

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

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

Volume 30 Number 2 SEPTEMBER 1985



NEWSLETTER



Registered by Australia Post, Publication No: SBH1658

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.45 p.m. at the
South Australian Museum

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DEADLINE for articles for Vol 30 No 3 is Wednesday 27 November 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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COVER PHOTO

Gosdens Cave ? A cave possibly in South Australia
Photo courtesy of Elery Hamilton-Smith

If anyone knows this cave or can suggest possible locations they should let Elery know. His address is P.O. Box 36 Carlton South Victoria 3053.



TRIP REPORTS

CURRAMULKA 22nd June 1985

Party: Jack HAYWOOD, Andrew ELLERY, Chris HALES & Janet

We visited a small hole (Y22) just north of Curramulka so Jack could try and open a restriction up to allow access to explore and survey the cave. After three hours of arduous work Jack decided to leave it for another trip to complete.

We moved on to Y20 where Jack and Andrew took bearings and measured the cave.

We then went to Corra Lynn to visit the new extension. On our way through to the ladder pitch we found Max Meth and George Parker busily extending the cave. Max volunteered to come with us as our guide and so took us for a short visit through one section of the cave. As we moved he explained how to move through, doing the least amount of damage and how to familiarise yourself for the return trip.

When we decided to make our exit Max asked us to see if we could find our way back. Every two three junctions I would hear Max say to Jack "Chris is exploring again" as I lost my way. Eventually with much guidance we made it back to the ladder pitch and then out of the cave ending another enjoyable day. Thanks to Max for giving us his time or we would probably still be there.

Chris Hales

PUNYELROO Cave 5M1 2nd June 1985

Party: Peter HORNE, Lee DIXON, Mark, Scott, Jack HAYWOOD,
Chris & Sandy HALES

Peter wanted to tie the lake and underwater extensions in with the rest of the cave survey. We placed points every 30m along the cave and found a discrepancy in the surveys (possibly a scale difference).

We rechecked our points and satisfied ourselves that we hadn't doubled up. We then completed the survey through to Randall's Rock.

Peter, Jack and I crawled up the rock pile beyond Randall's Rock and worked our way through the rocks to a continuation of the main passage. This continues for approximately 65m and is not shown on the survey so a brief description was noted.

Chris Hales

FLINDERS RANGES 8-10th June 1985

Party: Kevin MOTT, Jack HAYWOOD, Chris HALES, Peter KRAEHENBUEL,
Roman LICHAZ (HILLS & MUCG), Allan JAEVENS

We left Adelaide at 7.30 pm on the Friday night and headed north on the long tedious trip to the Flinders. Just 1km short of Port Augusta the van hesitated, then stopped. We had run out of petrol. Now I don't want to accuse anyone but I have heard rumours of a certain member who had been involved in petrol sabotage in the past. Jack and I looked at each other and wondered, could he be at work again. We poured some petrol in from a jerry can we had hidden in the back and were soon on our way again.

Later that evening Kevin told us of a place where we could camp just south of Wilpena. Once again we naively listened to him as he directed us onto a track, across creek beds, through rubbish dumps, trees, large rocks, stumps and around in circles with wild claims that someone had shifted the track. Eventually we gave up and told him that we were going to stop and set up camp. So at 2.30 am we did just that.

Next morning, showing no remorse, he cheerfully wandered back into camp claiming to have found his mystery camp site. We ignored this, broke camp, and moved on to Wilpena to meet the rest of the party.

By 10.00 am we had all arrived and it was agreed to move on to Blinman and then Narinna Station. Ten km past Wilpena the van stopped again. Immediately Jack and I looked back towards the third person in the vehicle. "Sounds like a petrol blockage" he exclaimed with a slight grin. Jack checked the plugs and points without success and finally found a petrol blockage. An evil eye was cast upon our leader by Jack and we had no more incidents throughout the trip.

We arrived at the station on Saturday afternoon and after visiting the homestead made camp then visited Woodendinna cave (F11).

Jack and I wanted to dive here so with the assistance of everyone we hauled the dive gear in to the lake edge and fulfilled this desire. Peter and Allan borrowed a spare mask and snorkel and moved across the surface of the lake on an airbed. We found the mop head that has been placed there to hopefully act as home to any life forms in the water, but left it alone as requested. By the time we had finished taking photographs in the cave it was dark outside.

