

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide

VOLUME No: 27, No: 4 MARCH 1983



N E W S L E T T E R



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COVER PHOTO

*The Hon. Dr. D.J. HOPGOOD, B.A., PH.D.,
Minister for Environment and Planning*

Our Cover Photo shows Dr. Don Hopgood rowing on the lake in Tantanoola Lake Cave during a recent caving trip to the South East.

1983 COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT:	Kevin Mott, 3 Harcourt Road, Payneham
VICE PRESIDENT:	John Ellis, Box 468, P.O., Norwood
SECRETARY:	Stan Flavel, Murray Road, Inglewood
COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Graham Pilkington, 66 Eyre Crescent, Valley View. Kerry Nannes, 70 Harriet St., West Croydon Phone: 46 233U Gordon Nannes, 7 St. George's Street, Glandore. John McCormack, C/- Department of Marine and Harbours, Box 15, P.O., Port Adelaide.

We are one Committee position short. To make the running of the Group easier we need a full committee. If you are able to take up a committee position please see one of the above Committee Members as soon as possible.

DEADLINE:

Please note - the deadline for articles for the next issue of the CEGSA Newsletter is:

27th APRIL, 1983.

KEVIN MOTT.

EDITOR'S TRITE COMMENTS

Of the 186 Parks (as of June 1982) under the control of National Parks and Wildlife Service only 8 contain caves. This does not mean that these parks are of any lesser significance. In some instances Rangers were not aware of the caves within their park. Where the park has been named after the caves the park staff often have no knowledge of -

- (a) what caves are*
- (b) what caves exist on the reserve*
- (c) what a cave looks like*

How can such ignorance be overcome?

What is needed is a core of Rangers knowledgeable about caves and who are sensitive to a caving environment. Then if the Rangers need to be transferred because they know too much about their park or have become entrenched there is someone else capable of taking over. The variety of parks containing caves is quite wide so transfers between parks will still broaden the knowledge base of the Rangers. A good mechanic won't necessarily make a good chef. All too often, those who have bothered to learn about caves have been transferred or so hamstrung by a distant management, they have resigned.

Cavers themselves need to be part of the system as well. As a main user of the caves we need to maintain contact with those managing the parks, take them caving and show them what they are managing. Then we may find we are caving under sensible management guidelines with less friction. We may even get some cavers motivated enough to want to join National Parks. Then we will know things have definitely improved.

KEVIN MOTT.

ANNUAL REPORT AMENDMENTS ...

Page 11: KANGAROO ISLAND: *A trip to the island in May 1982 was made and several caves visited in and around Mt. Taylor and at Ravine De Casoars*

Page 21: McCORMACK, John (h) 44 2900
REARDON, Terry (w) 261 1033
TURNER, David (w) 212 4541

Page 26: UNION INTERNATIONALE De SPELEOLOGIE
C/~ Bundesdenkmalamt,
Hofburg,
Saulenstiege.
A - 1010 Wein. AUSTRIA.

TRIP REPORTS

KANGAROO ISLAND

May, 1982

PARTY: Meredith and Terry Reardon, and Robert Smith.

During May 1982 Terry and I visited Kangaroo Island where we met up Bob Smith who owns a property near Mt. Taylor. We visited Hic-up Cave, Frog Cave, Emu Four Hole Cave and Mt. Taylor Cave. The caves at the Ravine de Casoars were also visited.

MEREDITH REARDON.

FLINDERS RANGES

9,10,11th OCTOBER, 1982

PARTY: John McCormack, Bill Nicholson (S.C.C.) and Visitors Trevor Frick and Darren Sickerdick.

CAVES: Clara St. Dora, Arcoota Creek, Wooltana, Yellowfoot Rock Wallaby, Narinna, Mairs, Mt. Sims.

This trip started in typical CEGSA fashion – 1½ hours late. It rained lightly on Friday night which almost gave us a good enough reason to cancel the trip. During the week six visitors had already pulled out having realized their folly. Unfortunately, Trevor and Darren weren't so easily deterred. Bless their cotton socks - and I hope they get tinea.

"Where are we going?" Trevor asked, as we warmed up the engines.

"To Johnburg, just past Orroroo" says I.

"And where's that?" was the next question.

"Just follow us" I cried out into a mist of exhaust fumes and burnt rubber.

By some minor stroke of providence they discovered Orroroo on their road map. Hence, a successful rendezvous was achieved - and again a near cancellation was averted.

A few intrepid explorers from the Adelaide Uni Mountaineering Club were passed at Belton on Saturday morning still rubbing the sleep from their eyes. Yes, CEGSA actually had arisen and were on their way caving while members of other prominent organizations were still partaking of the pleasures found in the land of nod.

An enjoyable trip was shared through Clara St. Dora with the Uni group, pushing many a tight squeeze. The padlock on the gate was changed because the old lock was very difficult to latch shut. We left them after lunch with keys and directions to Mairs, Mt. Sims and Arcoota Creek Caves and made our way over to Oraparinna. The visitors were taken for a quick trip into Arcoota Creek on the way.

Meredith's group was found camping at Enorama Creek, and a great night was enjoyed cracking jokes, cyalume tubes and flagons of extra cheap red. Bat spotting with high-powered diving lights was another top feature. The next morning remains a bit of a blur. The most prominent memory is tripping over a near empty flagon and peering into Bill's face wondering if it was really human or just a very poor carbon copy replica... .AND, this was the day we were to do the "big one".

