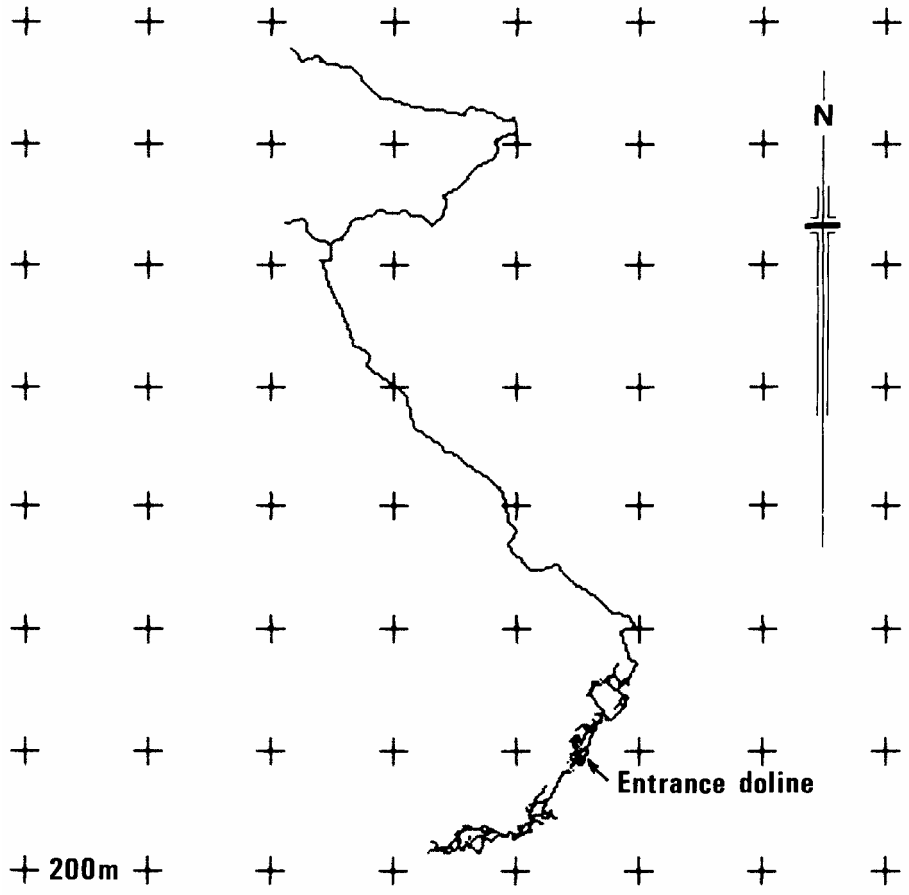
CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

