

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 2 is Wednesday 28 August 1985

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

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EDITORIAL

Most of us enjoy caving - we would not go if we didn't. Do others, however, get any joy out of seeing us cave. Sometimes I think not. So perhaps we are lucky to be able to cave at all. We must be prepared to consider all the other people our activity affects.

All too often we decide to go caving as a spur of the moment decision. We climb into our cars, drive to the caves and pursue our activity oblivious to those around us. Did we bother to contact the owner or management authority to advise we intend to visit their caves. The chances are it may not be suitable for us to visit for some reason, that is, others may have booked ahead of us or access is restricted for some reason.

It is only common courtesy on our part to advise owners well in advance of our intentions.

The same applies if we visit caves in other States or Countries. We should advise the caving bodies in advance so they can be given a chance to fulfil our wishes where practical. If we do any work such as mapping or discovering new caves or extensions etc. we should let the governing caving group know and supply them with copies of the data and maps. After all, don't we expect that service from others?

When we are caving we should follow owners instructions about care of property. If we wish to leave markers on caves or survey points the owners permission should be obtained.

Our own code of ethics states nothing less.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

Pelican Lagoon, Kangaroo Is. 20-25 January 1985

As part of my work, I answered a request to make a test excavation in a small cave (K57) on an islet in Pelican Lagoon, Kangaroo Island. So far as I know, this cave had not been reported, nor visited, before, although some of the locals knew of its existence.

Pelican Lagoon contains several small low islets, up to several hectares in area. They are all protected by NPWS as they fall within the Conservation Park. They are also inhabited by black tiger snakes, on which the SA Museum and NPWS are conducting population studies. It is in relation to these studies that my services were requested, to determine if possible the food source of these isolated snake populations before the arrival of the exotic black rat and house mouse. Excavations were conducted, and the results are still being analysed.

The cave in question is a simple wide-bottle shaped animal trap. The entrance is to be found in the middle of a slight hollow between the two low hills on the island, and is a rather elongate shaft, about 1.5 x 1m. We used a 3 to 6m aluminium extension ladder for ease of access, and it was never fully extended. One can only stand upright in the entrance shaft, where there is a slight mound of rocks and earth. Beyond this, the cave is low, of sitting height only, and roughly circular or, rather, star shaped as numerous short broad blind extensions lead off radically. The floor was virtually covered with dead snail shells, with a scatter of bones of sheep, kangaroos, wallabies and snakes. Our excavation, just off centre beyond the shaft, was over 600mm deep when it hit un-fossiliferous red clay.

This island, in common with the others and the surrounding land, is composed of fossiliferous limestone of probable dune origin, and uncertain age, capped with a solid layer of calcrete, and contains a number of small karst features besides this cave. On the northern shore of Pelican Lagoon, there is at least one small cave, and the whole area sounds hollow, but because of the low elevation it is unlikely that extensive caves exist.

We stayed on the property of Mr Mike McKelvey, who pointed out some of these caves. He runs his land as a conservation area, and can be reached by writing care of the Post Office, Penneshaw.

Neville Pledge

SAM CURATOR OF FOSSILS

CORRA LYNN 5Y1 20-21st April 1985

Party: Graham PILKINGTON, Max METH

An un-programmed trip was made so that a solid surveying weekend could be made into the start of the never-never beyond the KOALA PATCH. We managed to map nearly 400m of the "unsurveyed kilometre" but, as usual, we have to report an upward revision of the cave length. Corra Lynn should now be regarded as 13.2 km long, including 800m still to survey.

With a few more enthusiastic trips we might, just might, reach the end of "walk-in" cave by the end of this year. Ian LEWIS used to tell everyone that Corra Lynn had so many dig sites (and he was talking of the OLD cave) that we would not run out of them for decades. Our potential digs have now escalated to the point of seeing out the lives of our current CEGSA members!

Graham PILKINGTON

CORRA LYNN 5Y1 30th March 1985

Party: Graham PILKINGTON, Neville PLEDGE, John ELLIS, Paul TEAGLE, Mero

This trip was a follow-up to the bone collecting escapades of the last few months. It seems that the bones coming from DREAMLAND (no, not ours, the ones that had been there for a million years or so) had proved to be that interesting to Neville that for the first time in his life he agreed to go to Corra Lynn; reports on its interior notwithstanding.