Some time was spent sorting gear as an excuse to recoup some fluids and vitamin B before setting off for Arkaroola. Time of departure was approximately 11:00 am. A deviation was made to Narrina for the benefit of Trevor and Darren. Unfortunately, the newly cut keys could not make the locks function in the desired manner. Zooming rapidly up to the Narrina homestead, a more reliable key was obtained and access gained. With the lock in one's grubby little fist the new key did actually work, if one's grubby fist could be restrained from jamming the key into the lock as far as possible. This delay put the Wooltana party even further behind schedule, as we didn't get away from Narrina until 1:30 pm. The visitors stayed for a short swim at Narrina, before returning to Enorama Creek where they had a look in Yellowfoot Rock Wallaby Cave.

Meanwhile, Bill and I travelled onwards to Arkaroola, arriving around 4:00 pm. The lateness of the day was considered as an excuse to cancel the trip, but we decided to go ahead anyway.

I suppose it would have scored a large number of points for the National Wank-off if all we had done was to jingle our jumars at the entrance of Wooltana.

The location of the cave is not exactly as shown on the 1:50,000 topographic map. Following the track shown on this map, the cave is, in fact on the back-side of the first hill instead of the second hill. The entrance of the cave is easily located because a large rock ramp has been constructed immediately adjacent to it. This ramp was built when Wooltana was mined for bat guano early this century.

It had been recommended to tie-off to a couple of small trees part way down the slope from the entrance. However, we decided instead to tie-off around two very large boulders at the entrance. Some time was spent in ensuring that the anchor was satisfactory and the rope was well protected. As a result, descent into the cave did not commence until 6:30 pm. The first pitch of 10m was negotiated quite easily, dropping down to 30° slope covered with loose rock that led to the cave proper. We used two 50m lengths of static rope, allowing us to simply hang the rope down this slope from the top anchor, therefore, enabling us to use it as a hand-line for this section. A disadvantage in this technique was that any movement of the rope during the long prussic out could cause cascades of loose rock to rain upon us.

I tackled the abseil first with Bill following to lay the protection. While waiting for him to arrive, I scoured the cave floor finding dust, bat guano dust, rocks, dust, bottles and more dust. Bill had abseiled about half the way down by this stage when he noticed that one protector had slid UP the rope, exposing naked rope fibres to a potential rubbing point. Unfortunately we had neglected to attach cord to the bottom of the protectors so that they would be held in place. Upon informing me of the situation, I immediately had this vision of 50 or 60 metres of slightly used static climbing rope lying in a useless crumbled heap at the bottom of the pitch with Billy's remains splashed over the walls of the cave.

"Oh!" I replied, and moved away from the bottom of the pitch. Better just one of us than both.

As I felt that I should be able to free climb at or just below the point he had trouble protecting, Bill prussicked out to the top of the pitch (i.e. the bottom of the steep slope). The climb was actually quite easy, particularly by the third time. Firstly, I had to go back to retrieve some gloves, and secondly, just as I was about to commence prussicking, I discovered the rope was caught below me and I had to return to the bottom to free it.

A quick exit was then made and we hurried back to the truck for a most welcome brew. The trip back was spent calculating the length of time that a rescue party might have taken to arrive. Whatever it would have been, I think we would have become quite hungry.

We arrived back at Enorama Creek at 3:30 am, and were most disappointed to find no-one at all sitting up worrying about us. And we could have been killed - or worse!! Understandably, Monday was a very quiet day.

JOHN McCORMACK.

CAVERS MORAL:

"Always keep your feet under-ground."

A Safety and Rescue exercise was organized at the request of the Noarlunga State Emergency Service in November. In addition to the twenty or so members from Noarlunga and West Beach SES units, two CEGSA members attended as well as one St. John First Aider.

The Saturday was spent discussing what might be encountered in a cave covering the types of formation that are found and the different shapes of passages that may have to be negotiated. Various techniques and skills outlined that are necessary to firstly, move about in a cave safely and quickly, and secondly, to evacuate an injured person comfortably and efficiently. The mechanics in which a cave rescue is brought about via mobilization of the STAR Force was examined, incorporating the roles in which CEGSA and SES may be asked to fill. A short exercise in which an unladen stretcher was moved part way through the cave at Reynella Quarry ended the day's programme. Other exercises during the day included putting everybody through the tight and awkward squeezes, such as closely spaced stool legs. Apart from the amusement at the exertion and flailing of arms and legs, everybody gained an appreciation to the size of holes that cavers do attempt to pass through.

On Sunday, a full-scale cave search and rescue exercise was held at Carrickalinga Cave. The scenario set was that CEGSA and the SES were called out to locate and rescue a couple who had been caving somewhere south of Adelaide and were long overdue. With knowledge of cave locations CEGSA were able to direct the SES to the most likely places that the couple might be found. From that point, the exercise was conducted with CEGSA observing the evacuation carried out by the SES people, and providing advice/expertise as required.

The first party entered the cave at 11:00 am. However, a considerable amount of time was spent rigging hand lines and a ladder pitch in the entrance chamber. This meant that the first casualty, located at the bottom of the ladder pitch, was not found until 1:00 pm. Movement of people into the cave to continue searching for the other casualty was slightly hampered by the evacuation of the first casualty, and the second casualty had only been reached by the searchers shortly before the exercise closed at approximately 4:30 pm. The removal of the first casualty was conducted quite efficiently and safely apart from one incident where the leg of the casualty was jammed with the hauling team still trying to pull on the belay line.

The weekend was wrapped up with a debriefing session back at the unit's clubrooms. The exercise emphasized the points raised during the Saturday's lectures. The main lessons learnt from the exercise were:-

- (a) the overwhelming level of organisation, logistics and coordination necessary to conduct a cave rescue and,*
- (b) the skills and expertise required of people to move safely and efficiently underground, and*
- (c) the great difficulty in moving an injured person through a cave.*

A tentative request was made for another rescue exercise to be organised in the first half of 1983. This would be of great benefit as more time could be spent developing skills needed underground. It would be very beneficial for CEGSA members to attend, as those CEGSA people who did attend learnt a lot. I would like to thank the CEGSA people who helped organise the weekend, those who acted as observers and especially those who performed admirably as casualties.

