

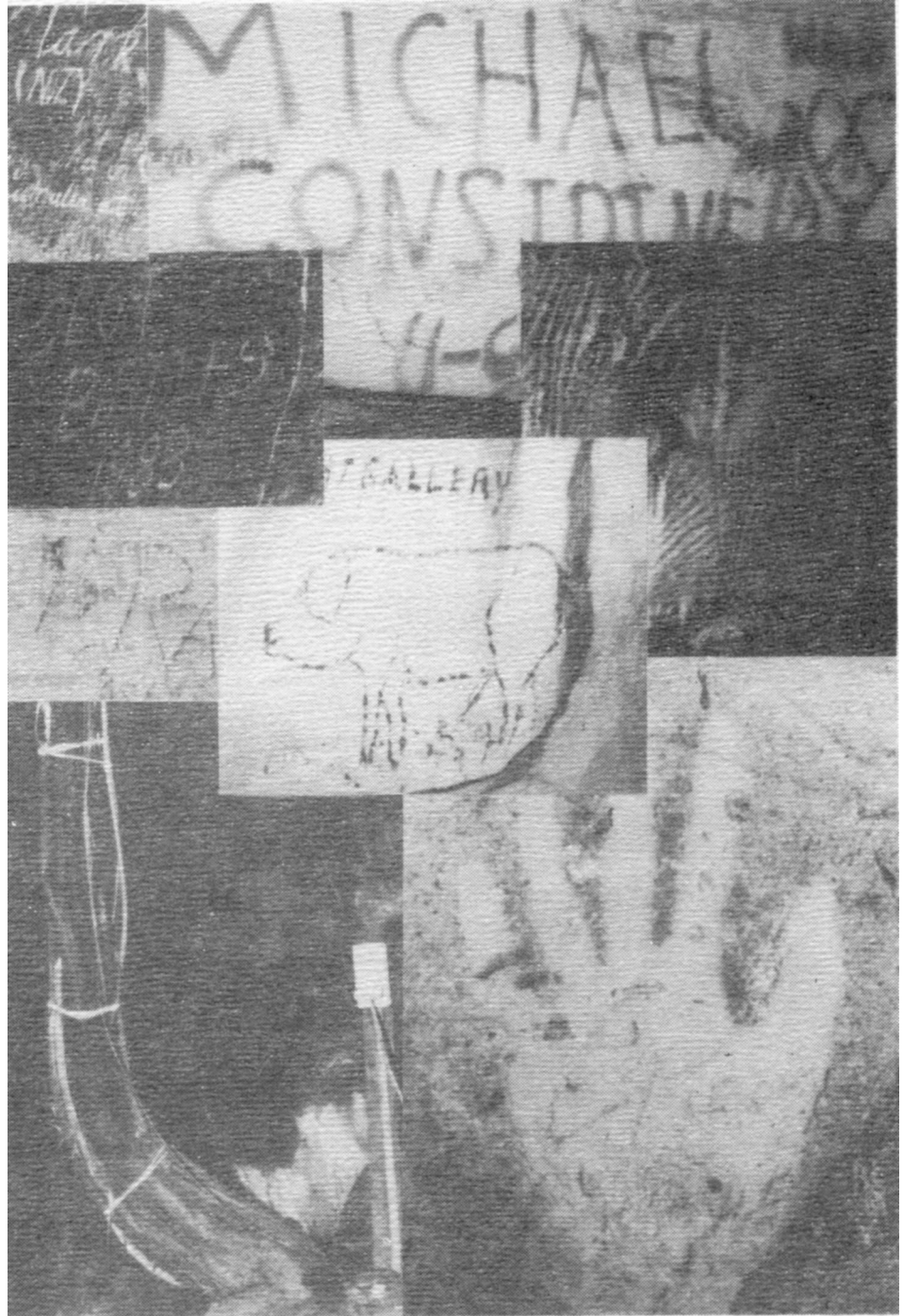
# CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide.

Volume 29 Number 3 NOVEMBER 1984



## NEWSLETTER



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# CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.45 p.m. in the  
Museum Lecture Room at the rear of S.A. Museum

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## COVER PHOTO

### **Impact of man upon caves:**

Names scratched in blackened walls.

Names engraved or painted on walls.

Hand stencils and Finger lines.

Tree roots used as wiring support.

Which is art, vandalism or progress?

Photo's by Peter Horne and Kevin Mott.

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 29 No 4 is Wed. 22 February 1985

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (S. Australia) Inc. nor it's Committee.

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## EDITORIAL

Recently I have been in caves differing in aesthetic quality. Tantanoola Lake Cave is a very beautiful, but highly vandalised cave. Another unnamed cave is almost in its pristine state.

It is only when we enter a cave that has been visited previously by only 2-3 people we see a cave as it should be. All too often we wander through a cave with the attitude, been there, done that; oh well might as well take them through. When we have that attitude we blind ourselves to the damage we and the others are doing either purposefully or negligently.

Some damage is obvious and wilful. Names engraved or painted on cave walls (even wet sink holes are not immune); decoration souvenired, damaged or disfigured; deviation from marked or obvious trails; and litter are some of the more obvious ones. Heavy boots blundering through a cave can kill or damage cave flora and fauna. Even dirt and fibres from our clothing are enough to dirty cave decoration.

Boastings such as I have done 8 trips in the past 6 months into cave 'x' do nothing but puff up the ego of the boaster, make the less "fortunate" envious and destroy the cave by overuse.

The only way caves can be fully protected is by closing them up completely. A drastic step indeed but in the light of the mentality of the cave vandal perhaps the only step. Responsible cavers can reduce their impact on caves by:

- observing restrictions - gates are there to protect the cave not prevent access. Any responsible caver will usually be granted access if the requirements for access are met.
- treating the cave as a virgin cave - moving carefully through the cave, looking where you are going and looking at what is in the cave. You may surprise yourself.
- using discretion - bragging about illegal visits to gated caves, showing your "mates" the new "you beaut" cave all lead to over-visitation and destruction.
- self regulation - by not visiting a cave more than is necessary we can help to minimise our effect on the cave. We can all visit caves like the pristine unnamed cave if we treat the caves for what they are - a valuable heritage - not a disposable toy.

*Kevin MOTT*

# TRIP REPORTS

## **NARACOORTE**

**19-21 May 1984**

**CAVES VISITED: FOX, BLACKBERRY (gated), CATHEDRAL, MOCK.**

Naracoorte was cold and rain threatened but caving has little affect on top world here, so we visited Fox to do some photography and exploration then went to Cathedral to practise our abseiling and rope walking techniques which was just as well because N.P.W.S. has taken the top ladder section out for safety reasons. We organized it so that Jo Bauer, one of the guides, or someone else could come with us to Blackberry on Saturday. We set out early and soon found the crawl that led to the Big Straw and pushed on, only to find Jo and I got stuck in a tight section so Tony and Corrie continued on. They pushed on till what they thought was the end of the cave but never saw the elusive Big Straw so many have unsuccessfully set out to find. The gate had its lock changed last year by N.P.W.S. The lock with key stamped NP50 is O.K.