We only went to the site now called THE KOALA PATCH because we did not have much time. Neville will tell you the palaeo details but the name comes from the recovery of the initial double-sized koala lower jaw and the find this trip of a normal-sized koala jaw and one possible tooth from a large koala. We were hoping to find a lot more of the large koala but there was a definite lack of such bones which just goes to show that koalas don't grow on trees. Briefly, the site consists of residual pockets of red sand containing the bones with cave breakdown over and under. One section has been cemented into rock and has both capping and underlying layers of thick flowstone. The flowstone gave us a chance to date the deposit. Bones were not as plentiful as in the fossil chamber of Victoria-Fossil at Naracoorte and had a distinct bias towards medium-sized bones. Small bones were very rare, but frog, snake, bird and marsupial rat bones were recovered.

Corra Lynn is shaping up as an excellent palaeontological site after decades of bones all younger than 10,000 years. The only difficulty seems to be the travelling time through the cave with its associated difficulty in moving equipment and bone material.

Neville was so pleased with the way in which the rest of us tackled the dig that he gave us the go-ahead to excavate all future bone deposits in the cave... or was it that he disobeyed the ASF ethics and had to ban himself from the cave? After all, he was supposed to leave nothing but footprints but with a little bit of help from his "friends" managed to leave parts of his flesh as well. Corra Lynn Cave is good for slimming.

Graham PILKINGTON

CORRA LYNN 5Y1 27th April 1985

Party: Graham & Charm PILKINGTON, Rod McDOUGAL, Paul TEAGLE, Tony COLHOUN, Sue & Tracy JONES.

Visitors: Marcia MILLARD (WASG), Jenni O'MALLEY

A well planned tourist trip. I knew who was going; they all got there at a reasonable time; they all managed the trip to Jerusalem; no-one got permanently lost; they all got out happy (or was that "they were all happy when got out"?); we all had a safe trip home.

Sounds neat and tidy and brief and boring... however, some things did happen that made the trip not quite so neat, tidy, brief and boring.

For a start I forgot to tell everyone that we would be underground all day and they would need to take their food and drink with them. I did remember just as we were about to go under - that is the right term for Corra Lynn? - and handed out containers and cartage bags. Of course we later split into two groups with my survey team taking 2 out of the 3 bags and managed to help some people slim. At least we got the water divided up OK!

Rod, Marcia, Jenni and I formed the survey team. A few bits of resurvey had to be done to remove misclosures from the grade 2 maps produced by Max & Doyle so that my grade 4 work would be accurately linked together. I had three patches to tie - the eastern side of PORTAL series, the FALSE ROOFHOLE area, and the QUEENS CHAMBER / KOALA PATCH areas. A traverse was made from the GOAT TRACK at the start of the QUEENS CHAMBER area to the PORTAL series. This was then continued as a full grade 4 survey to reach the FALSE ROOFHOLE. These ties removed all obvious errors such as passage overlaps that did not exist and produced a butt alignment of blocked tunnels. A few unexpected passage "shifts" occurred that solved some "missing" tunnel questions.

It is obvious that the rapid reconnaissance mapping at grade 2 was adequate for the short-range task of deciding which passages to explore to push the cave at its limits but is totally inadequate as soon as long-range loop ties appear. All the grade 2 mapping will have to be replaced by grade 4 work eventually. I will probably do that as soon as the "walk-in" cave ends; besides, I've not seen most of it since I did not do the mapping!

Graham PILKINGTON

FOSSILS from CORRA LYNN Cave 5Y1, CURRAMULKA

The first fossils to be found in the new section of this cave were brought to me in January 1985, by Graham Pilkington. They were of kangaroos and/or wallabies, and could only be tentatively identified (possibly *Protemnodon* sp, and *Petrogale* sp). As they did not match any species known to me I encouraged Graham to collect more material, which he did on 9 March.

This next small collection of three identifiable jaw fragments and a quantity of broken bone was exciting. Besides another rock wallaby (?) and a definite *Protemnodon* fragment, was an almost complete jaw of a koala. But what a koala! It is at least half as large again as the jaw of the living koala, even larger than the Pleistocene species *Phascolarctos stirtoni* (known only from an upper jaw from south-eastern Queensland). Graham therefore organized another trip at short notice, for me to inspect the site.