The next morning we packed up and left for the Flinders Ranges National Park, stopping for a quick look at Anticline Cave (F24) on the way. When we arrived at the park headquarters no one was about so we moved straight out to Tommy Gunyah Bore to begin the walk to Eyrie Cave (F15). After an hour of trailing behind all these professional bush walkers I arrived exhausted at the top of Himalayan type mountain, with an absolutely spectacular view that made it all worthwhile. We spent an hour in the cave then walked back along the creek beds to the cars.

Another a brief respite then expedition leader Mott had us on the move again. This time back to Brachina Gorge, park the cars then over the hill and along a creek bed to Thunderdrum Cave (F29). We had to crawl past a dead kangaroo just inside the entrance. Once inside the smell vanished and we set about exploring. Sometime later we arrived back at the cars, found a campsite for the evening and settled down.

Up early next morning, break camp, pack the cars and walk off to find Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby Cave (F33). Once again we found a dead kangaroo by the entrance, smelling delightful like all carcasses do. Once inside we had a good look about. Jack went into a smaller tunnel that had a strong draft but it soon became tight and requires a dig.

Very soon we were back at the cars and because it was still early decided to try to locate Oraparinna Cave (F8). We drove as close to its' location as possible and then walked along the creek beds until we arrived at its' suspected locality. Everyone split up and began looking. It was eventually located and bearings taken for future reference.

The cave would have taken hours to fully explore and the dust is a real problem. Just walking sends up clouds of it billowing everywhere. Kevin sorted out a query on the level changes of the passages that had occurred on the survey and then we returned to the cars for goodbyes and the return trip.

So a weekend of great caving, spectacular views campfires, tall tales and the Mott's strange operatic arias ended. Every one said they enjoyed trip, I know Jack and I did..... we have already started planning the next one.

Chris HALES

CORRA LYNN 5Y1 20-21st July 1985

Party: Graham PILKINGTON, Max METH

It had been three months since my last visit to Corra Lynn and I was beginning to suffer from withdrawal symptoms. An un-programmed trip was made to correct the deficiency. However, I had hurt my back the week before and didn't consider it wise to traverse the ALBERTA, hence we restricted ourselves to the old cave near the entrance.

This was not quite the tourist trip that it sounds like. George had informed us of a passage off the right-hand fissure on the way to Grand Central that was not on the map. It turned out to be negotiable (we were not the first). It leads off 1.5m up from the Lower level then drops back to that level after 5m. It ends in dusty dirt choked passages with spider webs. Total plan length was 8m - about a 0.06% addition to 5Y1.

The next target was GUZZOFF NORTH II. We took a garden spade along with the intention of digging a walking path from the start of the tunnel at the large skeleton crevasse all the way to the dig face. This dig was abandoned years ago because the workface had reached the cross-fissure clay source and promptly encountered large rocks. These rocks can only be tackled if a large workface is present. At the end of the six hour trip we had only managed to get to the halfway mark; the easy first 6m with 4m to go. It is now getting to the three-person task stage.

Sunday started out with the typical "I hate meeces to pieces". My breakfast snack mars-bar had been a midnight snack to a mouse. Silly me thought that a sealed Combie Van was mouse proof! I forgot the lesson of last year when John ELLIS's van was also sealed and invaded. I needed to diet anyway...

The sight of a walking tunnel approaching a dig site looked so pleasing to us the day before that we decided to do the same at another promising spot. The second target chosen was the area behind the KITCHEN. This time we had less air space to start with and limited disposal sites so we had to settle for a crawlway to the dig face. The site tackled had never been dug at before although nearby sites had had a lot of dirt excavated. We managed to reach the blockage but could not progress further due to lack of time. It was established that the dirt was entering along the fissure being dug - a bad sign; very few such digs have been successful. Still, there is hope yet because the dig has not yet progressed far enough to rule out a convenient cross-passage.