JOHN McCORMACK

TOWN WELL CAVE - YORKE PENINSULA

27, 28th DECEMBER, 1982

PARTY: John McCormack, John and Melina Healy, Bill Nicholson, Sally Forward, Martin Carnes and Phil Jackson.

Somewhere between 1000 hours and 1300 hours, John Mack, Phil and Martin left Adelaide and arrived at Town Well Cave (with no further detail necessary) to find that the Hon. Minister for Pitch Rigging, Bill Nicholson, had two ropes rigged. The Healy's had already descended the 110ft. pitch and Bill and Sally were ready to descend (we were only one hour late).

Soon all the party had entered and split into two groups; one lot exploring the left hand side and the other doing the right hand side, then swapping sides. Unfortunately I was too thick (whether mentally or physically shall remain indeterminable) to negotiate the second squeeze on the right hand branch so I was unable to see the full extent of the cave. However what I did see of the cave reminded me very much of Tasmanian caves with damp walls and floors (good stuff for the haemorrhoids).

About 10 metres along the right hand passage Martin observed a window about 5 metres above floor level. It was uncertain whether this had been previously noticed and explored, if not, it would be a worthwhile project to take a scaling pole down and check it out.

This trip was Sally and Melina's first serious caving SRT attempt and both coped admirably.

After the party returned to the surface, John and Melina returned to Adelaide and the rest of the team spent the night pestering and dodging ants at Corra-Lynn campsite. The next morning breakfast was had while dodging ants, packing was done while dodging ants. Bill and Sally returned to Adelaide while Martin, Phil and John ventured forth for Hawker to rendezvous with the Reardon Flinders Expedition.

PHIL JACKSON.

FLINDERS RANGES

28-30th DECEMBER, 1982.

PARTY: Meredith Reardon, Terry Reardon, Judith Whitehead, Dave Williams, Ian Goldsmith, John McCormack, Martin Carnes and Phil Jackson.

*CAVES VISITED: Mairs Cave, Clara St. Dora, Wilpena Pound,
and FEATURES Yourambulba Rock Caves, Mt. Remarkable Blowhole,
VISITED: Hawker Swimming Pool and Hawker Hotel air-conditioned lounge with
T.V. and meals and bottle department.*

On the way to meet the Reardon party John and Martin dropped into Mairs and Clara St. Dora for a flying trip while Phil stayed on the surface using acclimatisation to Flinders heat as an excuse for his idleness.

Anyway, after that detour we arrived at our rendezvous at the Hawker Post Office an hour late. At this point I should mention that the Hawker Post Office is one of the best I have ever seen, air-conditioned, with a public bar and lounge, television (for watching cricket) they serve ice cold beer instead of stamps and fine counter meals. After a few hours at the Post Office we ventured up the road towards Wilpena and camped on the roadside somewhere in between.

The following day saw us waking up in stinking hot conditions. Due to heat exhaustion and dehydration the party returned to the Hawker Swimming Pool and the Post Office. After many hours rest and recuperation leave, the party ventured forth, with replenished esky, to the Yourambulba Rock Caves, where a couple of hours were spent inspecting aboriginal art and some fine pseudokarst. After a brief spell of increasing the internal storage capacitance of the esky by consuming some of its liquid amber coloured contents, the team departed for Wilmington where they inspected the Wilmington Hotel before camping for the night at the oval.

The following morning saw a semi-eager team head off for Melrose and Mt. Remarkable Blowhole. This cave with its 110ft. stepped ladder pitch and low crawly passages was considerably warm and humid and most found that a further esky storage space increment was necessary.

After several visits to bakeries and deli's, the team returned to Adelaide thus ending an enjoyable trip.

Recommendations for Summer Flinders Trips - a good quality esky or, better still, a portable fridge.

PHIL JACKSON

SELICK'S HILL CAVE AND CHRISTIES BEACH

1st January, 1983

PARTY: John McCormack, Martin Carnes, Paul Laver and Phil Jackson (SCS)

You may be wondering what Christies Beach has to do with caving, well the answer is nothing, it just happens to be a pleasant spot to go diving and snorkelling on the way to Sellick's Hill.

Anyway, enough of that, after a brief search, the entrance, surprisingly turned up exactly where it was expected to be, so the troops entered.

The cave is a semi-vertical climb down through talus and there is evidence of much work having been done in removing hazardous loose rocks and stabilising some of the talus. After bottoming the cave and some pushing and poking we returned to the surface finding that going up was much more strenuous because of the downwards force of gravity.

This was Paul's first caving trip and he was immensely impressed.

PHIL JACKSON

HEARD at the A.G.M. in February as a member arrived for the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

"Was it finished already?"

- PARTY:** Gordon Peterson (L), Jan, Robert and Andrew.
- VISITORS:** The Minister for the Environment, Dr. Don Hopgood, his daughter Amanda, Ron Osborne, Annice, Shani and David Vass and Cathy Stewart from W.A.
- CAVES:** Tomato-Stick, Cathedral, Blackberry, Blanche, Beekeepers (fizzer), Wombat, Appledore, Specimen, Victoria Fossil, Fox, Alexandra, Tantanoola Lake Cave and some snorkelling in Ewens Ponds.