We returned to Curramulka on 30 March, and after a two and a half hour slog and squeeze (for us out-of-shape characters) reached the nearest of two sites Graham and John Ellis had found. The deposit is small, restricted essentially to small relict pockets on the walls. In one place, the fossiliferous red silt is enclosed between two solid flowstone layers, samples of which were collected for possible age determinations. This is opposite where the giant koala jaw had been found. Nearby was a fairly extensive patch of red silt, with a covering of slumped grey clay, protected by a large fallen slab. We excavated much of this, and obtained most of the fossils collected that day. A few others came from the flowstone site and other small pockets in the other direction. Several vertebrae of a giant python (*Wonambi*) were found, and a jaw of a koala, which caused some excitement. However, on comparison, this koala seems to be a small variant of the living species *Phascolarctos cinereus*. **Other specimens included:**

- incisors, toebones and possible molar fragments of *Protemnodon* sp
- a chip of *Diprotodon*(?) tooth
- the tip of an incisor and a foot bone of *Thylacoleo*
- fragments of teeth of a giant wombat
- a fragment of jaw of a large *Phascogale*(?)
- wallaby upper jaw fragments, footbones etc
- a lower incisor that looks like a ringtail possum, but twice a big.
- a fragment of tooth apparently from a very large *Dasyurus* a
- wingbone (humerus) of a small bird.
- a possible fibula from an emu,
- and some turtle shell fragments!

Altogether, there is little that can at this stage be firmly identified. The fauna looks unlike that from Naracoorte, and as the *Protemnodon* and giant Koala, at least, seem to be undescribed species, it is possible that the deposit is quite old. It may, in fact, be the same age as a fossil recovered from Town Cave by the late Alan Hill, and named *Thylacoleo hilli* which is considered to be several million years old (Pliocene). In order to understand these tantalizing fossils and determine their age, much more material will need to be collected. But not by me - I don't fit!

Neville PLEDGE

YORKE PENINSULA 4th May 1985

Party: Andrew ELLERY, Peter HORNE, Mark KEAN, Kevin MOTT, Lee DIXON
Jack HAYWOOD, Jean TURNER, Peter GIRDLER, and Chris HALES

Everyone left Saturday morning and made their way to the mecca MkII of Yorke Peninsula - Town Well Cave. The rumours were true. The bar on the gate was missing. The only device holding the gate shut was a light chain through the handles. This chain had two padlocks; a lightweight one and a heavy duty one. Having come prepared in true vandalistic fashion I cut the chain with a hacksaw. After completing this task it was decided to fit a new CEGSA lock to the chain. Funny! The heavy duty lock looked the same as the CEGSA lock we proposed to insert. Some smart aleck suggested we try the old keys. Godamit! They worked. Which one of you fiends put that chain there?

The rope and ladder were rigged, equipment checked and the 33m descent begun. For all of us, this was the largest pitch we had experienced so no speed records were attempted. Just to have completed the exercise was reward enough.

Eventually we all reached the bottom and moved into the Grill Room, where it was decided to try and reach the Pearl Room so we moved from these larger sections through a smaller passage into a huddle where the first of a series of squeezes is encountered.

At this point two of us couldn't go any further because of our size. The others moved on, with Jean upsetting everyone by crawling through on her stomach while everyone else had to lay on their sides. After passing through some more squeeze sections the party was lined up above a steep slope that leads down and through to the Pearl Room. It was decided not to continue because a rope may have been necessary to climb back up this steep slope so we decided to return to the Grill Room.

As a complete group we looked at the western passage which has a lot of good decoration. All the various fissures were looked at thoroughly.

Back at the Grill Room again, a small gecko was found and photographed. It appeared in first class condition and how it come to be there is a mystery.

Jean and I began preparing for the climb out while the others had a brief look at Stooges Extension. Before long we had begun the arduous climb out; temperatures rising dramatically as we drew closer to the surface. Those below began to shiver in the waiting line.

At this point two locals arrived to tell us that the 4 tones of explosive they had been threatening to detonate at the local quarry (500m away) would be set off in 5 minutes. Peter Horne, Andrew and Mark were not impressed, seeing they were still down in the well. A short time later 8 loud bang was heard, the ground shook and dirt and stone rose in the air and frightened hell out of everyone. Down the well only a dull thump was heard; thank goodness.

Anyway we all made it to the top and sighs of relief were uttered by everyone until the ladder decided to catch and didn't want to come up. Jack volunteered (as usual) to descend again and free it, he then tied himself to the rope and we pulled him out, amid cries of "It's the biggest tea bag we have ever jiggled yet."