We took a look at S102 and Shaftesbury Shaft to photograph the entrances. Tony and Jim Biggins put a tank around Shaftesbury Shaft two weeks before to keep the sheep out. We inspected it with Jim. He seems very concerned about landowners rights with people visiting his caves and maybe hurting themselves or worse. He wants some answers soon, perhaps from C.E.G.S.A. because he doesn't want to stop cavers, but the risk is getting greater in view of the real rescue in Beekeepers Cave last April.

Two youths were lost for 26 hours (past the sump) with only a broken torch and a cigarette lighter. The Police praised S.E.S. and N.P.W.S. for their quick work and expertise in taking only 45 minutes to locate them. They were O.K. but pale and scared (Naracoorte Herald clipping). Jim and wife are concerned, as is another landowner, Barry Dinnings of Mundulla near Bordertown, who is the owner of Mock Cave. We checked for permission for ourselves and three S.E.S. members from Bordertown to use the cave. He insisted that he would not be responsible for damages etc.

Mock Cave, U84, is a solution tube with silt blocking off the entrance which has a strong breeze. Nearby is a stone filled hole which Barry said had once been open and had a breeze strong enough to blow his hat up when he placed it on top. Another adjacent tube drops some 10 metres but has silt blocking it.

*Colin McRAE*

## **LOWER SOUTH EAST**

**3-5 September 1984**

**PARTY: Kevin Mott, Ian Lewis, Bill Parker, Geoff Aslin**

Ian and I were scheduled to give a talk to the Millicent Field Naturalists Society on the Friday night. On the way down Friday afternoon we called in to Gran Gran corner to check out L173. Since the fires last summer Woods & Forests has felled the trees. Some of these were stuffed down the cave entrances. Despite this we were able to sort out the discrepancy in the location of this feature.

Bill could not make it down during the day so he travelled down on Friday night.

Saturday morning Ian returned to Adelaide. While preparing the Karst Index forms we had trouble locating U103 - Smithson Cave (S162). We knew an approximate location, so Bill went off looking for it. C.E.G.S.A.'s last contact with the cave was by J. Cole in November 1965. Bill eventually found the property. The owner's wife knew of the cave as their children often visited it. Before venturing to the cave, Bill indulged in the proffered cups of tea. They went to a patch of scrub north west of the house then walked the 110m to the cave. Unless you know where the cave is the 1m diameter entrance tube would be impossible to find in the thick scrub. Bill had a quick look at the entrance, but as lunch time was fast approaching it was back to the house for more cups of tea.

After lunch Bill returned to the cave to prepare a location sketch and have a quick look at it. He was having difficulty negotiating a tight dogleg in the tube so aborted the effort. Being on his own and the first C.E.G.S.A. representative in 20 years, it was not the time to get stuck. A return to the house saw further cups of tea with the owner and his wife.

While Bill was out enjoying his tea breaks I went to Tantanoola Lake Cave with National Parks and S.E.S. personnel to assess the difficulty of rescue from the cave. Those that went underground were John Callaghan, Greg Tedder, Fred Carberry, Bridget Wilkinson (N.P.W.S.), John Probert and another Mt Gambler S.E.S. Officer and yours truly. The round trip took three and a half hours. Several of the party hadn't been through the cave before and were suitably impressed with the lake chamber. Removal of a patient would be possible but very labour intensive and strenuous. The cave is showing signs of heavy visitation. The path through the slot is now very muddy and broad visitors have not been sticking to one route and have been kicking mud and rocks around through the cave. In the lake chamber there is evidence of people circumnavigating the chamber via the decoration. Muddy footprints, cigarette butts and dead flash cubes mark the trail of destruction. Later that day Geoff gave me a guided tour of some of his latest finds of aboriginal finger-lines; in caves.

Sunday afternoon was set aside as a field trip for the Field Naturalists to Monbulla Cave. Bill and I had previously arranged to meet Jo Bauer and Tim Hodge of Naracoorte at the Monbulla Cave at around 9.30 a.m. to do some extra caving before the field trip. Jo and Tim made it on time. We were a little late. We entered the property through the front gate and drove across the property to the cave. Not finding Jo or Tim we walked to the back gate. They were not there. Just as we were walking back to the cave they drove down the back road. Somehow I managed to convince Jo I am not really a ratbag who is always late, thereby saving my neck for another day. We trogged up and went for a quick Cooks tour of Monbulla Cave.

By now the first of the Field Nats. had arrived so I sent Bill, Jo and Tim off to the Bat Chamber. Bill and Tim managed to just fit through the squeeze and made it to the Bat Chamber. On the return they found the easier route which Jo then used. They later accused me of deliberately sending them up the difficult path. Who! Me?

Members of the Field Nats. were shown most of the walking sections of Monbulla Cave with various features of cave development being highlighted. Some history of the cave was also recalled. They found it very enlightening as it dispelled many of the myths that some of them had about caves and their development.

Some members of the group decided to explore Wrecked Car Cave with a through trip from the "wrecked car" entrance to the "Monbulla" entrance. The party seemed to be taking longer than is normal for the trip. They had travelled halfway through following Graham's survey traverse when they came to an unnegotiable section. Someone eventually found the bypass around that section and a further survey mark. The party then split, some opting to continue on with the others beating retreat. Eventually those continuing on made their way out of the cave.

When those who retreated had not emerged we decided to search the cave. Bill led a group in from the "wrecked car" entrance and I started from the "Monbulla" entrance. Having reached the bypass area, I turned back to find everyone waiting at the entrance. The missing group had trouble finding their way out and by sods law, the last route they tried was the correct one. The searchers found them near the entrance.

After packing up the gear we returned to Naracoorte with Tim and Jo where we indulged in tea at Tim's place. Our return to Adelaide capped an eventful and successful weekend.

*Kevin MOTT*

## **LOWER SOUTH EAST**

**6-8 October 1984**

**PARTY.** Kevin Mott, Peter Horne, Jean Turner, John (Ironman) Johnstone

We left Adelaide at 8.30 p.m. which isn't too bad considering it was supposed to be a 7.30 departure. The traffic was surprisingly heavy for that hour of the evening. Seems everyone hoped to beat the traffic by leaving late.