We departed on Wednesday after a frustrating morning which involved re-wiring the trailer's electrical system (twice) and arrived at Naracoorte at approximately 5.30 p.m. Tents and other sundry items were set up, plugged in and generally sorted out and after dinner an initiation trip into Tomato-Stick resulted with Annice, Shani and David literally craving for more caving, but it was decided that an early morning start would be more suitable giving everyone a chance to rest and relax after the EXTREMELY HOT and tiring trip experienced earlier.

Thursday dawned with the promise of becoming very hot (not wrong!) and after copious quantities of bacon and eggs were consumed, the group set out for Cathedral. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed even though their fearless leader refused to squeeze into that grotty little "dig" hole at the end of the cave. He stated that he was not tired — just too intelligent to enter. After lunch, food supplies had to be replenished, so Robert elected to lead the group into Blackberry as far as the gated section, while Jan and I shopped at Naracoorte. Upon our return, our Park guide, Roy Waples, was waiting to take the group through one of the most hazardous caves on the reserve — Blanche. This proved to be a most educational exercise because the only 'true' active decorations in the cave (even after the long and severe drought the area has been experiencing) are directly below the entrance where thirteen (13) pine trees were cut down and removed approximately 3 years ago. This proves, that although Blanche has been declared a "dead" cave, if the remaining pines were removed and nature allowed to take its course, with, perhaps, a little help from a surface irrigation system to rectify the damage already done, this cave, no doubt, would then rejuvenate and become more attractive and interesting than it is today.

During the afternoon, Gordon Ninnies and the Mott Family arrived and that evening a visit was made to Bat Cave to observe the bats exiting from the entrance.

Friday began hot! and as the day increased so did the temperature. A morning trip to Beekeepers turned out to be a 'fizzer' due to logging activities which had churned up sand on the road to such an extent that the Mitsubishi van the group had been travelling in became bogged (five (5) times!) so the trip was aborted and Wombat Cave was visited instead. Meanwhile the 'water babies' of the group, namely, Robert, Cathy and Andrew had left for a day's snorkelling in Ewens Ponds, which they later claimed, was truly magnificent and an experience they will never forget.

During the afternoon Beth and Harry Baker drove out to the Reserve to say 'hello'. It was great to see them both again and to know that they still have a great interest in all CEGSA people.

Saturday was a scorcher!!! By 8.00 a.m. it was already extremely hot — by mid-day the heat was unbearable and it continued this way up until almost 9.00 p.m. when a slight coolness descended upon the area.

Don Hopgood, Amanda and Ron Osborne arrived early in the morning and a trip into Victoria Fossil Cave began almost immediately. Roy Waples accompanied the group into the cave as far as the Fossil dig to explain to the Minister the main features of the cave and how work was progressing in the fossil dig. Kevin and Nimble also accompanied the group through the Great Hall and out to Straw Haven. All went well till we reached the exit door which was locked! I could not believe it! The Minister for the Environment locked in a cave and no prospect of getting out for hours! It was ridiculous! I thought those of the group who had reached the door first were just playing a joke - but NO! Ever since fossils were stolen from the cave, all the locks had been changed so that they are now keyed from the inside. Trapped! Shame, frustration and disgrace. CEGSA will disown me. In desperation I tried the old door at the top of the wooden steps - reprieve - it was open! Roy had come to our rescue. Realising that the locks had been changed he had returned and opened the other door for us.

Back to camp for a quick lunch then a visit to Fox Cave for the afternoon. Unfortunately, it was at this stage that Amanda (who had not been feeling well that morning) became too ill to participate in any further caving and stayed with Jan at the campsite. I know Don was impressed with this cave although he did make the statement that he did not think it was suitable to develop for tourism.

We returned to camp in over 100° degree heat and almost immediately descended into the Alex with Bill Pyecroft showing Don the main features while Jan prepared dinner.

Sunday saw an early start for Tantanoola Lake Cave. Much to our envy, Jan travelled with Don in his air-conditioned State car as it was once again, extremely hot. We intended to follow immediately but alas, Andrew's car decided to play up and by the time we arrived at our destination, the Minister had already enjoyed a cup of coffee with John and Jo whilst awaiting our arrival.

I realised one of my life's ambitions on this visit by taking in a blow-up rubber dinghy and paddling around the lake.

What an experience! Even Don and the rest of the group were very impressed with the magnificent scenery as seen from the opposite side of the lake. It was really superb and I promised John that I would make another trip into the cave with the dinghy so he could join us.

We exited the cave early afternoon as Don had to return to Adelaide to attend a meeting that evening.

Full credit for courage, determination and sheer guts must go to Don Hopgood for the way he negotiated this difficult cave.

Even though it had been several years since Annice was caving in New Guinea, her attitude showed that she was still a true caver by her obvious enjoyment and skill underground.

GORDON PETERSON

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

HELMETS

The Group has a supply of clear safety helmets for sale.

If your helmet is.....

- (a) over two years old, or*
- (b) has been battered about, or*
- (c) left in the sun at all, or*
- (d) does not look right or enhance your image.....*

the chances are you are in need of a new helmet.

GET ONE NOW WHILE STOCKS LAST

An ideal present for the person who had everything

COST: \$6.00

Bracket, chin strap and cable clamp \$3.50

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees are now due.

<i>Full membership</i>	<i>\$21.00</i>	<i>(Includes ASF capitation fee)</i>
<i>Associate membership</i>	<i>\$9.00</i>	<i>(first year)</i>
	<i>\$14.50</i>	<i>thereafter</i>
<i>Country Full membership</i>	<i>\$19.00</i>	

IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER

PLEASE

PAY YOUR SUBS

NOW!!