So the day finished and everyone enjoyed the cave and was pleased with how smoothly things had run. Thanks to Kevin for staying topside and doing all the belaying for us.

The Curramulka Hotel was the venue for tea that night, after leaving the trailer of gear at the Y1 camp. As we arrived at the camp site, Mike and Graham Woodward were departing for Adelaide after a day's caving. That night we were treated to a fine display of meteorites and a total eclipse of the moon.

Sunday morning the party had a quick look in the entrance to Corra Lynn then decided to do some real caving. We set out to locate and map Y22. After wandering around the countryside, attempting to remove the undersides of Peter's car we eventually found the cave.

The 2.0 x 1.0m entrance drops 1.7m to a tight, possibly Mott-proof squeeze. This fact was never definitely established as I couldn't get my dolphin torch through it. The top half metre of the entrance is crumbly clay. Peter "volunteered" to enter the cave but had trouble negotiating the squeeze. In modifying the squeeze the head of Peter's G-pick went AWOL and decided to explore the rest of the cave by itself. Anyone want a slightly used, one owner G-pick handle? See Peter Horne. After shopping around at the local windmill we acquired a suitable length of iron-mongery to complete the job. Peter eventually managed to negotiate the squeeze to enter a very small chamber but his feet jammed in the vertical rift that followed.

We next tried to visit Y21 but the owner wasn't there. Y19 was the next port of call. Peter once again volunteered to crawl through the green chicken remains to map the cave.

On the return to Adelaide came the coup-de-gras of the trip - a genuine cheap paper paperback book on how to cave found in a Roadhouse at Port Wakefield.

Chris Hales & Kevin Mott

YORKE PENINSULA Adelaide Cup Weekend, 18-20th May 1985

Party: Mark KEAN, Jack HAYWOOD and Chris HALES.

On Saturday May 18th, we visited a property past Warooka on the Yorke Peninsula to try and locate a small cave (Y23) that was recorded in the late 1950's. By chance we stopped at the right homestead at first try and after a very timid start, the landowner told us he remembered the first visit 30 years ago and knew the area we wished to look at. He gave us directions and permission to enter.

As we drove through the slightly undulating country we passed many small dolines that could have been the ones Sexton wrote about in his report.

We stopped and looked at the numerous small solution holes in the limestone. Mark opened up a hole but it only widened into a small huddle. (1.0m diameter by 1.0m deep).

Eventually we found the windmill we were seeking and following Sexton's directions soon located the small cave which has dozens of broken flagons littering the floor. We measured the cave's dimensions and took bearings on its locality.

Mark and Jack walked around the large open area alongside this cave and found many holes and dolines in this one area.

The following day, Sunday the 19th we drove along a bulldozed track to visit an area the landowner had told us about where he had seen solution tubes that reached the water table and some with ferns growing in them. We spent three hours walking and looking. The area does seem to have definite possibilities but we found only one small hole with ferns in it and nothing anywhere near the water table.

On Monday, we visited Y21 and while Jack crawled into the end where a dig once was, Mark and I discovered a Brown snake at the other end, so a hasty retreat was made.

From here we visited Y20 and Jack descended to the bottom, only to report a small fissure that didn't go.

Farther along the track we visited another small feature (Y22) which only Jack could squeeze into and a short way down he too was stopped. He thinks with a little persuasion he may be able to open it up enough to continue down so that's a job for the future.

That afternoon we visited various old wells before leaving for home.

Chris Hales

There is a G-pick head at the bottom if its of any use. Ed.

Heard about the guy who decided he has too many children? He took the excess to Naracoorte caving then drove home without her!

NARACOORTE 19-21 April 1985

Party : Saturday Chris THOMPSON and Bill PARKER (L)
Sunday add B. MARSDEN, B. MARSDEN (Tania & Elio Caruso)
Caves Visited: Alexander(U3), Blanche(U4), Tomato-Stick(U9),
Wombat(U58), Fox(U22), Smoke(U42), Great Expectations(U116)

The following is a trip report written by Chris aged 11. I thought It would be a good idea for him to write a trip report to show everyone just how easy it is to write, and I think he did a very good job of doing so. The only thing I'd like to add is an apology to his mother Jan for arriving back in Adelaide a little later than expected, sorry about that Jan but as they say it's better to arrive late than not at all, we had a safe trip back.

