

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

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



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N E W S L E T T E R

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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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DEADLINE for articles for Vol 30 No 1 Is Wednesday 22 May 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

Caving ethics stipulate that we should not go caving alone. Due to lack of participation in many trips, leaders are faced with the question of cancelling the trip or going solo. The unfortunate thing is that those who "could not go" would probably have to go if that leader required rescue during a solo trip.

The excuses for not attending trips have all been heard before:-

- been there done that - boring
- cannot afford to go
- have to do this or that
- too hot or wet.

If used in moderation they are quite valid.

Meanwhile newer members are denied the opportunity to discover the pleasure, beauty or challenge of our caves. Associate membership is designed to introduce people into caving. If they enjoy it they become full members otherwise they drop away.

The future of CEGSA depends on having a continual supply of full members. If new members feel we display an air of snobbishness or are just plain disinterested they will disappear faster than they came.

South Australia may not be full of the deepest, the biggest, or the best decorated caves but we still have caves and caves are what we are about. Every time we visit a cave we should treat it as a new cave and to LOOK at it. If we are bored with a cave we are probably rushing through it. Each full member should stop and take a group of novices through a cave. They might learn something themselves.

When the group was originally formed members all piled into one vehicle and travelled half the night to go caving. We have recently been through times when petrol was relatively cheap so everyone went caving in their own vehicle with enough equipment to support an army. Perhaps we need to get back to basics. Filling up a vehicle makes the trip much more economical and enjoyable. Caving is usually done in a specific area so there is usually no need for a fleet of vehicles to be left at the camp site. Cavers who cave as a team get to know how the other people will react in different situations so can relax and enjoy the caving more.

If we continually insist we are too busy to go caving, new members may feel they are intruding on a select clique or are not worthy of training.

We all had to start somewhere in caving and now we must start again by making ourselves available to teach others the joys of caving. It is our own enthusiasm and knowledge which will ensure that CEGSA will be around in the future to keep people caving safely and enjoyably.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

CORRA LYNN 5Y1

15-16 Dec 84 & 20 Jan 85

Graham PILKINGTON, Max METH

15 Dec 84

John & David ELLIS

20 Jan 85

Dayle GILLATT

These three days were spent continuing the exploration and survey of the "False Roofhole" area. Prior to these trips, both Dayle and I had made individual probes to see what was beyond the end of our survey limit and we had both returned with the same description - about 300m of rocky narrow passages of stooping to crawling height. And we both complained of being misled by the cave. On returning back after a ten minute foray I had a vivid recollection of travelling in the SAME direction just after entering the area!

The first day's survey cleared up the problem of the hidden passage but our "survey the right-hand wall" scheme almost immediately found a going crack that popped out into a large Grand Central style passage - 3m wide, 6m high and off. The simple extension became double-level. Some large roofholes going up 6m and a floorhole switchback ramp descending 6m gave a height range of 18m; quite a lot for a "crawling" area!

A bone deposit was noticed. It consisted of a loosely cemented bone and sand/clay deposit 1m up the side walls of a larger passage under a roofhole fissure. More recent deposits from cave breakdown and the fissure form a bone-free floor with no sign of bones from the red sandy layer. The passage probably has a very deep floor deposit. Later analysis of the three partial jaws collected were made by Neville PLEDGE, who described the sample removed as "at least three kangaroos of unrecognised species".

At the end of the two trips we had 710m mapped in this area and at least 50m still to survey. Some extra mapping was done by Max and Dayle on another trip during the period. They finished the known Upper levels of DREAMLAND, completing 377m in a weekend.

For those who, like me, enjoy keeping score on the length of Corra Lynn, we now have 6680m of OLD cave surveyed and 6018m of new cave (ALBERTA & DREAMLAND; 4968m surveyed, 1050m estimated); a total of 12698m. Not much work is being done in the OLD cave but it still holds great potential for new extensions. 140m of cave near City Cross needs an upgraded survey. A push in this area towards THE WOODS might be just the right place to enter that mythical region. THE WOODS was supposed to be THE place for any dig to get to because all structural information pointed to that place as having large extensive passages, when found. At present we have the ridiculous situation of having passages on all sides of THE WOODS with a 70m square blank patch on the map.

Graham PILKINGTON

NARACOOORTE

23-24 February 1985 Bill PARKER, Denis CLANCY

Caves visited - S102, Victoria Fossil, Fox, Tomato Stick, Wombat & Cathedral

After a late start Saturday we visited S102 and I'd like to report it's still there.

After S102 we visited Victoria Fossil Cave as tourists. A much easier trip from S102. Saturday night was spent in the pub; where else?

Sunday we got an earlier start but not early enough. Caves visited were Tomato-Stick, Cathedral (entrance chambers), Wombat, Tantanoola and Princess Margaret Rose Tourist Caves (as tourists).