The trip down was fairly uneventful till about 10km past Salt Creek where we discovered a car had turned turtle and was lying among the shrubbery in a ditch. It had to be recent as it wasn't stripped, the "door open" light was still on and the engine warm. Whoever was with the car had long since departed and there being nothing further we could do we proceeded on our merry way. Lo and behold another 10kms along the road was a vehicle of the Holden variety sitting on the roadside verge with its mouth open gasping for air. It appeared to have a somewhat defunct coil. A member of the ever friendly constabulary on his way to the hereinbefore mentioned accident informed the owner of the deceased Holden that the R.A.A. was on it's way to the accident and would also assist him. We continued our way to Millicent. Approaching Millicent the fuel gauge was reading perilously low so we pulled off the road and spent what was left of the night in the van.

Saturday morning we paused for a compulsory breakfast and petrol stop before heading off for our rendezvous with that subterranean vastness of the Lower South East. Time on Saturday was variously spent looking at L67, L226, L233, L234, L243 and several unnumbered features. L67 has three entrances:- (1) a walk-in entrance 2 x 1m high in a collapse doline 6m diam x 2m deep; (2) a window 0.7 x 0.4m, and (3) a slot 7 x 1.6m filled with rubbish. The collapse doline is the most southerly and the cave extends north west from this entrance for 60m reaching a maximum depth of 8m. The north-west end of the cave contains many washed in land snails and some fine solution tubes.

At L234 John attempted to replace the rock covering the entrance. The 1m diameter rock was precisely balanced and only needed a gentle push to relocate it over the entrance. Ironman John took a deep breath then casually flipped the rock to relocate it. In the next instant the rock flipped sideways and disappeared into the confines of the hole with only microns to spare each side. As the dust settled and a somewhat startled swallow hurriedly exited the cave the only comment found to be suitable for this leather medal style feet was "Alas poor YAROCK - I knew him well".

Mount Schank dominating the horizon seemed to produce an aura of temporary insanity in us on the Sunday morning. All and sundry were treated to an inspirational discourse from the fifth chapter of the Book of Mott over breakfast.

Peter had some underwater mapping to complete, so the rest of us headed bush and had a look at L139 and L155. We came across L139 first. This is a large doline 40 x 30 x 10m deep. Rock faces exist on the east and south west sides. A dead car rests on the flat, grassy floor of the doline. A pile of rubbish against the south-west rock face appears to have been burnt in the past. L155, named Live Sheep Cave in the original trip report, has it's entrance right alongside the track in the road reserve. The entrance is a slit 3 x 0.7 x 3m deep. Several small tubes against the southern road fence probably connect into the cave. From the entrance the cave descends down the rubbish pile and continues for 10m to the north west in a joint passage 5m high. A small pool of water can be found at the end. South-east of the entrance the cave continues for 8m then splits into two passages. The easterly one is a very narrow joint and was not pushed. The western passage continues south-east in a low undulating passage about 2m wide for at least 20m.

On making our rendezvous with Peter, I am pleased to announce to all and sundry (including you disbelievers) that I was on time. As Peter was late (tut tut) we partook of the community food till he arrived. We all then made our way to the Caroline area with Peter stuffing himself with food as we travelled. Using our combined storehouse of local knowledge we used a short cut utilising severe] minor roads. In the middle of one of the roads we encountered a new collapse. It was 0.3m diameter at the surface and extended for 1m at a dip of 45° to the north-west. After recording it's location we filled it with rocks then made our way to L98 and L232. These were tied in to the cadastral boundaries. The caves were not entered due to the presence of multitudinous hordes of mosquitoes.

During Saturday night the pet cat of the owners of the property we were camping on took control of our tent. In the middle of the night it found a hairy armpit hanging out of a sleeping bag. What a lovely place for a cold wet nose. (Eat your heart out Neil Smith). I damn near leapt through the roof of the tent. Not to be outdone that feline fascist, through means that cannot be revealed to protect the lives of the innocent, invaded Peter's sleeping bag and settled down for the night. Poor Peter spent the night curled up round a warm pussy.

Monday morning we made rendezvous with Geoff Aslin and Peter Penny, then headed off to L31. We spent the morning producing a grade 3 map of the main chamber of the southern section of the cave. The lower extensions off the north-east wall were not mapped due to lack of time. After mapping L31 we travelled to some sinks Geoff visited when he was younger.



The owner was willing to let us have a look but his wife came rushing up in an agro mood yelling almost hysterically "You can't go in the caves - they're dangerous". Eventually we were allowed to look at the surface expressions of the features. One was a bowl shaped doline 14 x 11 x 4m deep with a breeze coming out from a hole in the north west corner. The other feature was a vertical sided triangular shaped doline 10 x 10 x 8m deep. Overhangs on the north-eastern side had stalagmites hanging down. In the next paddock there was a string of dolines. We were debating whether or not it was safe to investigate those when it was suggested we name one of the two major dolines Battle Axe. Someone then said which is Battle Axe? And that is how the other became Witch's. Anyway we decided to investigate these other dolines on the way out. Sure enough, down she came - we got out of sight behind some trees. One of this group of dolines had a collapse tube open up with the same rains that opened L220. It has since been filled with rocks.

The return to Adelaide completed another mild mannered weekend of Ironman feats and sermons from the Book of Mott. A word of warning must however accompany this trip report. Under no circumstances are cavers ever to venture into Jens Hotel for the \$5-00 smorgasbord dinner special. After two successive pig-outs there you are definitely in no shape for caving.

*Kevin MOTT*

## **NARACOORTE**

**6-8 October 1984**

**NOTEWORTHY EXPLORATION:** SHAFTESBURY SHAFT (S.O.S. CAVE)

**OTHER CAVES VISITED:** SAND CAVE, BLACKBERRY CAVE

**PARTY:** The Gartrell's (Judith, Grant, Neil, Holly); Max Meth, Ken Johns, Stan Flavel, Phillip Rogers, John Ellis, Dayle Gilliatt, Richard, Frank Bilki

### **SAND CAVE - October 6**

Wholly in keeping with my normal practices I managed to sleep in 4 hours Saturday morning waking up at about the same time as the first of two parties started down Sand Cave. Since packing was still to be done, I reckoned I'd be a little late. Undaunted, I set out.

Driving to Naracoorte takes a few hours and gives one time to muse over a variety of topics. I was south of S.A.'s Tidy Town of 1983 before I realized that I had no idea where I was going.

The Ranger at the Touro - "Interpretation Centre/Life Support System for a Kiosk" - gave me sound directions to Robertson Cave which I ignored. Nonetheless after a few wrong turns I spotted Max's Combi-van and pulled into the property.

What a welcome I received! Unfortunately the entire contingent consisted of one extremely exuberant but unfortunately not altogether helpful canine. I tried the old, "Go find them! Where are they?" This gambit was unsuccessful.

By ignoring the fact that I was four and a half hours late, alone and unable to locate the entrance I was able to concentrate on the problem that I had no water to run my carbide lamp. At last the dog was of some help by lending me some of his drinking water. Clearing the layer of bugs away exposed a liquid substance which I transferred to a bottle.