Graham PILKINGTON

CORRA LYNN 5Y1 17-18th August 1985

Party: Graham PILKINGTON, Max METH

To please Neville Pledge and satisfy my own curiosity I led Max to the surveyed other side of the KOALA PATCH. My memory was of a walking passage shrinking to a crawl and ending at a dirt fill. The survey had shown that 5m probable dirt-fill separated the passages after a 300m round trip.

Since the survey, Max had been back and attempted to dig through the blockage not knowing that the KOALA PATCH was at the other side. He had pushed into a low air space on the left edge for 3m that did not get through but disclosed a side passage too small to enter. There were no bones in the dirt.

10m back from the dig, some bones were cemented to the wall in a red sandy matrix similar to other areas in this part of Corra Lynn. Like the KOALA PATCH an alcove full of red sand was noted. Max proceeded to sift it for bones while I collected what I could from the walls and from a floor deposit in an adjacent passage. After extracting a few very interesting bits and pieces, including a large-double rooted tooth, Max realized that the impassable fissure in which the alcove was placed would be passable after all the fill was removed.

After an hour's sifting Max managed to squeeze through into a crawlway with an odd bone or two on the dirt and wall shelves, one was a 25mm long single blade tooth. The passage ended 5m in. Or so it seemed. The end wall was composed of a bone-rich cemented red sand and it had a small window through it into another passage. Back in the original passage I heard Max make unusual noises that I could not quite decipher but they had an excited tone to them. I followed. What a find! Just what we were searching for - a GRAVEYARD. The red fill had occupied all the following 50m of passage and has over the last few million years decomposed again liberating the bones. A very careful path was trodden to avoid the bones as the area was explored. Only stooping height passages were traversed so as to leave the bones intact. On retracing our way out I picked up sample jawbones for Neville to look at - I was canny enough to have taken a container in with me. Neville has detailed some of the finds elsewhere in this Newsletter. For Max and I the find has three aspects: it fills in a block of rock "devoid" of passage; it escalates Corra Lynn from being just the longest cave on mainland Australia to one of major scientific importance; and it makes it necessary to get a large sample of the bones out which will entail trips through ALBERTA again and again and ... groan.

Enough of side issues, the real purpose of the trip was to carry on the survey of DREAMLAND. We had reached the constriction 50m north of the KOALA PATCH and decided to survey "the left-hand wall" beyond. This led us around what had been the NE end of the new cave and another 75m N into terminal passages. The height reduces from 3m stepping down to zero - end of walking passage in that direction! The most northerly passages end in an EW line (approx. 5065N) and an estimated 30m due south of the OFF at the end of GRAVITY CAVITY in the old cave. We surveyed a total of 270m leaving many walking height "side" tunnels to the east.

Corra Lynn is now 13.3km long including 600m still to survey.

Graham PILKINGTON

LOWER SOUTH EAST / SOUTH EAST

CEGSA / VSA DINNER - 6th & 7th July 1985

Present in the party - Peter HORNE, Lee DIXON, Peter GIRDLER, Andrew COX, Rino Del ANTONIO, and Geoff ASLIN (Sat. morning).

The annual CEGSA / VSA Dinner, as usual, proved to be a time of extreme pleasantness and trogloditic revelations at the Naracoorte Hotel (located in Naracoorte, strangely enough). Heeding the call of the caves, we headed down to Mt. Gambler to get in some Lower South East caving prior to heading north for the dinner on Saturday night.

Saturday was well occupied - in the morning, we moseyed out southwest of the Mount and took a group of people (not cavers!) on SA touristy through a recently-rediscovered cave. A few minutes were then spent on trying to dig out a rock-filled fissure, and our group then explored a few very large open paddocks, finding several new fissure-caves with heaps of rubbish, animal bones etc...wonderful stuff!! A small, 10 cubic-foot scuba tank was carried into another newly discovered fissure (called "Hanging Rock Cave" due to several rocks which lie balancing against each other in the top of the rift) which had a 2m x 1m, 3m deep pool in one section. This was explored for some 11m horizontally to a fairly silty underwater squeeze - not the place to push by a solo diver with 30 breaths of air in a small steel cylinder!