On the way back we went by Bordertown to see the drainage type holes. The first didn't look promising, but nearby there was an interesting doline type feature filled with rubbish. The second drainage type hole down the track has a lot of small holes in it. Denis decided to have a dig because there was a breeze coming out. A lot of work is needed if any breakthrough is to be made. The hole is supposed to take 1300 litres of water a minute (one million gallons an hour).

Bill PARKER

15TH CONFERENCE OF A.S.F. - Tassie HOBART 6- 10 January 1985

S.A. people: Kevin, Julie and Adrian MOTT, Peter MORRIS, Neil SMITH, Rod McDOUGAL, Meredith REARDON, Robyn and Ron ALLUM, Bridgette and Craig WILKINSON.

Catching up with old friends was tremendous, but those late nights and clarets were a little heavy going!! All of us were consumed by the usual passion to explore Tassie - some people went caving, walking, cave diving, sightseeing and visiting friends.

The Conference papers were informative and interesting and we give much credit to the small number of Tassie cavers (especially Phil Jackson and Stuart Nicholas) who organized the conference so well.

Highlights: To our astonishment the Mount Isa cavers outdrank the Victorians who were heard to mutter "Those Isas will be the end of us!"

At the Speleosports Kevin Mott excelled as a caver who had "been there done that" and approached the site with a nonchalant expression not intending to exert himself.

Conservation battles are still very active In Tasmania with respect to the Federal Government's current project to wood-chipping. Only 45 of Tas. forests are protected by being set aside in reserves. Obviously much of forested land is in jeopardy from short-sighted deforestation. Under threat are areas like the Weld River Valley. A bone of contention is that the committee formed to oversee the future of the western Tasmania's wilderness is to be headed by Tasmania's Premier Grey. No other members have proven abilities in wilderness planning. It is imperative that this Committee be replaced by a planning authority with appropriate skills and not with a political record of squandering wilderness. For example, The Gordon Splits would be under HEC jurisdiction once more according to the proposed committee's recommendations.

Every time I visit Tasmania I marvel at its beauty and feel that this vulnerable state of abundant water and trees is at the mercy of people hell bent on taking all its resources. Tasmania, forgive them for they know not what they do.

Meredith REARDON

CORRA LYNN 5Y1

9-10 March 1985

Party: Graham & Charni PILKINGTON, Max METH, George PARKER, Michael & Graham WOODWARD and visitor Bret

Another exciting Corra Lynn trip! First day in we staggered our entry (no, we had not been drinking) which helps to remove delays at the "smaller" bits on the way to DREAMLAND. Everyone congregated at the 8m LADDER PITCH waiting for someone else to climb it first. We have stopped using a ladder because the only way to use it at a narrow section is to hold the ladder in one hand at arm's length and on squirming through find that you somehow have to get past the ladder to reach the climb-of f ledge. Maybe we should rename it GATE CLIMB in recognition of the difficulty that the first unaided caver has ascending. A handline is let down for subsequent climbers but removed at the end of the trip to reinstate the natural gate. Caver size has already had natural selection applied so that anyone getting to the climb can get through the restriction in the fissure.

The party split into two teams. George, Graham and myself tackled the PORTAL series - the area near the GATE CLIMB. This area was the first section of DREAMLAND to be mapped and was done without benefit of a tape measure with the idea of rapidly getting an a grasp of where the cave was going. This procedure was stopped after the PORTAL series because the complexity proved to be beyond the scope of estimates for the map to be useful in exploration. We managed only 240m of survey because the area had not been closely looked at due to being bypassed for the voids beyond.

Cave length increased by 56m. I estimate another 300m needs measuring to replace the PORTAL estimates.

Max led his team to the end of the FALSE ROOFHOLE series. He finished off the survey of the area and pushed into minor extensions mapping a total 87m, adding 37m to the cave length. The party removed some more bone material from the cemented layer on the wall.

On Sunday, only Max, Bret and myself were able to avail ourselves of the delights of Corra Lynn. A start was made on the "one kilometre" of unsurveyed cave past the QUEENS CHAMBER. Three tired cavers are not very efficient - we managed 86m. However, a lot of exploration had to be done and we wanted to tidy-up the conclusion of the previous survey. Five out of seven going leads were concluded. Naturally we left the two that we knew went into the never-never! Another bone deposit was found. It was a cemented red sand (again) but varied from loose grains to solid rock. One section of the collapsed deposit was sandwiched between 0.1m thick flowstone layers that should enable a time span to be found for the bones. Neville PLEDGE (CEGSA and SA MUSEUM curator of fossils) says that a lower jaw that was taken from the deposit was that of a giant koala - about twice the size of the modern variety. A special trip will have to be made to properly sample the bone deposits and establish their slot in history.