LAND SNAIL COLLECTING

As many of you would know, Jan and I have been collecting land and freshwater molluscs (which includes slugs) since 1968. This was a logical expansion of systematic caving as the first few groups of snails we found came from in and around cave mouths. Some groups of snails are easy to classify and others are extremely complicated. One of the first groups we found were little pin-head size things (no adults) and they came in a wide range of shell shapes, some plain, some highly ornamented, etc. etc. This was clearly a large problem and no Australian worker was able to sort this diversity into logical classification. For more than 10 years people said — "perhaps in 10 years time". Well 10 years came and went and then just over a year ago a worker in New Zealand felt he was now able to add this Australian group to similar groups he had been working on from New Zealand and Pacific Islands. He is in raptures over what we have sent him and lots of new genera and species are being erected to accommodate the novelties.

Now the question cavers will ask is "why ask me?" Well clearly Jan and I can not cover every square km. of Australia and even if we could we would still miss things. Each of you have your own idea of where to look and each of you travel different routes for work and holidays. Even in the late 1960's cavers were making valuable collections, and through the 1970's we have had a couple of cavers in Queensland, one in N.S.W. and one in W.A. send in small but valuable collections. Snails are just one of the things that need to be studied and we now have workers able and eager to tackle most of the groups so I feel we should do our bit to help.

Where to collect? Anywhere in Australia! There would hardly be a square km. of the whole of Australia that has been intensively looked at and there are dozens of 1:250,000 map sheets that have not been visited AT ALL! Australia is a BIG place when you think it took me a whole year to cover the PENOLA 1:250,000 sheet.

How to collect. When one dry shell is found that tells you that the specie is present, a second dry shell allows you to look at shell size, shape and sculpture variation. Up to 50 or so dry shells allows a good statistical study to be done. One live shell allows anatomical study to be done which may be absolutely necessary to place it satisfactorily in its correct group. It is staggering, but true, that many species have never been described anatomically and this is causing lots of problems. This in itself presents a challenge for us all. The ideal collection (rarely achieved) would be 20-50 live and the same dry. This allows all forms of study to be done. Please remember one dry shell tells us something.

It is not easy to abbreviate details of how to relax and kill live material. Rules of thumb for the non professional are if it is out walking or was collected in cold wet southern Australian conditions, it has to be relaxed and killed straight away or it will die and rot. Live collected in dry conditions with the animal aestivating, can be left dry for some weeks. Slugs always have to be relaxed and killed straight away, as do all freshwater snails.

Relaxation (for everything but freshwater limpets) is necessary so the animal will die with its body relaxed outside the shell (as it would look when out walking).

This allows workers to cut open the gut etc. without having to smash the shell to get at the gut etc. Relaxation is achieved by placing the live snails in a full container of water (jam jar or small vial) to which either chloral hydrate, menthol or tobacco has been added. Volume of tobacco in a cigarette would do for a small cup of water. When working with "smalls" and using tobacco, add tobacco to water and shake for a few minutes, remove strands of tobacco (by draining or decanting) and just use the coloured fluid which should be a strong golden colour. If fluid is only light yellow and you can see through the bottle clearly, you need to use more tobacco and to shake it for longer. As in all things practice makes perfect and it is best to start with a few snails out of your garden.

Leave snails in killing solution for 24 hours. If they still move when touched (or in case of some fresh water, bleed when placed in preservative) leave for another 12 hours or so. DO NOT leave in killing solution longer than 48 hours under ANY CIRCUMSTANCES and beware of times greater than 36 hours if conditions are hot, otherwise decomposition will set in. Slugs are particularly subject to decomposition problems.

Preserve in 70-75% alcohol. In an emergency, Metho or 5% formalin can be used.

When making up a killing solution do not use salty or brackish water (Nullarbor etc.) or solution will not work. Freshwater limpets and tiny freshwater mussels go straight into 70-75% alcohol. Medium - large mussels should be placed in clean water, taken from where they were collected, in a shallow dish. When the valves open carefully insert match-sticks or small twigs or similar into the gap. With the valves thus propped open the specimens can go into 70-75% alcohol.

Some books you might read will recommend a 5% formalin "fixing" stage between killing and preserving. Do NOT use this procedure. In many places and circumstances suitable collecting habitats of under stones, deep litter, deep moss pile etc. are not available, don't panic and don't say "it doesn't look good", collect a plastic bag of what ever you can and we will sort it later. Moss is NEVER checked in the field, just collect it. Moss is one of the most important habitats we have.

Well there is much more I could and should say, but I will leave it at that for now. Try to think like a snail (summer-winter cycles of drying and flooding, predation etc. etc.) and carry a pack of plastic bags and ties. The label MUST carry three things, WHO, WHEN, and WHERE. Remember snails love to eat paper labels. Have fun and I look forward to seeing lots of material.

FRED ASLIN.

QUOTE:

Heard from Don Hopgood as he exited Tantanoola Lake Cave:-

"I'm probably the ONLY Minister for Environment who has been caving and most probably the last."

TANTANOOLA TOURIST CAVE

After being closed for about seven months due to restoration work, Tantanoola Cave is now open to the public for inspection. What was once a grubby, abused and under-developed cave with abundant potential has crystallized into a magnificent show piece high on the list of things that MUST be seen in the South East.

Many hours of hard work have gone into cleaning the decoration to bring it back to its former glory. Rimpools filled with dirt, rock and tarry compounds have been cleaned out. Gentle hues can be seen in the stalagmites and stalactites previously showing only the sweat of a thousand grubby hands.

Access to the cave has been greatly modified to allow wheel chair access to all the cave. This is a first for South Australia. Originally Victoria Fossil cave was supposed to have catered for wheel chairs but slight modifications to the track make it somewhat difficult.