After a relaxing and much-needed coffee break with the always-generous landowner's (who also happen to own a black pussy - see a previous issue of CEGSA news!). I, Andrew, Rino and Peter drove to the nearby Little Blue Lake and rigged up for a dive to take water samples for the Pt. MacDonnell Council. The freezing wind, cold gloomy water and 3m or so visibility were enjoyed by all (we are cave divers, after all!) and of course, it poured buckets of ice-water as we packed to leave for Naracoorte.

Arriving at 7 p.m. on the knocker (me still in wet undies from the Baby Blue dive), we paid \$14 each and commended our 1 and a half hour "wake" for food! Grant Gartrell entertained the starving hordes with several 10-minute speeches and toasts, and Kevin "Holy" Mott recited a simplified version (for the Vics!) of "Sermon on the Mott". Kev then continued to entertain us all by interrogating Adrian whom he assumed had pinched his car keys (later discovered sticking in the door lock) - naturally, this prompted Grant to suggest Kevin should have worn his "Car-Key" coat! (groan!)

The life really started when Ian Lewis rolled up later (unusual!), and the saga was successfully concluded when he fell off his chair in the middle of a story - now THAT was FUNNY!! Finally, the last memorable event of the evening which I observed was an amazing demonstration of Victorian co-ordination and amazing good luck when one gentleman accidentally knocked over his glass of Moselle or whatever, which spilled into a nearby glass ashtray (unused, fortunately) - after decanting back into the original glass, it was found that only a tiny amount had actually spilled!

All of this was just too much for us, so we retired early. Sunday morning was spent with Peter Girdler and I exploring S102 in complete wetsuits, booties, hoods, etc - and dragging a 30 cubic foot scuba tank and about 20 pounds of diving gear virtually through the entire cave, searching for the fabled pools of water. We finally found the sump and paddled in there to cool off, then exited for the journey home to Adelaide.

Graham Pilkington left in the early arvo with Rod McDougal and Grant Gartrell, as he wanted to get his daughter Charni home early, so our little group was very surprised to find Charni and Rod at the Naracoorte Shell Service Station when we chanced to stop there for petrol around 4.30 p.m.

We were even more surprised - no, I think the word 'ASTOUNDED' is more appropriate! - to learn that Rod and Charni had been waiting for an hour and a half for Graham and Grant to return - they had stopped for petrol and Rod and Charni had gone to the toilets, only to find that G & G had taken off without them!!! It wasn't until 2 hours later, when G & G reached Tailem Bend, that Rod and Charni were discovered missing! Man, it's amazing how engrossed cavers get in their discussions!

Fortunately, the terrible cave-diving team of Peter "Gurgles" Girdler and Peter "Puddles" Horne saved the day by taking these two hapless cavers to Aranitnit (that's what the town sign said in my rear-vision mirror anyway) where M'seur Mott was encountered. As Charni herself said - you could understand leaving one caver behind - but, Pilko... your OWN DAUGHTER?!? (Snicker, snicker!!)

So ended our fairly eventful and enlightening weekend! It was very successful and we enjoyed it a lot. Can hardly wait to see what happens NEXT year!!

Peter HORNE

KINGSTON, SOUTHEAST 5th - 9th April 1985

PARTY - Kevin MOTT, Gordon NINNES, Fred ASLIN, Jan ASLIN, Geoff ASLIN

The aim of the trip was to follow up several reports of caves by Colin McRae and to check the location of caves last described in a trip report from 1971. Several features described in this report had not been allocated numbers.

Nimble and myself left Adelaide on Friday morning to avoid those mad hatters who traditionally choke our roads on the Thursday night prior to Easter.

We arrived at Moreview, our accommodation base for the weekend, at about lunchtime. On the way down we confirmed access arrangements with several other landowners for later in the weekend. Fred became impatient with our late arrival so went off to check a new cave with the son of our host. That afternoon we had a look at U64 and several holes on adjacent properties.

We set up our accommodation for the weekend that night, it was the shearers quarters. We had a bedroom, complete with beds and wardrobes, kitchen with all mod cons and a dining room cum plotting room. All in all it all added up to a very civilised trip.

Saturday morning we investigated several cave reports on nearby properties till Fred could once again join us. One of these had a super truck put its wheel into it but it has since been filled in. We then had a look at U135. I had a modicum of difficulty entering the cave so some in-situ refurbishing of the entrance was undertaken.