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

Volume 30 Number 3 DECEMBER 1985

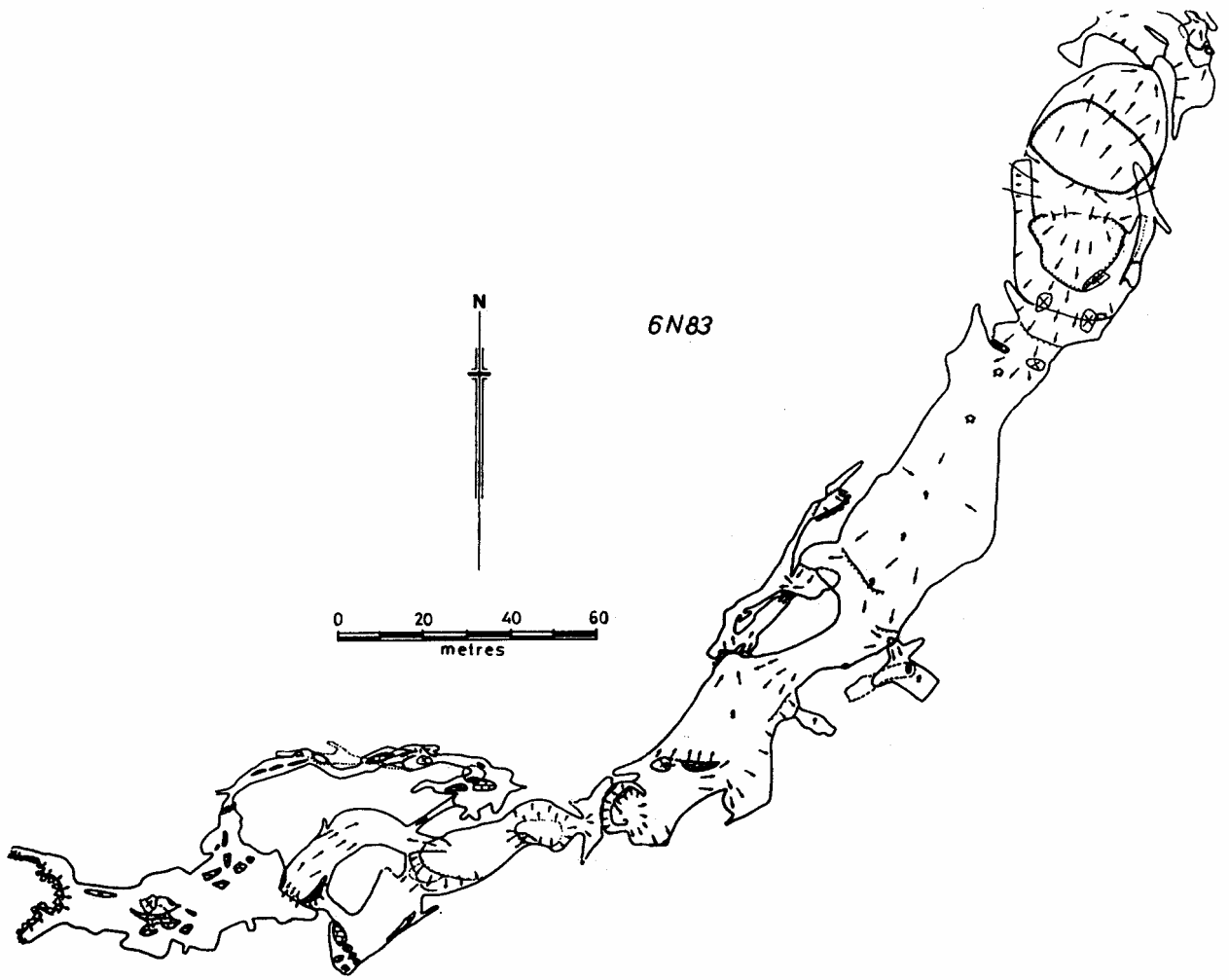
NEWSLETTER

OLD HOMESTEAD CAVE - N83



Scale 1 : 12,500 **as at 24/9/85**

Registered by Australia Post, Publication No: SBH1658


N
6N83
0
20
40
60
metres

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT & **RECORDS**	Stan Flavel	Murray Road INGLEWOOD 5133 (H) 380 5404
VICE PRESIDENT & **PUBLICATIONS** & **EQUIPMENT OFFICER** & **ASF REPRESENTATIVE**	Kevin Mott	3 Harcourt Road PAYNEHAM 5070 (H) 42 2441 (W) 227 3644
SECRETARY	Meredith Reardon	14 Derwent Avenue MAGILL 5073 (H) 333 2472 (W) 258 3155
TREASURER	John Ellis	P.O. Box 216 STIRLING 5152 (W) 227 3018
LIBRARIAN	Bill Parker	1 Anderson Street FULLARTON 5063 (H) 79 1013
MEMBERSHIP	Kerry Ninnes	96 Hutt Street ADELAIDE 5000 (W) 223 1318
PUBLIC OFFICER	Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Crescent VALLEY VIEW 5093 (H) 264 2598 (W) 274 7630
SAFETY & TRAINING	Colin McRae	3 Kerrin Avenue MORPHETT VALE 5162 (H) 382 7905 (W) 268 9044

POSTAL ADDRESS: Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
C/- S.A. Museum
North Terrace
ADELAIDE South Australia 5000

CONTENTS

Volume 30 No 3 December 1985

COVER Diagram

Survey traverse stick diagrams of OLD HOMESTEAD CAVE, 6N83.