The reflections in the revitalized pool have even the most hardy of cavers reeling back in terror. The view gives the impression of a bottomless pit containing thousands of menacing sharp pointed stakes. One tourist in Alexandra Cave was heard to comment that those at Naracoorte have a lot to learn from Tantanoola about reflections.

Lighting in the cave now highlights the decoration and the ceiling and is most effective.

Those who worked on the re-development are to be congratulated. Any one visiting the South East should call in and see the cave.

KEVIN MOTT

NARACOORTE CAVES NEWS

Fred Carberry has been transferred from Naracoorte Caves to South End. Fred has made a valuable contribution to the caves in his time there and his expertise will be missed.

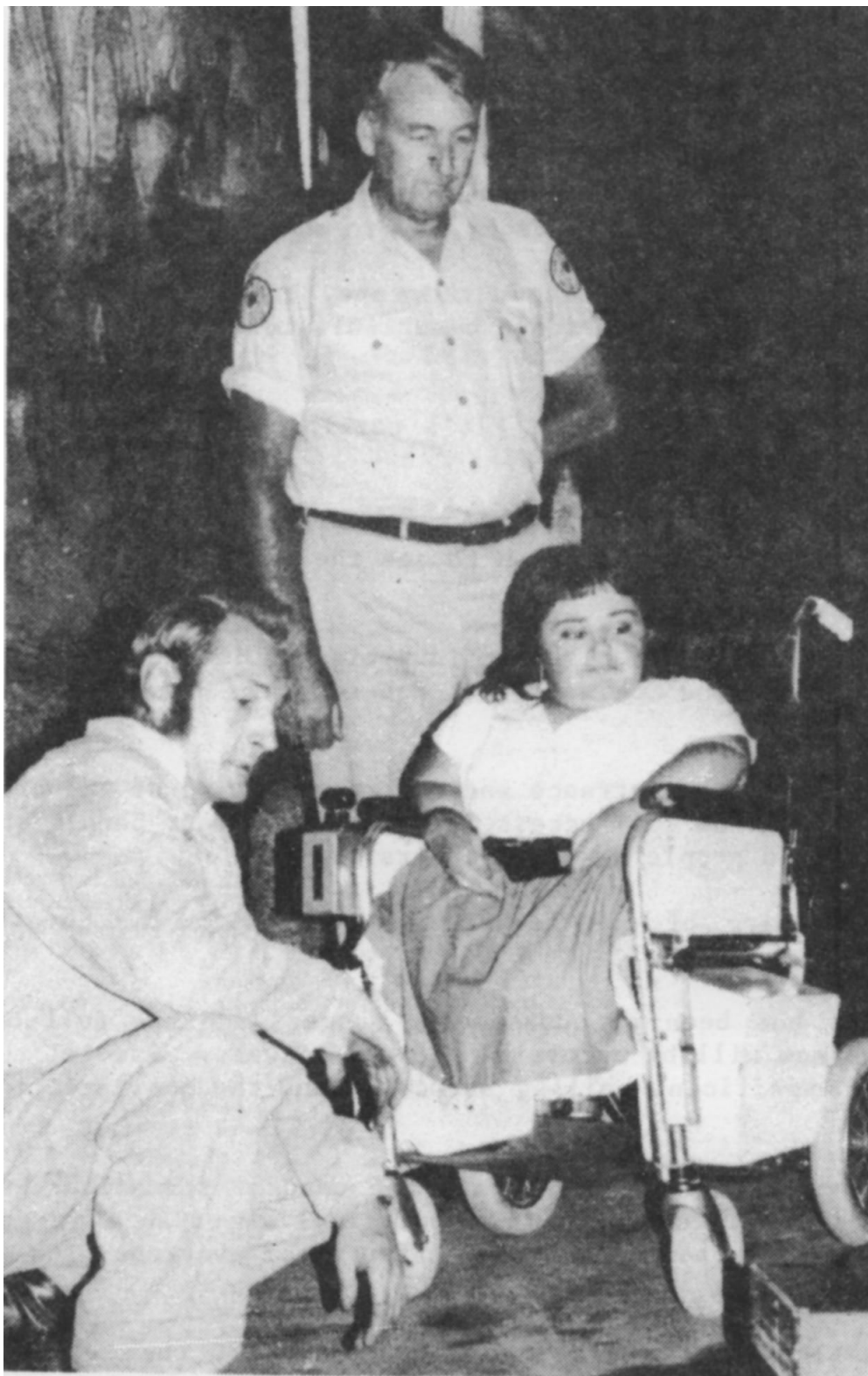
The esteem of National Parks in the eyes of adjoining landowners was high; normally a rare situation, and we hope that National Parks maintains that rapport.

We wish Fred well in his new post.

A new log book has been commenced at Naracoorte. Anyone caving on the reserve or nearby should make sure they fill out this log book.

KEVIN MOTT.

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**In the cave, Jacky paused with John Callaghan (1) and Peter Tomlin
to admire beautiful reflections in the pool.**

Major re-development to Tantanoola Cave

"The door of the Tantanoola Cave rolled back last month, and a cave with a beauty unsurpassed in Australia was re-opened for public viewing.

The first visitors to tour the cave following its major re-development were Jacky Chant of Tantanoola and the cave's discoverer, Boyce Lane.

With Jacky and Boyce were Senior Ranger for the SE Peter Tomlin and Cave Manager John Callaghan.

With a lowered entrance and specially designed ramps and floor levels, the cave was readily accessible to Jacky in her wheel chair.

"I've heard people talk about the cave, but I couldn't go before. Then when I looked up, there were those beautiful stalactites — It was really good" Jacky said.

Equally excited, Boyce said, "It's terrific — It's improved in every way and no-one can say otherwise."

