because access was too difficult and the elderly would not walk up the steep access road to the cave.

Once again I regret assuming that Elery was responsible for the Draft Report but when I have obtained an official copy of this Report I shall continue to comment on its merits and shortcomings, as I sincerely hope other members will too. The handicapped need all the help they can get, not by just helping them up and down steps but by providing them with reasonable access in difficult locations so that they too can enjoy some of the pleasures we find so easy to handle.

Yours sincerely,
Gordon Peterson.

FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD TYPIST

As this is the last edition of the Newsletter for 1982, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year, and to all of those Interstate Speleos who will be coming to South Australia in the new year to take part in the Speleovision Conference I sincerely hope that you enjoy yourselves and that the Conference is a great success.

My special thanks to all members for your co-operation in submitting well written articles - you made my task a lot easier. Have a Happy Holiday Season,

JAN PETERSON.

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR NATIONAL PARKS

A plan of management is a set of guidelines which identifies how a park is to be managed. It is the basic working document of the park manager and identifies the long-term direction in which the manager must head.

The plan of management does several things:—

- (a) Identifies the purpose of the park,
- (b) Identifies the natural values of the park (outstanding features such as wildlife, vegetation, communities, and historical interest etc.),
- (c) Identifies the boundaries and area of the park,
- (d) Determines the management strategy to be followed to meet the basic management objectives,
- (e) Determines what works need to be carried out to attain the basic management objectives,
- (f) Provides a "scheme of operation" which sets out a priority listing of works to be carried out.

Conservation Parks are areas set aside which contain unique natural features, vegetation and wildlife. The natural processes within these areas should be allowed to continue unaffected by man. People are encouraged to visit these parks but man-made developments and visitors do not take precedence over the conservation of these areas.

Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park is an extremely complex reserve. Historically great importance has been placed upon developing the area for tourism. Portions of the park have been dramatically disturbed by agricultural activities. A draft plan of management is currently being prepared to manage this reserve under the guidelines of the National Parks and Wildlife Act. The only way such a plan can be formulated is to visit the area to assess the features and to talk to all those who have an interest in the area. As there is no perfect plan to manage these areas a balance must be struck to produce an equitable solution. If someone has not made any representations to those preparing the draft plan then surely they can't complain if they don't like the result.

Fortunately in South Australia the people are given a second chance. The draft plan is available for public comment. This enables all concerned to comment on the draft and provide counter proposals to anything contained in the report. Occasionally developments, not foreseen by the authors of the draft, may need to be considered by the development plan. The public comment stage is where they can be included for consideration.

The ASF Commission on Conservation has been commissioned by the Department of Environment and Planning to prepare draft management plans for Tantanoola and Naracoorte Caves Conservation Parks. The Tantanoola plan has been drafted and should be available for comment shortly. The Naracoorte plan is now being drafted to submit to the Department.

ASF was commissioned because among its members are those who have expertise in cave management and a sensitivity to the cave environment.

When these draft plans become available for comment, CEGSA members are urged to read them and where necessary constructively comment.

KEVIN MOTT.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT

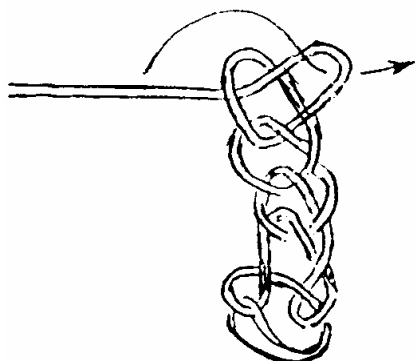
IN YOUR CAR: Store in a carton etc., away from lead acid batteries and sharp objects.

IN USE: Do not tread on ropes as they will abrade.
Use the rope protectors where sharp rocks are rubbing against the rope.

AFTER USE: Check the equipment for damage of wear and tear.
The best time to do this is when rolling ladders or coiling ropes. Report any damage or suspected wear and tear to the Quartermaster.

BEFORE RETURNING THEM TO THE QUARTERMASTER:

Ropes should be washed if they are used in muddy conditions or dirty/dusty conditions as the grit wears the rope.



Chain the rope so it stays untangled during washing. Chain the rope by placing it end to end, and do this again while it is a manageable thickness.

Make a loop at the end and keep passing the rope through the next loop until the chain is completed.

TO WASH: Chain as described, and wash in machine or by hand in detergent to stop the grit settling back on the rope as detergent keeps it in suspension.

Dry flat, out of direct sunlight.

Ropes should be coiled to return to Quartermaster - it should have secured ends so that it does not come undone when being carried. Make the coil a manageable size.

Figure 1:
Keep a long end
To secure the coil.

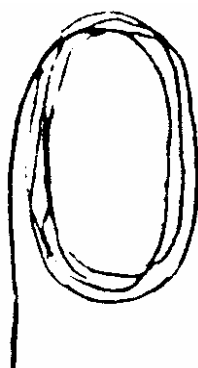


Figure 2:
Make a loop.

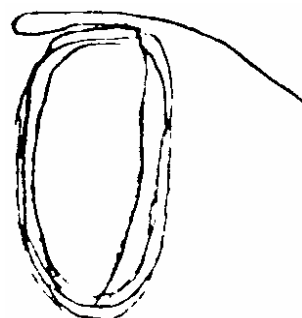


Figure 3:

Wind end around coil towards the loop.



Figure 4:

Put end through loop and pull the other tightly, until it is secure

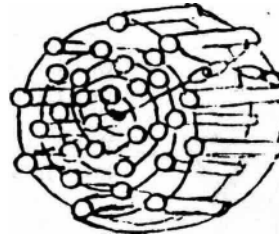


LADDERS:

Should be rolled thus:

This way they are portable for carrying to a pitch and compact and manageable for storage.

Wash them well while rolled with a spirit of water. Dry flat so the water drains out.



Secure G-links to prevent unrolling.

PLEASE USE THE EQUIPMENT IN THE STORE

IT IS THERE FOR MEMBERS

MEREDITH REARDON
QUARTERMASTER.

PROGRAMME

DECEMBER:

- 4th CEGSA ANNUAL DINNER – East Parklands north of Rundle Road by
the pond commencing at 5.00 p.m.
- 8th COMMITTEE MEETING
- 26th to the 1/1/83 – FLINDERS RANGES ----- Stan FLAVEL
- 26th to the 2/1/83 – SPELEOVISION FIELD TRIPS

JANUARY:

- 3rd to 7/1/83 – SPELEOVISION CONFERENCE
- 7th (onwards) – SPELEOVISION FIELD TRIPS
- **** 15th to 15/3/83 – TASMANIA ----- John McCORMACK
- 26th GENERAL MEETING ----- Museum Lecture Room

FEBRUARY:

- 10th COMMITTEE MEETING
- 13th INTRODUCTORY TRIP TO PUNYELROO CAVE
- 24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TRIP CONTACT LIST

Stan FLAVEL	Murray Road, Inglewood	(h) 390 5096
		(w) 223 3866
John McCORMACK	30 May Street, Sefton Park 5083	(h) 44 2900
		(w) 47 0830