The first night we forgot the coffee so we went to a service station. We got some tea bags so we went to another service station. We got half a cup of coffee for 60¢. We got to the camp site late but it was very easy to put up the tent.

The next morning we had bacon and eggs for breakfast. Then we went into Naracoorte and got some coffee. We went to The Snake Pit Museum after which we went back to the Reserve and went through a couple of tourist caves. The first was Alexandra Cave. It has a beautiful pool of water in it. The other one we visited was Blanche Cave. It has a huge stalactite plus a pink roof. In the tourist caves we had a guide. Then we went down into Tomato-Stick Cave by ourselves. We had tea at the hotel. It was very nice. When we got back to camp we went to Wombat Cave. It has some nice decoration in it. Back at camp we sat next to the neighbour's fire. After that we went to bed in the tent.

The next morning we had some more people come so first we had breakfast. I had eggs and bacon plus some cereal. Then we started off to the caves. The first one was Fox Cave, but we couldn't get into the decorated chamber, because of the people doing photography so we decided to stay out of their way. The next cave we went to was Smoke Cave. It has bats in it. I really wanted to see some bats, they were like swallows when they flew in the cave. The next cave was Great Expectations? It needed a long ladder to get into it. I didn't like it because of the glass which was there. As soon as we got back to camp we packed up and went back to Adelaide.

It was a great weekend !

Chris THOMPSON

EYRE PENINSULA 5-8 April 1985

Trip Members: Max Meth & George Parker

The main reason for the trip was to explore strange new caves, and go where no man had gone before. Now back to the real world.

Our first night's stop was Lipson Cove or at least that was the plan but we didn't make the distance and ended up sleeping by the road just this side of Cowell. In the morning we repacked the van and headed for Lipson Cove, just as it started to rain, the only rain for that weekend! At Lipson Cove we quickly found the stone cairn marking Wallaby Sam's Cave, I got into my trog suit and dug out a torch, only to find the cave was a very small rock shelter. So much for new caves.

Now off to Lake Hamilton homestead where Mrs Nosworthy treated us to coffee and cake. We were shown to our room at the Hamilton Hilton, and set up the stove, two gas lights and the fridge. While having a cuppa we were told of a fresh water spring which flows into Lake Hamilton. Our plans were to visit E4 and E5, so we headed off to find them. It was then that Max discovered that grid references for some of the E caves only give locations to the nearest km.

Saturday was taken up looking at the eastern shore of Lake Hamilton, where we saw two springs which flowed into the lake. The first had a surprisingly fast flow. We were told by Bill Nosworthy Snr that there is no change in flow rate from summer to winter or from year to year. To top the day off we headed for Black Fellow Point because on the map it looked like the only spot to get down to sea level. Max found a way down the cliff and into some large sea caves, and so ended another day.

Sunday was spent on Bill Nosworthy Jnr's property "Gibraltar" where he showed us about 15 "caves", E3 was among them. All the caves were about 3m deep with little or no horizontal development. Sunday night was spent at the Homestead drinking coffee and eating more cake. On Monday Max and myself spent a few minutes looking at a third spring on the western shore of the lake this time with small fish and signs of yabbies in the water. The flow rate was about the same as the first spring we saw. After another cuppa and cake we headed for Adelaide by way of Gibraltar, Malta and Nowhere Else.