Peter Tomlin and John Callaghan both of the frustrations, the day to day decisions, and their determination to see the ambitious management plan brought to fruition.

The new re-development plan was investigated in December, 1980 by Mr. Elery Hamilton-Smith from the Speleological Federation. He made two main recommendations.

The lowering of the entrance and the re-designing of the track systems inside the cave to allow full access for young children, people who were elderly or handicapped and people in wheelchairs.

The re-designing of the lighting to emphasize the cave's many special features.

The result has been an outstanding success and the full beauty of a remarkable cave now will be accessible to all viewers. Special thought has been given to the magnificent ceiling structure and the pool area in the centre of the cave.

"The illumination has exposed all the natural formations and high-lighted them for their individual beauty, geological importance or general effect," Peter said. "It's been a real team effort from everyone with lots of personal time and effort."

Elery Hamilton-Smith had set the ground work, the team had put it into practice.

"Elery saw the pathways and the lighting system near completion and was most impressed with the whole effect. "He considers it top level, the leading cave in Australia," John said. Peter said it hadn't been like planning a house — there had been so many unknowns to be faced. "All the time and money has been well worth the effort — and we're still within our budget," Peter said.

With the months of delays and unforeseen problems behind them, John summed up their excitement at the near complete result. "It's what we expected, what we hoped for and we're delighted to see that it has worked." "We're delighted too, that Jacky could be the first with her wheelchair and that Boyce could be happy with the results," said John.

The cave and grounds were a hive of industry yesterday as lawns were cut; bark carted for gardens; finishing touches were put to lighting, pathways and the door; and Jo Callaghan stocked up her canteen for the anticipated invasion during the remainder of the holiday period.

HEATHER CARTHEW,
SOUTHEASTERN TIMES.

TANTANOOLA CAVE - REVITALISED

In January of this year I paid a visit to this newly upgraded and reopened cave. I can only give praise for the magnificent efforts and the spectacular results obtained by the people involved in this project.

My personal thanks must go to Bob Nichols, Director of the Department for the Environment, for his readiness to grant me an interview regarding the flight of steps recommended in the preliminary management plan. His obvious concern and understanding for the requirements of the physically handicapped is greatly appreciated, and on proof that a ramp could be installed, giving access to the whole of the cave to people in wheelchairs, his immediate instruction to his staff that the ramp would be installed showed a decisive no-nonsense approach to his position. This type of decision-making can only build confidence and respect for him, not only from his staff but all people who have business dealings with him.

The wide publicity now being given to the cave is mainly because the offending steps have been by-passed and that now the physically handicapped can appreciate this new experience which has been denied them in the past.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those people who have not been mentioned in various newspaper articles and who deserve just as much recognition as those who have been constantly mentioned. As indicated by an article in a previous Newsletter, it was a team effort and so, for the benefit of the caving fraternity, I am including the names of those people who donated their time and expertise to the project.

Kevin Mott	Surveying
Andy Spate	Geology and Vegetation
Peter Matthews	Visitor surveys
Miles Pierce	Lighting
Peter Robinson	Seismic study

Congratulations to all those mentioned above for a job well done!

GORDON PETERSON

RIVETT'S REWARD COLUMN
(Stirrer's Spoon)

THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF MINIOPTERUS SCHREIBERSI
(The Bent Wing Bat)

On my last trip to Naracoorte during January of this year, it was brought to my attention that Noel Speechley, who is deeply involved with the photographing and I presume, the study of bats was again going to invade Bat Cave with his cameras, electronic flash units etc., on the pretext of photographing the flying bats for scientific purposes.

If this had been his first photographic excursion into the cave I would agree that it could have a scientific purpose (although I think to enter the cave during the breeding season is inexcusable). According to the information I have been able to obtain, this is not the first, nor the second or even the third, but the fourth time this person's flash units and other paraphernalia has decorated the confined passage to the nursery chamber. With the quality and variety of his photographs, (which are on display) it appears that quite enough scientific shots have been taken and that now, he is trying for that 'flukey' photograph that will take him into International Stardom in the photographic field.

Years ago I tried photographing the bats leaving Bat Cave. Every time my flash gun discharged I could hear bats hitting the walls of the exit chamber. After three flash discharges and noting that after each discharge bats either struck the walls or roof of the cave I concluded that the bright light from the flash unit was causing them to become disoriented thus deviating from their natural flight path. For this reason I have desisted from taking flash photographs of bats in flight within confined spaces.

I visited the Department for the Environment three times expressing my concern for the breeding bats. I explained that the young were still in the main chamber and that if as I suspected, the flash unit did cause the flying bats to kill or damage themselves then the young bats in the nursery chamber would die as well - doubling the kill rate. But the Department refused to cancel Noel's permit.

I then contacted Terry Reardon who is recognized by the S.A. Museum as an authority on bats. His comments were, as far as the flash unit affecting the bats, "Yes, it wouldn't surprise me at all." He then expressed his opinion that the ultrasonic noise associated with the recharging of the flash unit could also affect the flight of bats by interfering with their sonic guiding systems.