Graham PILKINGTON

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Membership are due from January 1st of each year. The fees for 1985 are: -

		Annual fee	ASF levy
Renewing Members	Life		(\$7.50 optional)
	Full	\$12.50	+ \$7.50
	Country Full	\$8.50	+ \$7.50
	Long term Associate	\$12.50	(+ \$7.50 optional)
	Associate	\$8.00	
New Members	Full	\$14.50	+ \$7.50
	County Full	\$10.50	+ \$7.50
	Associate	\$9.00	

ASF COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

As convenor of the ASF Survey Standards Commission I am circulating the attached form so as to compile a list of cavers using microcomputers (or larger machines) for surveying and other cave-related activities. One objective of this list would be to facilitate the exchange of programs and data between people having compatible machines.

The second objective would be to start an informal discussion group to discuss the items listed below.

- (a) Selection of a standard file format for storage of survey and map data (both the original observations and the co-ordinates etc produced by the computations).
- (b) Selection of a standard file exchange protocol so that the files (and other data such as program source code) can be transmitted from one machine to another over the telephone lines.
- (c) Collection, development, and distribution of computer programs to operate on the data. Items a and b need to be resolved before we can start this stage.

The follow suggestions might provoke some discussion:

Concerning disk formats. I would guess that most cavers will be using Basic as their main language, as Microsoft Basic is the most common version we will probably use that disk format. It is an ASCII format, so would also be suitable for modem transmission, but I haven't looked at it in detail as yet as I don't have the manuals. It will probably be easier for users of C and Pascal etc to convert their data to that form than for the Basic users to convert to the more compact formats available via those languages. Alternatively people could use whatever format they like internally, and write format conversion routines to transfer their data to the standard format when this is required. The main problem for them will be in sharing software.

Given Microsoft Basic as the disk storage format, we will still have to decide on the order of storage, and labelling of data, etc. I have written to the NSS computer group in the USA in the hope they may have already come up with some standards, but so far no reply.

A standard file exchange protocol would probably be based on the Christiansen Protocols, as recently described in 'Your Computer' mag. We could probably use YAM or a similar modem program without any major changes. Telecom STD charges are a major bother though. One way around this might be to record the modem output onto tape using an acoustic coupler, and post the tape. The receiver would listen to the tape via its 300 baud acoustic coupled modem which are standard thank goodness! even if cassette formats are not.

Concerning item (c), although (a) and (b) need to be resolved, provided people keep their data storage section separate as subroutines etc, and the rest of the program independent of the data structure, there is no reason for not continuing with their own programming, and simply changing the storage routines once we have settled on a standard.

ASF COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

NAME _____ MACHINE _____

ADDRESS _____ CPU _____ RAM SIZE _____ Kb

_____ Disk/Tape format _____

Postcode _____ 'Phone() _____

CLUB _____ DOS (eg CP/M) _____

ADDITIONAL HARDWARE (eg Modem; Printer; Plotter; Digitizer. Give types)

FIELDS OF INTEREST :

LIST the LANGUAGES (Interpreters; Compilers; Assemblers) that you have

LANGUAGE	VERSION/DIALECT	Your fluency*
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*Fluency : none; beginner; fair; good; preferred to English!

Describe any programs that you have written which you are willing to swap with other
cavers (indicate whether completed or still de-bugging)