Someone forgot to tell me about the millions of bull ants also inhabiting the same place at the same time. The owners were quite amused that adults would push themselves into grotty little entrances previously considered the domain of kids.

The owner of Moreview suggested we contact a Peter Rasheed at Boolapuckie as a possible contact for caves. As it turned out he was the local contact for the previous trip back in 1971. He has a couple of small solution features in a limestone outcrop near his house but they are too small to do anything with. Another cave in nearby scrub has a resident colony of agro bees so we declined to visit it.

He guided us to a U136 (previously un-numbered). A map of the cave was prepared. We then visited U86 and U87 to verify their locations. U87 appears to have been lost when the quarry was filled. Why U136 was not numbered yet U87 was I'll never understand. Our next port of call was U40. The aim was to compare the existing map with the cave to clarify several apparent discrepancies. Through a strange twist of fate Fred was the only one suitably attired for caving so was elected to clear the entrance and explore the cave. It is quite an expansive system and warrants a further survey to map the whole cave. A report of a cave in the middle of Section 16 (Records P165) was investigated. We were taken to a site where several "rabbit holes" had been filled. These however used to breathe, and occasionally still do so.

Many years ago Ian Lewis showed me a slimy water-filled trench near Kingston which appeared to undercut and has been mentioned in records several times. We had a look at it on the Sunday morning. It was virtually dry and was merely a trench 3m wide x 7m long and 2.5m deep at the north end. When we first visited it Ian wanted to dive but was convinced otherwise when a stone thrown into the water created a reaction similar to that of oil. We now know it would have been a fruitless dive.

Nimble and I finally rendezvoused with Geoff Aslin and went out to locate Blackfellow Caves near U40. I thought I remembered the way from a previous trip there with Linda Whaley. However we spent most of the morning fruitlessly thrashing through scrub. We managed to find only a couple of possible caves (subject to digging). After lunch we went back to the start of the tracks and eventually found our way to the correct location. The area has a number of collapse features in the dune limestone and a survey should be done to tie them all together. A search of the area failed to locate U43 and U55 with any degree of certainty.

On Monday we set out to locate the caves Colin McRae had reported some time earlier. Most of the caves were in scrub so aerial photos in conjunction with topographical maps had to be used to locate the caves. It was thought that one of the caves Colin found may have been U85. Later comparison of data revealed that we had not found it but must have been tha....t close. We were compelled to accept an invitation from our hosts to join them for tea on Monday night. This meant a shower and a change of clothes. On the way back to Adelaide we stopped off and had a look at the Office at N.P.W.S. at Salt Creek. A recommended stop.

Located	U64, U86, U133, U134, U135, U136, U137, U138, U139, U140, U141, U142, U/N adj U137.
Photographed	U64, U135, U137, U138, U139, U140, U141, U142
Tagged	U86, U135
Not found	U43, U55, U85

Kevin MOTT

YORKE PENINSULA - Y18 - COOBOWIE CORNER CAVE

17th & 16th August 1985

PARTY - Mark KEAN, Andrew ELLERY, Janet ROBINSON, David, Peter HORNE, Chris HALES

A last minute decision by Peter Horne to join us on a diving weekend gave us the opportunity to survey Y18 and for Peter to at last dive there.

We entered the cave on Saturday afternoon and after familiarising ourselves with it we proceeded to survey the dry section. When this was completed Mark, Peter and I hauled dive gear to the small lake for Peter to survey the underwater section. After a 12 minute dive, Peter surfaced and described the underwater section to us and we discussed and noted the measurements and details.

We then began the arduous haul out of the cave and called it a day. The following morning Peter and Janet went back into the cave to add more detail to the survey completing a fulfilling weekend.

Chris HALES

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MORE CORRA LYNN FOSSILS

The new fossil bone collection made by Graham Pilkington and Max Meth, from the Boneyard (?) on 18th August, has added several more species to the list for Corra Lynn Cave.