By this time all of the mosquitoes in the parish had located me and with their help I quickly found the entrance. At least I figured it must be the cave or someone had put an electron ladder and a polypropylene rope down a well. Assuming they hadn't, I descended.

After about 20 minutes or so I met the first group coming out. Grant gave me a good description of the route to the end of the known cave which I only half remembered. Since there is very little side development I only lost the path once and met up with the second party about 20 minutes from the known end of the cave. Max turned around and led me to the end where there is a lovely little pueblo and a hopeless grotty dig. We then exited.

**October 7      S.O.S. CAVE**

The next day we decided to have another look at U132 which had first been entered less than one year before. I had brought a mask and underwater torch to look at the pond. There was also a tight crawl to look at again.

After a quick stop to talk to the landowner we drove to the entrance which we found encircled with an open rainwater tank. The tank had been carefully set into the entrance. We considered going over the top of the tank until we found that we didn't have enough ladder. We dug enough sand out to fit people through then dropped the ladder.

Since the ladder was rigged to my car I was elected to descend first. This I did. I went to the pond and got my gear out. A short while later there were three more people around the pond. I was in my bathers and mask and had my 8 cell Tenka and a borrowed dolphin. Now would be a good time to make the following observations.

- S.O.S. does not stand for either Stan's On Surface or Still Out Side.
- When you think that this cave's vertical entrance squeeze isn't as tight as the one in Brown Snake, you might be wrong
- S.O.S. stands for Son of S102.
- Silty water is not infinitely transparent.
- The first lake in S.O.S. has no or at most only a small outlet.
- Dolphin torches should not be immersed in water. Corollary: Dolphin torches should have their name changed.
- When you think you've completely explored a chamber and have found there are no leads you may be wrong.
- When you think that the way on in a particular lead is impossibly tight you may have missed something.

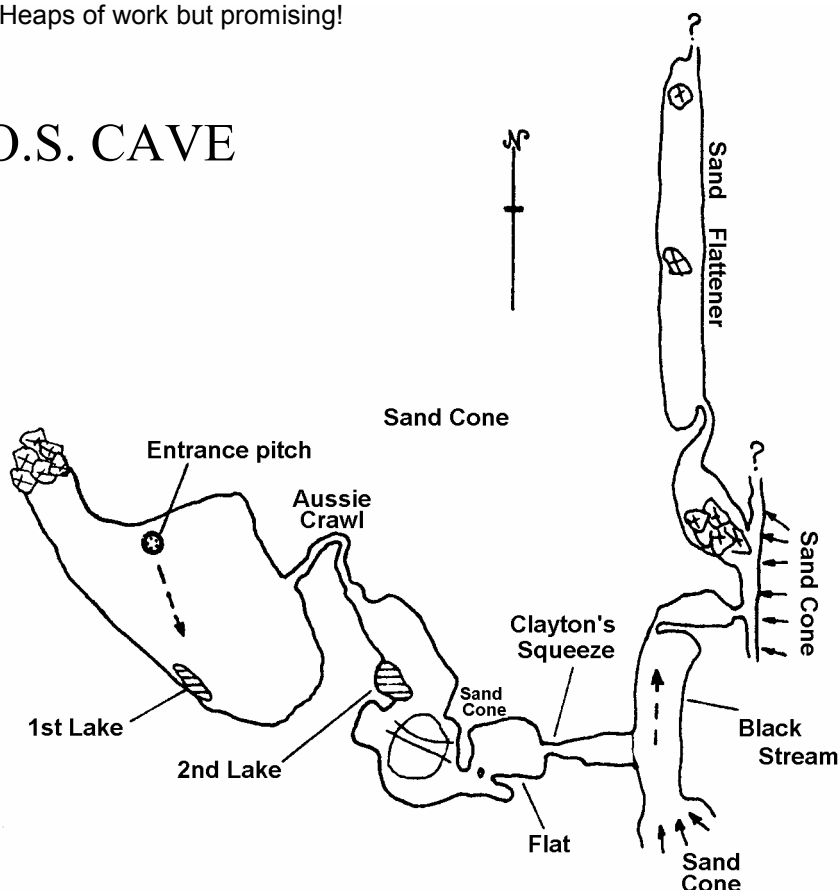
Well after my refreshing little swim, Max asked to see the "tight little lead". From the main chamber a low crawl leads off north, tight but breezy. As Max moled into the crawl I removed the "debris roche" and did some other gardening. When Daryl Carr and I first excavated this crawl it was about 7m long to a 3m long by 15m high flattener to a bigger bit. Heaps of work but promising!

**5U132 - S.O.S. CAVE**

**Surveyed & sketched by**  
Dayle Gilliatt 11-10-84

Grade 1B. Not to scale

--> Where bearings were taken



However, Max was too obstinate to accept reason so he decided to remove a rock to give him a better position to work on the narrow flattener. Removing this rock, however, exposed a bit of nothingness which he was able to crawl into. After removing two rocks in the crawl (no mean feat while standing on your head) he pushed on into the bigger bit. I followed expectantly.

A short rocky passage led into a room complete with a lake and a steep sand cone. We climbed over the sand cone then through an interesting crawl across the top and down a chimney on the other side. Here we were in a small room which narrowed into a broad flattener which continued to pinch down to about 15cm.

After some careful route finding and the removal of a few key stones I progressed to the narrow end of the flattener that looked over another bigger bit. After a lot of sweating and cursing I was able to make a tight little squeeze that I squeaked through into the bigger bit. I took Max's lamp (our last source of light) and checked to see if it went on. It did in a big way and I returned back through the squeeze to Max. We decided to rout, freshen up, and get some tucker and more light and let the others know what had happened.

As we turned to slither back to our cache the "others" appeared, and as we had already planned a return engagement, we routed.

After a couple hours on the surface the return party was down to a semi-reluctant two, Max and me.

The blood-thirsty mosquitoes had us rigged up and down the hole in record time. We were through the First Room, Aussies Crawl and the second room quickly. Max decided that opening the squeeze would be a good idea. After banging away futilely for a short while I suggested he crawl through and work on it from the other side. After about half an hour of major earthworks this area had really earned a good name, "Clayton's Squeeze". We then set off exploring.

The passage enlarged greatly to a T-junction with a major N.S. streamway. Black rocks, some covered with salt plates and some water formed the floor of the stream bed. As it turned out the south passage led to a sand cone with no easy way on after only a few metres. The upstream way was considerably more extensive.

We walked north through large passage with recent breakdown for a short distance then continued north through a low crawly stream passage which turned to the east. This led to a blockage which we quickly cleared. We climbed out of the black stream way into another sand cone/breakdown chamber. After much scrambling around Max found the way on down to a continuation of stream passage. A short pretty passage led us to a flattener with a sand floor. We crawled flat out for over 50m until progress could only be achieved by late sediment reordering. Satisfied, we passed from the cave.

Lots of poking around needs to be done in this cave. It's tricky!