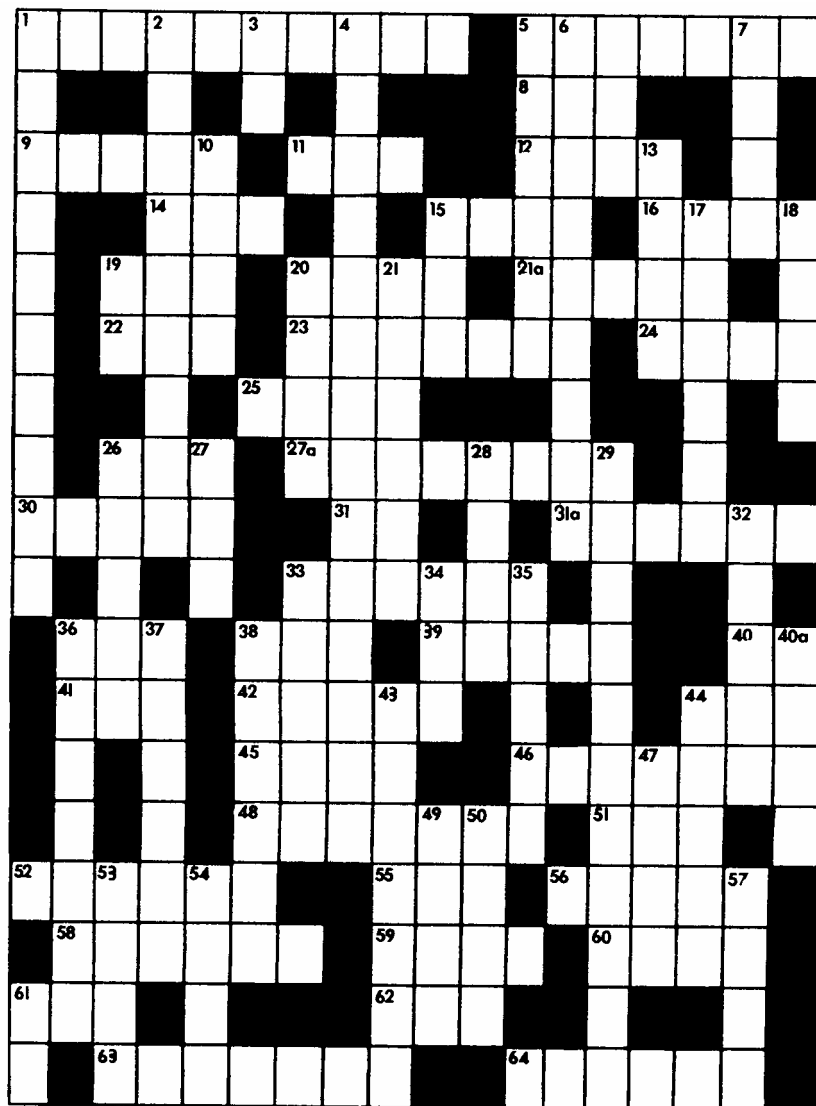
Terry told me he would contact Noel and phone me back. The results of the conversation between Terry and the photographer was that irrespective of the concern of various people he would not cancel his photographic trip into Bat Cave.

I sincerely hope Noel reads this article and is prepared to give an explanation in our next Newsletter.

It is my opinion that the Dept, for Environment should restrict entry into this cave at ALL times of the year and in particular, during the breeding season which is from November to the end of April.

GORDON PETERSON

Crossword Puzzle



DOWN

- 1 Cave in the South east
- 2 Insects that light up
- 3 Forward
- 4 Caving **area**
- 5 Regard
- 6 Polite
- 7 Needed on most caves
- 10 Number
- 13 Want
- 15 Usually found in caves
- 17 Gloomy
- 18 Part of the face
- 19 Preposition
- 20 Mythical wolf (first part)
- 21 point
- 26 Main artery
- 27 Variety of tree
- 28 To liquefy
- 29 Name given to cave decoration
- 32 Noblemen
- 33 Weird
- 34 Grain
- 35 One who naps
- 36 Wide mouth of a river in which the tide ebbs & flows
- 37 Relative
- 38 Colour
- 40a Legislative decrees
- 43 Large snakes
- 44 To place in layers
- 47 God of thunder
- 49 A luminous ring
- 50 To send forth
- 53 Search
- 54 A musical sound
- 57 Immediately succeeding
- 61 Popular movie character

ACROSS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 Cave-dweller | 31a De-sexed (animal) | 62 Word expressing negation |
| 5 Branch of science | 33 To embrace | 63 Bee.....Cave |
| 8 Indian | 36 And so forth | 64 A cave on Woods and Forest land at Naracoorte |
| 9 type of rope | 38 Opposite to no | |
| 11 Section of circle | 39 Small island | |
| 12 To rotate | 40 Ancient sun god | |
| 14 Humour | 41 Biscuit (brand) | |
| 15Rabbit | 42 To break out | |
| 16 Garden of.... | 44 Everyone needs it (abbrev) | |
| 19 To possess | 45 Flower | |
| 20 Cave insect | 46 Outspoken in self esteem | |
| 21a Puts you to sleep | 48 CEGSA medal | |
| 22 Enemy | 51 One in particular | |
| 23 Summary | 52 Tasmania has one | |
| 24 Animals live in them | 55 Type of meat | |
| 25 Large perennial plant | 56 A prickle | |
| 26 Girl's name | 58 Fame | |
| 27a Huge | 59 A miscellany | |
| 30 Unfastened | 60 Any Celtic tongue | |
| 31 Whether | 61 For seeing | |

PROGRAMME

MARCH	5,6		
	9	Committee Meeting	
	12,13		
	19,20		
	23	General Meeting - Stan Flavel - Bats	
APRIL	1,2,3,4		
	9,10		
	13	Committee Meeting	
	23,24,25		
	27	General Meeting - Athol Jackson – Audio Visual Cave Tour	
	30		
MAY	1		
	7,8	Corra Lynn	
	11	Committee Meeting	
	14,15,16		
	21,22		
	25	General Meeting – Members Slides	
	28,29	South East	Kevin Mott
JUNE	4,5		
	8	Committee Meeting	
	11,12		
	18,19		
	22	General Meeting – Simon Fisher – Hot Air Ballooning	
	25,26		