More specimens (2 vertebra and a tooth) of the python *Wonambi sp.* and another jaw of the small koala species were found. Proof of *Phascolonus sp.* (a giant wombat) is provided by a fragment of the very distinctive upper incisor. Unfortunately, no more of the giant koala was found.

New records are: a possible large *Zygomaturus sp.* (half of a large upper molar); a possible small *Zygomaturus sp.* (a partial upper premolar); a small quadrupedal herbivore, *Palorchestes sp.* (an upper molar); a possible *Troposodon sp.* (a kangaroo); a small wallaby not yet identified; a larger unidentified wallaby; and a small *Potorous sp.* (rat kangaroo). There is also an emu neck vertebra.

Some of these fossils are beginning to throw some light on the age of the deposit, though nothing definite can be said yet. However, the presence of a small *Palorchestes* small *Phascolonus*, together with the possible small *Troposodon*, suggest a Pliocene age. As such, this would be one of the oldest cave deposits known in Australia. More complete material is needed to verify these identifications, but it seems the only problem in this regard is getting the specimens out of the cave!

Neville PLEDGE

EASTER ISLAND - GRAVE CONCERN FOR THIS ISLAND OF HOLES

An issue of grave concern has arisen in Easter Island.

Easter Island is very remotely situated in the South Pacific and with an area of approx. 160-180 sq. kms it is approx. 1/30th the size of our own Kangaroo Island. Yet it is a place of immense value Anthropologically, Ethnographically and Archaeologically.

The island is built up from volcanic eruptions and was never part of a continent. The lava caves are significant to preserve because they harbour many secrets and evidence in the form of myth and historical carvings etc.

The threat of the U.S.A. building an emergency landing strip there extending the existing strip of 2,900 m to 3,353m, is impending. Are they planning a military outpost?

My view is that any future development on Easter Island will certainly exploit the inhabitants and add to the trauma of the post European contact. This must result in further decay of the sites and a breaking down of local culture. Further introduction of western indecency will degrade this wonderful place.

The Chilean Government (already closely linked with the U.S.) may not be able to realize demands being made by concerned people worldwide to block plans for Easter Island as a military/NASA location. A military installation means more than a simple invasion onto this tiny island (MacDonalds?!)

There is intimate interweaving between volcano karst and human history on Easter Island and the archaeological studies and search for family caves has meant that the caves themselves has been largely ignored as landforms in their own right (Kiernan 1982).

The giant statues on the island are generally well known. The giants or "moais" rest on a base called the "Abu". The quarry for the statues was at the volcano Rano Raraku which provided yellowish/grey laval rock. Each statue originally bore a red headpiece weighing between 2-10 tons alone called a "pukao". This red rock was carved from the Punapau Crater. The existence of the moais implies a high level of social organisation since food production lost so much energy. (Kiernan 1982).

Two peoples inhabited the island. The "long ears" had plans to improve the island and the "short ears" toiled to make their ideas reality. Considerable evidence shows links with Polynesia and South America. Easter Island possibly welcomed settlers from the east and west.

Heyerdahl's Norwegian Expedition of the 1950's uncovered fascinating history including the war at Iko's ditch. The ditch was dug out for the long ears when the short ears rebelled and the long ears had to isolate themselves. The ditch was of huge dimensions - 40' wide & 12' deep and 2 miles long. However the plan failed; the short ears tricked the long ears and the long ears died in a fire which took place when their ditch was set alight.

Ororoina, the last long eared descendent had hidden treasures in family caves. It was possible that only descendents of Ororoina had family cave's. The caves were therefore treasure houses and were vital to the economy. Because they were secure places protected by akuakus or dangerous spirits, the ownership of caves emerged as a very significant feature of Easter Island culture.

Exciting exploration often highly emotively charged with fear, myth and spiritual chanting escalated with the Heyerdahl expedition. It appears little has been researched since. Here is a small example of exciting exploration from Heyerdahl:

"I promised to do what he had asked of me, and then he let go my hand. He told me to bend over the precipice and look down. I stretched out as far as I dared, and gazed in horror at the sharp lava blocks in the whirling foam. There was a small ledge, like that on which we stood, about a man's height below us, and under this again the cliff fell sheer to the bottom.

"Now, where is the entrance?" Lazarus asked with visible pride.