October 8th - Blackberry Cave

Grant and his mob, Ken, Max and I all agreed to do a quick trip to the Butterfly Chamber. All but Max and I decided the way was too small for an easy trip. This is true. What I saw of the cave was a seemingly endless series of tight often painful crawly bits.

To shorten a short tale we were looking for the rumoured loop from the Butterfly back into known cave. Unfortunately after trying ALMOST every passage we found we were unable to find the way through. So after a short 6 hour trip we exited.

The rest of the crew passed the non-gate only to find a new gate, a real gate farther into the cave. They had no key. It seems that they were most annoyed and indignant and in fact wanted to kick the "BLEEP " out of it. Cave conservation, indeed!

*Dayle GILLIATT*

**NULLARBOR 22 September - 5 October 1984**

Caves visited: 6N37, 6N73, un-numbered doline.

Party: Graham Pilkington, Bill Parker.

The first visit was to Denis NASH, manager of Madura Station. He informed us of several new caves and he will be able to improve on many descriptions we have in the NULLARBOR CAVING ATLAS.

On the way out to Mullamullang we noticed a few pools on the track that needed driving around but the ground was solid so we were thankful that we had arrived well after the rains. Our town car and trailer would have had difficulties on flooded roads.

The idea I had been toying with for years was to take a fixed ladder or scaling pole into Mullamullang and systematically explore all the holes in the walls. By explore I mean forcibly with concurrent mapping; only Easter Extension seems to have been given reasonable attention with my EZAM trips failing to achieve much because of the lack of eagerly participating cavers. We brought a 9m fixed ladder with us but getting it halfway down the entrance rockpile was enough to convince me that two cavers could not sensibly handle the ladder. I intended to do a systematic search starting at the entrance - most inaccessible roofholes first appear near Oasis Valley a distance of about a km from the entrance and I knew of enough side passage prior to that to keep two cavers busy for two weeks. So much for taking the ladder all the way to the Nullarbor! I had not adjusted my plans after the party of six became two.

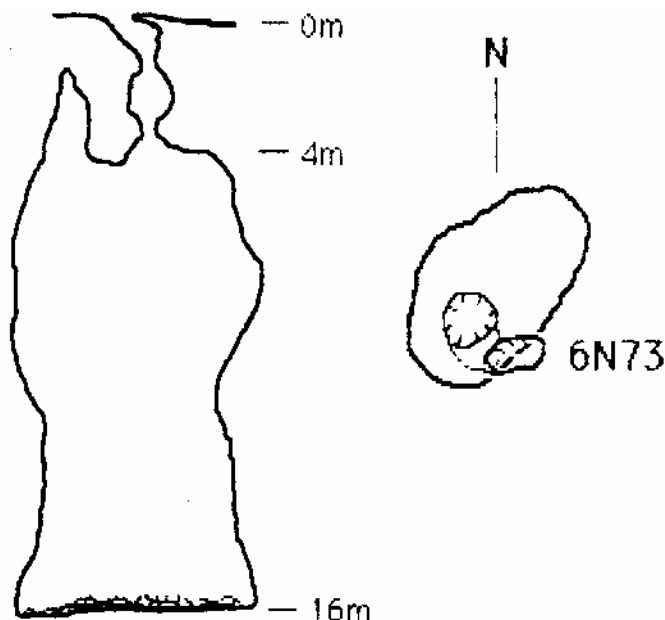
After taking our one week exploration kit (digging tools, table, maps, survey gear, rope, spare lights, food and water) to Smoko Junction we decided to rest. We had had a two day trip to the cave due to vehicle maintenance. For something to do while not doing anything, I thought it would be helpful to calibrate our compasses. To do this we had to relocate the pegs set in 1980 by Neil Smith and co. when they did electromagnetic survey points through the cave as far as White Lake but concentrating on Easter Extension. A surface theodolite triangulation survey tied them all together and established a fixed grid on which to plot the cave map. We managed to find all of the "EM" surface pegs along the main run of the cave viz EMA EMB EMJ EMK as well as some of the Easter Extension pegs. The pegs were replaced in position as required and all the cairns rebuilt and enlarged. The cattle must enjoy demolishing them.

A few checks of the Mullamullang map against the real cave determined that a wall survey was necessary if we were to accurately position any side tunnels. Exploration of the wall for any possible side tunnels was done as the survey was made. The survey, using a hand prismatic compass and fibreglass tape, was done as a traverse down each wall with cross ties to each other and to the 1966 theodolite survey points. Only one significant previously unknown side tunnel was discovered. This was located on the west wall between the Southerly Buster and Smoko Junction and was 10m long and up to 5m wide.

A survey was almost completed of the tunnel shown on all the maps just before Smoko Junction as a Thorn-like north trending spike. It isn't. It goes in 10m, comes to a T-junction then parallels the main tunnel. Total length is about 250m mostly 1m high and typically 4m wide passage. Near the entrance the passage is in a sandy limestone with a deep sand floor but this gradually changes in both directions by dropping into a harder crystalline rock with gypsum flowers and hard gypsum sheet floors, walls and roof. Bill hinted that he didn't like hard crystal passage coverings - something about bleeding hands, arms, face, legs, knees,--- This tunnel has a draft going through it but after slowing down from 1m per minute excavation time to 1m in 3 hours we left the dig to later trips. One side passage off the main "thorn" tunnel was left with traversable tunnel ahead and seemed to be getting larger and less salty, Bill's growing phobia of salt stopped progress.

It was planned to go to Thampanna Cave about this time but we liked the place so much that we decided to stay. It's not often that I get the chance to see the Nullarbor after 66mm of overnight rain. Mullamullang's north doline did not get water to the base of the entrance rockpile while the south doline delivered water through a sump to about halfway to where it debouches into a spongework. Besides, bailing out our large summer-only tent took much of our time. That was after lashing it and everything else in sight together to keep it from repeating its balancing-on- the-head trick. Most inconsiderate when we were set up quite nicely with large heavy boxes of tins, 25 litre water containers and such.

Since the car could only travel down if we tried to move, we did a bit of sightseeing on foot. Camp One Blowhole (6N73) had not been visited for a few years and recent CEGSA trips had not been able to find it, including a couple that I had been on. Now was my chance to do a thorough search of the area. We started at EMK and the two of us independently paced out to where Camp One should be. Surprisingly we arrived within 30m of each other after a kilometre on separate bearings. The only problem encountered was how to keep on line and in pace while crossing one of the new Nullarbor canals! After an hour's pattern searching we finally located the blowhole 200m from our "base". We had looked the wrong way first. The entrance is a 1m diameter hole in a rock pavement, no doline. It is on a rocky ridge amongst trees with a cairn built next to it. Another cairn was built 160m due west at the edge of a group of trees on the flat 160m east of the track that goes NS over Camp One.