Return to Ken Grimes, 13 Dewar Tce., SHERWOOD Qld 4075

UPPER SOUTH EAST KARST LIST

additions to Occasional Paper number 5

- U70** **STONEHAVEN CAVE.** 1m diam. roof window onto household rubbish heap. Single chamber 20 x 10m with heights up to 4m but typically 2m. Collapse dome structure dropping steeply at one end to an estimated 12m depth.
- U103** **SMITHSON CAVE:**
- U104** **COW DROP:** 5m deep tube entrance 0.5m diam tapering to 0.3m leads to dual level flatteners 15m diam 1m high. Blocked early 1900's, reopened by cow 1975.
- U105** Runaway Hole: In depression adjacent to U78
- U106** Unnamed Cave: 1.0 x 0.4m entrance drops 5.6m to joint controlled chamber 12 x 7m. Wetos, frogs.
- U107** Runaway Hole: Small drainage valley ends in 3m diam 1m deep doline with 3m high end wall. 1m diam horizontal passage 4m long leads to 0.3m high phreatic spongework at least 4m diam.
- U108** Unnamed Cave: 0.9 x 0.6m entrance tube drops 1.8m into a shallow cave 12m long. Wetos and bones. Cave now filled in.
- U109** Unnamed Cave: 1 x 0.4m entrance tube drops 2m into dirt-floored cave 8 x 3 x 0.5m high.
- U110** Unnamed Cave: Solution tube 1.0m diam. drops 2.5m into a single collapse chamber cave. Wetos.
- U111** **ROCKY RIDGE CAVE:** Cave now filled in. Doline 14 x 6m has cave 16m long x 12m wide leading off from north edge. Rocky floor with sand at edges. Several roof domes.
- U112** Unnamed Cave: Entrance covered with rock.
- U113** Unnamed Cave: 1.0 x 0.5m window entrance drops 0.8m into chamber 2 x 3 x 0.5m high with sandy floor.
- U114** Unnamed Cave: 0.5 x 0.3m entrance in fissure. 25m of passage typically 0.5m high, 2m maximum. 3m total depth. A series of small collapse domes, roof and floor steps.
- U115** Unallocated.
- U116** **GREAT EXPECTATIONS:** 1.0 x 0.5m entrance becomes a 1.5m diam. shaft 9m deep. 40m of passage 1 to 2m high, 3m wide. Strong breeze. Maximum depth approx 12m.
- U117** **SMALL EXPECTATIONS:** 25cm diam. hole drops 1m into small multi-level cave approx. 8m deep, 20m of passage. Upper level chamber 2m below surface, 1m high with rock-choke false floor.

- U118 COMAUM QUARRY CAVE:** Small dirt and rock choked cave approx. 4m diam. Found by quarrying - solution tube entrance clay filled. Approx. 10m below surface. Bones.
- U119 FROG HOLE:** 2.7 X 0.8m wide collapse 2.5m deep.
- U120** Unnamed Cave: Entrance 2.0 x 1.5m high leads to small silt-choked cave.
- U121** Unnamed Cave: 1.0 x 0.5m tube drops 2m.
- U122** Unnamed Doline: 3m diam. x 0.7m deep.
- U123** Unnamed Cave: Doline in sand 5m diam. x 4m deep collapsed into cave of unknown dimensions.
- U124** Unnamed Cave: Entrance 0.65m diam drops 2m into a collapse chamber 13 x 8 x 0.5m high. Map.
- U125 CABLE CAVE:** Entrance tube 0.5m diam. drops 2m to top of rockpile at the western end of a chamber 27 x 12 x 6m high. The east/north sides of the chamber have a flat silt bed containing bones. A low passage from the south east end of the chamber continues south east for 10m to a low chamber 15 x 6m. Map.
- U126** Unnamed Cave: Window entrance 1.0 x 0.6m drops 1.2m to 11m of passage through rock and rubbish pile. Originally reported as going down to water.
- U127** Unnamed Cave: 1m diam entrance drops 0.5m to chamber 3 x 5 x 0.5m high.
- U128** Unnamed Cave: Horizontal entrance 5m wide x 2m high leads to 5m long cave under rock slab.
- U129** Unnamed Cave: Small cave in bank of Mosquito Creek.
- U130** Unnamed Cave: 1.0 x 0.5m entrance leads into small passage 4m long.
- U131** Unnamed Cave: 3m diam. entrance drops into 20m diam. flattener cave.
- U132 SHAFTESBURY SHAFT:** Tube 2.5 x 2.2m at top tapering to 0.4m diam. at bottom drops 10m into chamber 20 x 10m with pool of water in south west corner. Small passage at north end leads to small chamber. Tight squeeze heads off from north east wall for 10m and leads into a second chamber complete with lake and sand cone. Further crawlways lead to a stream passage running north which then enters a breakdown chamber with a sandy flattener running off. Map.

PROGRAMME

March	30-31	Corra Lynn - Palaeontology	Graham Pilkington
April	5-8	Kangaroo Island Lower South East	Max Meth Kevin Mott
	10	Committee Meeting	
	13-14		
	20-21	Naracoorte	Bill Parker
	24	General Meeting	
	27-28	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
May	4-5	Yorke Peninsula	Kevin Mott
	8	Committee Meeting	
	11-12		
	18-20 (Adelaide Cup)		
	22	General Meeting	
	26	Punyelroo (beginners)	Meredith Reardon
June	1-2		
	8-10	Flinders Ranges	Kevin Mott
	12	Committee Meeting	
	15-16		
	22-23	General Meeting	
	26	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
July	6-7	CEGSA-VSA dinner	

DON'T FORGET THE CEGSA-VSA DINNER Naracoorte 6/7 July 1985

This is the LAST Newsletter for 1984 subscriptions. Membership fees must be paid NOW, to retain membership.

Membership cards will have a 35mm photo of the member attached. To obtain a membership card, a photo must be supplied. Access to many caves depends on being able to produce a current membership card. Members can have their photo taken at a General Meeting.