"Impossible to say," I muttered through the package in my mouth. My only desire was to get this over.

"There, under your feet," he said, pointing to the small ledge beneath us. He braced me while I cautiously leant out as far as I dared. But still I saw nothing.

"You can't get to the opening unless you do exactly as I tell you," Lazarus said. And then he began a course of instructions the like of which I had not experienced since I stood before my first dancing-master I was told to begin with the left foot and then follow a meticulous series of short steps and half turns which were to end in my sinking down on my knees and stretching out on my stomach on the shelf below. I was asked to wait where I was while Lazarus gave a demonstration of the difficult dance. I saw how he placed his hands and feet, how he twisted himself round on the ledge to be able to sink on his knees and on to his stomach; after that I only saw his kicking legs, and then he was gone.

I stood alone and noticed more than ever how the air was filled with the thundering surf against the cliff. A few hundred yards farther west, on a curve of the coast, I spotted the camera-man standing at the very edge of the plateau filming in the late afternoon sun. The ocean was still white-crested: it was out there we had been circling that morning, likewise without seeing this infernal cave.

Then a hand appeared on the shelf below holding a fiendish stone head:

Lazarus' own head and body followed and he slowly repeated, in reverse order, the same carefully studied steps and turns until he was up on the ledge with me again.

"The key," Lazarus muttered, holding out the stone head.

Again I had to press myself hard against the wall, for now Lazarus asked me to give him the scissors. I had to take them out of my mouth and hand them to him, while he gave me the "key" in my other hand. This "key" had human features with great bulging eyes, a bearded chin and a most hypnotic expression, but a long neck stretched horizontally from the back of the head, as on an animal. Lazarus asked me to put the "key" down on a tiny ledge by my head, and then it was my turn to begin the horrible dance down to the cave.

There was so little room for manoeuvre that I soon realized the necessity of following Lazarus' lessons in every detail. When I had turned myself about so that I could crouch down on all fours on the lowest ledge, I saw for the first time the opening leading to the cave, hidden under a projection of the rock. The hole was so small that I should never have dreamed of anyone being able to crawl into it. The original discoverers of the cave must have lived quite near, with time to explore every single inch of this terrain. Lazarus had told me that the cave was called Motu Tavake, which means "Cliff of the Tropical Bird", the locality was called Omohi and lay at the foot of Vaimataa on the Hanga-o-Teo plain. The cave had belonged to Hatui, who was the grandfather of Lazarus' mother.