Offset 2m from the entrance hole, the vertical shaft starts at 1m depth. The ATLAS description was "18m deep and 1m diameter" but the true depth is 16m which is also the correct conversion of the original description of 53 feet. I tried to free climb the 1m diameter shaft. The walls have lots of holds but at 3.5m it became a vertical squeeze that I was almost through when I had to give up - no walls for my feet! A ladder made the climb easy. The cave is a classical Nullarbor blowhole; it breaths well and has the shape of a bottle. In this case two Siamese bottles with the cork still on one. The chamber is 2.5 x 5 x 12m high to the twin "necks" with the bottom 8m completely covered in calcite flowstone, shawls, cascades, columns etc. The floor is dirt, bones and rubble which is burying the decoration. The air vents from two small holes near the floor and from larger holes above the 8m sealed area. A surface traverse was made using a tripod mounted survey compass to fix the location of N73 to N37-EMK. All stations were occupied and read in both directions with magnetic and difference readings; the distances were taken by stadia. 6N73 is 2425mE, 1625mN of the 6N37 entrance cairn.

A 60 x 50 x 1m deep clay filled doline with a rock rim was located 1370mW, 1650mS (approx 2170m SSW) of the 6N37 doline. It is the drainage sink for the "valley" and runs on an axis of 230° magnetic. A group of old gum trees grow in the NE end. This doline is in line with the expected south extension of Mullamullang if we can only crack the South Doline!

*Graham PILKINGTON*

## SPELEOVISION PROCEEDINGS

now available at \$ 10.00 each plus postage.

**FLINDERS RANGES 22-23 September 1984**

**CAVES VISITED:** MAIRS, CLARA ST. DORA, MT. SIMS and GOOD FRIDAY

**PARTY:** Colin McRae, David Wright, Wayne Goldsmith, Tony Endacotte  
(Ex. CEGSA members) and Alex Whitehead (Australian and  
State Volleyball champion)

Left Adelaide Friday night and headed to Walpunda Creek past Mt. Sims for the night. Next morning Good Friday Cave was found, entered and explored. We then set out along Walpunda Creek in two parties. Myself and two others did a cave walk along the ridges to Mt. Sims Cave. The others got the car. We met at Mt. Sims Cave where we spent 3 to 4 hours exploring. A quick dip in the lake proved to be disastrous. Being very hot and exhausted then cooled off, drained the energy out of me and I completely lost myself trying to find some decoration I had seen when here before. This upset the others because I kept on saying it's a letter box entrance then rolling hills of coral".

We crawled out, had something to eat then headed towards the Buckalowie Caves. We stopped along the fence line with the big dipper creek to photograph the biggest patch of Sturt Pea I've ever seen.

We visited Clara St. Dora Cave after setting up camp and spent time exploring spots I'd missed before. Being Alex's first caving experience, he was excited to see the decoration and it was good to see this very fit and very tall friend fit in such small places. I must get fit.

The next morning was great with peaceful, clear skies. I awoke before six and walked along the ridges from Clara to some 2km past Mairs Cave watching wallabies and birdlife. It was truly the best part of the day. During the walk I stumbled upon a cave. I returned to camp for some gear. The floor of the cave had an echo sound so I dug down for some 2m but this became tiring. I wondered what was below. This would be a good reason to come back at a later date and check it out.

Mairs Cave was entered and explored. Ah! the highlight of the weekend. If doing the group of caves around this area it is best to do Mairs last. I quickly found the spot which I previously thought to be the end of the cave. Here I found my "Sims letter box with rolling hills". With excitement I cried "YIPPEE" and ran down the runway (Christmas tree extension) to some very pretty decoration (including helictites and straws) and a small pool. You name it, it was there. What a way to spend a weekend, over 12 hours underground in two days. I slept for a week after the trip.

*Colin McRAE*

**CARRICKALINGA CAVE**

**13 October 1984**

**PARTY:** Rod McDougal, Martin Usher, Sylvia Usher, John MacCormack, Cathy,  
Peter Hastwell, two young guys from an outdoor programme, Meredith  
Reardon

A most enjoyable trip was had especially for the two kids who kept threatening to kill their outdoor education teacher Peter Hastwell for getting them into this predicament and then kill me too for talking Peter into going caving. There is no padding in this article. It is all fact.

*Meredith REARDON*

## CARRICKALINGA CAVE, WATERFALL CAVE

14 October 1984

PARTY: Kevin Mott, Peter Horne, Lee Dixon, Jean Turner, Marjorie, John Johnstone, Stephen

Most of those on this trip were unable to attend the trip led by Meredith on the 13th. It was arranged that I would meet Peter at his place at 8.00 a.m. then travel to Myponga to meet John at 9.30 a.m. Due to circumstances beyond my control (influence of one I.D. Lewis) I was late. My enthusiastic behaviour to camouflage my late arrival was too much for poor Marjorie. I understand she is still recovering. Despite this "much ado about nothing", Peter's driving and my greeting every passer-by we made to Myponga bakery at 9.28. John and Stephen arrived at 9.29. Tch! Tch! Prior to heading for Carrickalinga I insisted in purchasing buns of the yeast variety from ye olde and established bakery. Tradition is tradition. Following a brief moment of indecision I purchased the lot. It turned out these were a new variety which the storekeeper intended to offer to the next customer. Very nice they turned out to be.

We then drove to the parking area. The highlight of this highly exciting phase of our journey was being waylaid by a flock of sheep being transferred between paddocks. A short hike cross-country brought us to the cave entrance. The rest of the party being novices to the cave were suitably unimpressed.

A guideline was set up from the piton below the entrance. It traversed the ledge then ran down the incline to the bottom of the cave. All the party except Marjorie entered and explored the cave. Peter, Lee and Jean squeezed through to explore the decorated area down in the northern section. It was determined in a not altogether systematic method that the dolphin style torch was not designed for an uncontrolled descent of the cave. It kept breaking up exponentially on the way down. We did manage to effect temporary repairs to the said miscreant torch.

The cave was much wetter than I have ever seen it. All those who entered the cave thoroughly enjoyed it. The amount of decoration surprised those who hadn't seen it before. When we exited Marjorie told us of her encounter with a baby brown snake. Some people have all the fun.

We returned to the car, partook of lunch, then journeyed to Waterfall Cave, A14. This is a small cave in sandstone under a waterfall. A drain traverses a hill to a small weir where in full flow it drops 10.5m into an erosion gully 28m long.

The gully erosion has been slowed down by the weir constructed by one of the previous landowners. In the 1920's the gully did not exist. At the end of this gully the water drops a further 3m to a pool and small streamway through a "fairytale" park setting. Below the waterfall is a chamber 6 x 4 x 1.5m high. At the end of this chamber is a narrow joint passage 14m long. When the surface drain dries up, the lower fissure still flows with spring fed water. Several short fissures lead off from the waterfall pool. Nobody was willing to enter the cave or climb the waterfall pitch. We tried to convince Jean it was good practise for Tassie.