Max Meth & George Parker

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CROSSWORD

CLUES Across

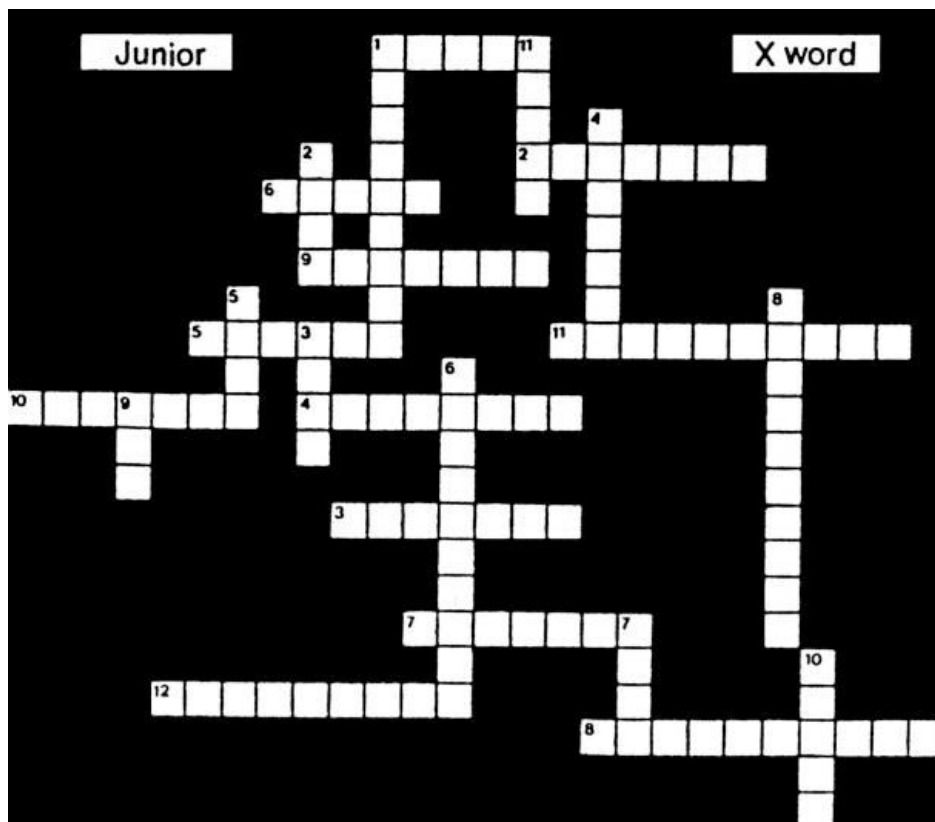
- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 A caver should carry 3 sources of • | 3 The • was tight |
| 2 We stood up in a large • | 5 Light your • |
| 4 Climb up the • | 7 • abound in limestone |
| 6 • has limestone cave potential | 9 Water • breaks down limestone |
| 8 A • hangs down from the ceiling | 11 Not all caves have • |
| 10 • protect cavers' heads | |
| 12 Passage & chamber shape give them • | |

CLUES Down

- | |
|---|
| 1 Caves are usually formed in • |
| 2 A • is very dark |
| 3 The • cave has a fairly constant temperature |
| 4 The way on is through this • |
| 5 • live in some caves as well as in trees and roofs of buildings |
| 6 Scientists who study caves study the science of • |
| 7 There was • all over the floor |
| 8 A • grows up from cave floor |
| 9 It's a sticky business crawling through • |
| 10 A cave diver dives under • |
| 11 Make sure your • works |

Words You Will Need

stalactite	stalagmite	decoration	mud	silt
water	rockpile	karst	bats	candle
light	dark	cove	torch	helmets
survey	fossils	speleology	chamber	squeeze
passage	erosion	stability	limestone	explore



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D	Description	Pa	Paleontological
E	Exploration	S	Surveying
Hi	Historical	S & R	Search & Rescue
M	Map	T	Training
P	Photography	To	Tourist

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Caving activity by region.
Technical and other articles.

In Caving activities the cave is listed together with the author, type of activity and reference. Other categories list the title of the article, the author and the reference.

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PROGRAMME

JULY

6,7	Naracoorte CEGSA-VSA Dinner	
10	Committee Meeting	Murray Road, Inglewood
13-14		
21	Ladder Training - Morialta	
24	General Meeting	Jenolan Caves – R. Allum
27,28		

AUGUST

3,4		
11	Burnside Mines	M. Reardon
14	Committee Meeting	96 Hutt St. Adelaide
17,18	Y21, Y1	Stan Flavel
24,25		
28	General Meeting	
31/8, 1/9		

SEPTEMBER

7,8		
11	Committee Meeting	66 Eyre Cres, Valley View
14-30		G. Pilkington
15	Ladder Training	Morialta
21,22		
25	General Meeting	
28,29		

OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND

Onaparinna – S. Flavel
Narinna – P. Horne

THE MYSTERIOUS THING

I was having my holidays in the hills and I was exploring. In the distance I saw a cave and I said that I love caves and I think I should go closer because it might not be what I think. So I went closer and I saw that it was a cave but there was a pair of eyes. I was just about to turn around when I heard a racket. I looked around the cave and then I saw a mouth and the mouth said "Don't be afraid it's only me". Who? I said. "Me." Who's me? "Me!" Then I looked at the eyes and mouth and realized that it sounds like me and then I new who it was. It was me! I ran back to where I was staying and told the whole story and we laughed.

Charni PILKINGTON
(written when 7)