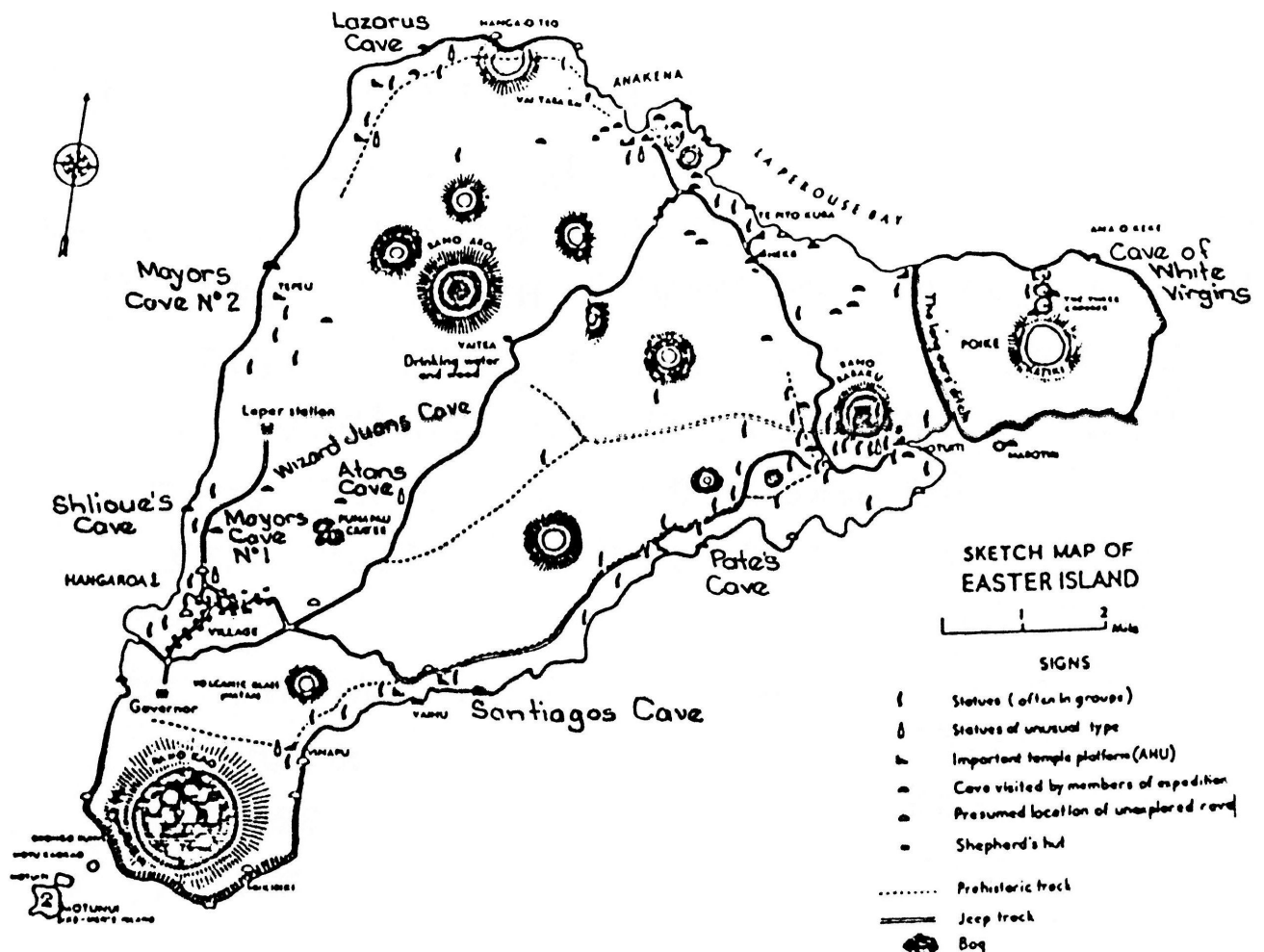
I was crouching on all fours on a tiny ledge, and the narrow hole in the rock opened on to a still smaller ledge, on the same level but a little way off. To get to it I had to stretch forward and take hold of the edge of the other shelf. Lying flat, I got my arms and head into the hole on one ledge, while my knees and legs still lay on the other. My stomach was without support above the abyss and the breakers. The whole through which I was trying to worm my way was so narrow that my shorts were pulled down several times. The rock scratched and cut my back and thighs, for there was hardly any sand; only rough hard lava.

Isa de Pascua (Easter Island) was declared a National Park in 1935. In its 50th year it is under threat. In 1938 it was declared a National Monument. What of the future? The monumental, plans may be stopped. Let's hope so; preserving this history should be mandatory.

Meredith REARDON

REFERENCES

- Thor Heyerdahl "Aku Aku" George Allen & Unwin Ltd 1958
- Kevin Kiernan "Hotn Matna's "Island Full of Holes: Volcano-karst in the culture and landscape of Easter Island". Conference Paper for Third International Symposium in Volcano Speleology, Bend, Oregon, U.S.A. June 1982
- Ron Fisher "Easter Island: Brooding Sentinels of Stone" National Geographic Society "Mysteries of the Ancient World" 1979.



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PROGRAMME

OCTOBER

5,6

9	Committee Meeting	Murray Road, Inglewood
12-14	Lower South East Flinders Ranges	Kevin Mott Stan Flavel

19,20

23	General Meeting	
27	Ladder training – Morialta	Kevin Mott

NOVEMBER

2	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
10	River Murray	Kevin Mott
13	Committee Meeting	3 Harcourt Road, Payneham
16,17		
23,24		
27	General Meeting	

DECEMBER

30/11-1/12	Corra Lynn	Graham Pilkington
7,8		
11	Committee Meeting	66 Eyre Cres, Valley View
14,15		
21,22		
25-31	Kangaroo Island	Stan Flavel