On the return to Adelaide we detoured to give Lee's horse the boiled oats nobody would eat during the trip. We later gutsed ourselves on pizza to cap off a very pleasant trip.

*Kevin MOTT*

## ANNUAL DINNER & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Friday 15 February 1985  
 Venue: Stag Hotel - East Tce ADELAIDE  
 Time: 7:30 pm

Please note change of format. The Annual dinner where cavers meet and receive awards of excellence for caving activities will be combined with the AGM at which Officers for 1985 will be elected. Make sure that you book this date on your calendar NOW!

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## FULL MEMBERS

Bridget Wilkinson  
13 Walker Street  
Millicent 5280

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Christopher HALES  
26 Burford Street  
Elizabeth Downs 5113

Jack HAYWARD  
43 Welby Avenue  
Salisbury East 5109

Mark KEAN  
13 Walditch Street  
Elizabeth Downs 5113

## CORRECTION with apologies

Ed Bailey  
14 Whiteley Drive  
Trott Park 5158

*Kerry NINNES*

## LOWER SOUTH EAST KARST LIST

### additions to Occasional Paper number 5

- L171** Unnamed **Cave**: 1m diam tube drops 1m into a collapse chamber 17 x 7 x 4m high. Tree roots and wetas; map.
- L172** Unnamed **Cave**: Tapering entrance tube drops 3m into a chamber 3m diam; map.
- L173** Unnamed **Cave**: Entrance tube 2m diam at surface constricts to 0.3m at -10m. Tube drops 15m to a cave. Now blocked with burnt pines.
- L174** Unnamed **Cave**: 14m corkscrew tube leads into a chamber 70 x 8 x 2m high. Several rockpiles. Decoration, bones and tree roots. map.
- L175** Unnamed **Cave**:
- L176** Unnamed **Cave**: Joint enlargement cave 8 x 1 x 0.5m. Two very narrow fissures with water continue south east. Moonmilk; map.
- L177** Unnamed **Cave**: Joint cove 18m long. Water in unnegotiable passage in south east end. Cave, now sealed, discovered during excavation of sewer trench; map.
- L178** Unnamed **Cave**: Collapse entrance 1 x 0.4m leads to a flattener cave 40m long x 0.4m high. Decoration. Entrance now filled in; map.
- L179** **CAVETON PARK CAVE**: 2 x 1m entrance tube drops 6m to a chamber 20 x 15 x 2.5m high with several roof domes. Joint passage runs 90m north west to a 10m long lake. From the lake the cave continues underwater for 20m to a small air chamber; map
- L180** Unnamed **Hole**: Twin tube entrance. North tube 3m diam at top, 1.7m diam at bottom. South tube 2m diam at top 0.6m diam at bottom. Both tubes blocked by rubbish at -5.5m.
- L181** Unnamed **Cave**: 0.7 x 0.4m irregular vertical joint drops 6m to small cave 9+m long. Wetas.
- L182** Unnamed **Cave**: Entrance 1.7m wide x 0.5m high in quarry wall leads to joint enlargement cave 26 x 1.5 x 2m high. Crustal decoration at end; map.



- L183** Unnamed **Hole**: Tube 2m diam approx 8m deep blocked with giant logs.
- L184** Unnamed **Hole**: Tube 1m diam approx 8m deep.
- L185** Unnamed **Cave**: Fissure entrance 1.3 x 0.7 x 2m leads to two parallel joints 4.5m long. Ferns.
- L186** Unnamed **Doline**: Doline 14.5 x 11 x 2m deep with flat, reedy floor. Small cave with water under north edge.
- L187** Unnamed **Cave**: Doline 20m diam x 4m deep has cave descending under eastern edge. Small cave in west edge.
- L188** Unnamed **Cave**: Depression 8m diam x 1.5m deep. Rock face on west side 1.5m high with small joint passage. Heavily vegetated.
- L189** Unnamed **Cave**: Flattener cave 8 x 6m.
- L190** Unnamed **Cave**: Small rock shelter cave in cliff face.
- L191** Unnamed **Doline**: Doline 50 x 35m filled with bracken fern.
- L192** Unnamed **Cave**: Entrance 5.5m wide x 1.0m high in quarry face leads to cave 8 x 1 2m with rubbly floor; map.
- L193** Unnamed **Doline**: Doline 38m diam x 5.5m deep. 5m high rock face 6m from west edge; map.
- L194** Unnamed **Cave**:
- L195** Unnamed **Cave**: Doline 28 x 30 x 5m deep. Cliff face with small cave on south west side.
- L196** Unnamed **Doline**: Doline 110 x 75m with spring.
- L197** Unnamed **Cave**: Small cave now filled in.
- L198** Unnamed **Cave**: Doline 44 x 27 x 7m deep. North and west edges vertical. Small cave under ledge on south side.
- L199** Unnamed **Doline**: Doline 24 x 19 x 1.7m deep.
- L200** Unnamed **Cave**: Doline 16 x 13 x 4m deep with cave descending under east edge; map.
- L201** Unnamed **Cave**: Collapse entrance 1 x 0.5m leads to collapse chamber 3 x 2m.
- L202** Unnamed **Cave**: Entrance 1.6m wide x 0.3m high leads to low cave 4m long with silt floor.
- L203** Unnamed **Cave**: Entrance 3.4m wide x 2m high within a doline 8 x 5m leads to a cave with a single chamber 15 x 3.5m. Shallow pool of water in north west end; map.
- L204** Unnamed **Doline**: Doline 30m diam with 4m high vertical face on south side; map.
- L205** Unnamed **Cave**: Window 1.4 x 0.8m drops 2.4m to joint controlled cave 3m long. Water reaches depth of 5m.
- L206** Unnamed **Cave**: Dug well intersects cave at -5m. Linear passage 6 x 2 x 0.6m high. Decoration; map.
- L207** Unnamed **Cave**: Collapse entrance 4.1 x 2 x 1.5m deep leads to joint cave with total length 25m. Pool of water in north west end; map.
- L208** Unnamed **Cave**: Doline 23 x 20m with cave under cliff at south side.
- L209** **GEORGE VARCOE CAVE**: Collapse entrance leads to cave 5m diam x 1 m high.
- L210** Unnamed **Cave**: Twin entrances lead to chamber 5m diam x 1m high. Strata dips 2-3° north. Small debris cones under entrances.
- L211** Unnamed **Cave**: Collapse entrance 1 x 0.5m drops 1.65m to a chamber 15 x 4m. North west end of the cave has a pool of water 1m deep. At the south east end a narrow passage traverses the edge of a rock collapse for 12m; map.
- L212** Unnamed **Cave**: Collapse entrance 1.5m diam drops into a chamber which leads down to flatteners and a joint passage 30m long containing a lake 20m long. Passage continues underwater for 30m. A side passage at the end of the lake has a length of 30m; map.
- L213** Unnamed **Hole**: Twin tubes. North 1.6m diam x 4.6m deep. South 1m diam x 3.8m deep.
- L214** **KERRYS FOLLY**: Tube entrance tapering from 0.9 x 0.5m at surface to 0.45 x 0.3m at roof of cave 3m below surface. Entrance leads to chamber 15 x 12 x 1.5m high with flatteners leading off on north side. Smaller second entrance blocked by logs. Decoration; map.
- L215** Unnamed **Cave**: Collapse entrance 2 x 3m leads down steep talus slope to 7m diam lake 8m below surface. Water over 5m deep; map.

- L216 SPENCERS POND:** Conical pond 24 x 20 x 7m deep. Very small cave at bottom of the pond. Springs.
- L217 FIFTY FOUR FEET POND:** Pond 20 x 7 x 5m deep. At the bottom a rift up to 1m wide to -12m where there is a small chamber.
- L218** Unnamed **POND:** Crescent shaped pond 60 x 20 x 7m deep. Springs.
- L219 BULLOCKS HEAD CAVE:** Window entrance 1m diam in karst pavement drops 3m to top of rock pile in chamber 3.5 x 2.5m with lake. Cave continues underwater to 6m depth. Very silty. Originally used as water supply. Now contains rubbish; map.
- L220 HUNTERS CAVE:** Collapse entrance 8 x 7m sloping down from south to a depth of 4.6m. From entrance passages head north west and south east. Several lakes; map.
- L221** Unnamed **Doline:** Doline 40 x 35 x 15m deep. 100's of car bodies dumped in doline.
- L222** Unnamed **Cave:** Doline 30 x 20m with cave containing several chambers and crawlways.
- L223** Unnamed **Cave:**
- L224 PRUNG-KART CAVE:** 2m diam collapse entrance drops 2.5m to joint controlled cave 35 x 4 x 2m high. Two roof domes in south east end. Pools of water with calcite rafts; map.
- L225** Unnamed **Cave:** Tube 0.7 x 0.6m drops 1.4m to top of talus slope which reaches a small pool of water in chamber 2 x 1.5m; map.
- L226 DREWS DROP:** Entrance 0.3 x 0.5m leads down rockpile to a chamber 5m diam. Several short passages lead off. Total length 30m. Decoration; map.
- L227** Unnamed **Cave:** Joint controlled cave 8 x 1.5 x 0.7m high.
- L228** Unnamed **Cave:** Low crawly entrance in 6m diam doline leads to passage 9 x 3 x 0.6m high; map.
- L229** Unnamed **Cave:** 5m diam entrance leads down steep unstable collapse to chamber 5m diam x 5m high. Now filled in; map.
- L230** Unnamed **Cave:** Entrance under windmill leads to over 50m of joint controlled passages; map.
- L231**
- L232** Unnamed **Cave:** Collapse entrance 1.3 x 1.0m drops 4.5m to chamber 7 x 6 x 2m high; map.
- L233** Unnamed **Cave:** Entrance 0.4 x 0.3m leads into cave from 1m then drops 4m into joint controlled passage 20m long. Each end blocked by large boulders; map.
- L234 SNAKE PIT:** Slit 1.0 x 0.5m drops 7m to narrow joint controlled cave 30m long.
- L235** Unnamed **Cave:** Entrance tube 1.5m diam drops 5m to 15m long joint cave. Small pool of water.
- L236** Unnamed **Cave:** Small fissure cave in very large doline.
- L237 WILKIES CAVE:** Collapse entrance filled with rocks. From 4m diam entrance chamber passages continue for 10m.
- L238** Unnamed **Cave:** Collapse entrance 1 x 0.5m drops 3m to joint controlled phreatic cave. Total length 240m. Pools of water, decoration, bones; map.
- L239** Unnamed **Cave:** Entrance leads to collapse chamber 36 x 16 x 1m high. Low flatteners extend from each side of the collapse. Decoration; map.
- L240 KARAKE CAVE:** Collapse entrance 9 x 7m. Overhang cave 11 x 8 x 2m high under north edge. Single chamber 14 x 9 x 4m high runs off under western edge. Decoration; map.
- L241** Unnamed **Cave:** Collapse entrance leads to a joint cave 25m long with low flatteners off the side; map.
- L242** Unnamed **Cave:** Joint controlled passage extending 25m north west and 10m south east from doline; map.
- L243** Unnamed **Cave:** 0.5m diam entrance drops 6m to narrow joint cave 20m long; map.
- L244 BEEHIVE CAVE:** Doline 9 x 6m with single chamber 13 x 10 x 3m high running off from east side; map.

QUOTE: Heard at a recent committee meeting one esteemed member (who shall remain nameless due to secretarial duties) whilst discussing inconsistencies in the records system:-

"The trouble with our records system is that it's full of holes"

## PROGRAMME

|          |                                           |                                                                                                              |                                                    |
|----------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| DECEMBER | 9<br>12<br>15,16<br>22,23<br>29-31,1      | S.R.T. Morialta – Tower Hotel – 9.30 a.m.<br>Committee Meeting 14 Derwent Ave Magill<br><br>Krupp Hill Caves | <br><br><br><br>Stan Flavel                        |
| JANUARY  | 7-10<br>20<br>23<br>26-28                 | SPELEOMANIA<br>River Murray<br>General Meeting<br>Lower South East                                           | Tasmania<br>Stan Flavel<br>7:45pm<br>Gordon Ninnes |
| FEBRUARY | 2,3<br>9,10<br>13<br>15<br>23,24<br>27    | <br><br>Committee Meeting 3 Harcourt Rd Payneham<br>AGM & Annual Dinner<br><br>General Meeting               | <br><br>Stag Hotel 7:30pm<br><br>7:45 pm           |
| MARCH    | 2,3<br>9,10<br>13<br>16,17<br>23,24<br>27 | <br><br>Committee Meeting<br><br><br>General Meeting                                                         | <br><br><br><br>7:45 pm                            |

Due to changes in the CONSTITUTION and RULES, fees become due on the first day of January 1985. To allow for the overlap of subscription year, the altered Rule 1(d) is to be used. This allows for a graduated reduction of fees.

## FEES FOR 1985

### renewals

|                                        |                           |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Life members                           | optional \$7.50 ASF levy  |
| Full members &<br>long term Associates | \$12.50 + \$7.50 ASF levy |
| Country Full                           | \$8.50 + \$7.50 ASF levy  |
| Associates                             | \$8.00                    |

### new subscriptions for full 1985 year

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Full members | \$14.50 + \$7.50 ASF levy |
| Country Full | \$12.50 + \$7.50 ASF levy |
| Associates   | \$9.00                    |