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 30 No 4 is Wednesday 26 February 1986

Registered by Australia Post, Publication SBH 1658

TRIP REPORTS

CORRA LYNN 2-3rd November 1985

Graham PILKINGTON & Max METH

The trip had three aims: to examine the unsurveyed part of DREAMLAND; determine radio direction finding (RDF) locations for those parts; and to survey as much as possible of the remaining "600m".

Elementary logic told us which to do first. If we could complete the survey then there would be no unsurveyed part! Alas, it was not to be. By late Sunday afternoon we still had what we guessed to be 50m to do (plus the 50m of GRAVEYARD) after completing nearly 400m over the two days. However, an examination of a complex breakdown area (naturally we'd done the easier areas first!) uncovered an extra 100m of "lost" cave. The section had only been entered once before in the hectic early days when no-one really knew north from south. It had not been seen since. We didn't remember it was missing until we rediscovered it! At least it made up for the shortfall in the estimated cave length. Yes, Corra Lynn is 13.3km long. It's also getting smaller. It used to take us at least 90min to get to the far end of DREAMLAND - 2 hours at first - carrying our survey, exploration & other gear. On this weekend each traverse took a maximum of 60min. One trip was a mere 50min! We must extend the cave again to keep the tourists out.

The RDF trip in early December will enable me to complete most of the mapping (as against surveying) of Corra Lynn #2 and determine an accurate relationship to #1. Many thanks to VSA for the ready loan of their equipment.

Graham PILKINGTON

CORRA LYNN 30th November - 1st December 1985

Graham & Charm PILKINGTON, Max METH, George & Bill PARKER, Frank BILKI, Wolf WEBER, and visitors Jenny Cotgrave and Ian.

Saturday only: John & David ELLIS.

After four weeks of planning I finally managed to get the Third Radio-Direction-Finding (RDF) trip to Corra Lynn down and crawling. The first two were in the old cave in the mid-70's.

Preplanning had shown the all of ALBERTA-DREAMLAND could be surveyed with RDF stations in one day. However, equipment failures and lack of adequate communications prevented us completing more than half the job. On Sunday we were much better organized and completed the task in good time. One idea that came out of the communications difficulty was to use dual transmitter/receivers now that the electronics has improved since the VSA 1974 design was built. The new system can have automatically coded signals switchable on each instrument enabling less power to be used and for less time per station. The messages could easily number 16, each with its own indicator.

We had planned to have the surface team measure the RDF locations into the surface control points during the time it took to move the transmitter (an average of 20 min per station) but the usual strong winds were mild by comparison to those that weekend. We managed to get the measurements done just before we left on Sunday as the gale became just wind.

Reduction of the RDF data has shown that the map version of DREAMLAND produced for the weekend is accurate to about 1m after a bulk 1m shift of all the new cave - the tie to the old cave was never accurately made, the original wall indent of the excavated tunnel was assumed to be accurately placed. It did not matter then, the 1979 dig only went 20m.

For those who have never been on an RDF trip or need to plan their own, I will list a few of the necessities to get right <u>before</u> leading the troops.

Preliminary cave surveying is vital. Do the survey prior to RDF or at least get a working cave sketch and inside knowledge. This enables you to

Pick the most suitable RDF control points. Controls must be distributed throughout the cave to establish a suitable network to determine the accuracy of the survey. They should be located at easily accessible points for tying the survey to - BUT control is needed AFTER sections of difficult cave. Study the cave layout at home.

Route planning is essential. We used one party to rig the cave ahead of the RDF teams. One RDF team did the actual transmissions while the other RDF team located the next RDF point, marked it and connected it into the cave survey.

Establish a timetable for the RDF transmissions. This includes the time to get from one point to another and pack/unpack the equipment. Don't forget to allow for rest stops - the delay can be avoided by resting the team in sub-groups if you have the numbers.

Agree on communications, both for everything going to plan and for the unexpected. After wasting several hours and much effort on Saturday on useless transmissions the underground RDF teams found out the hard way. In Corra Lynn we are fortunate in being able to hear a sledgehammer slamming a stake on the surface. This gives us two-way communications (except for the Lower Levels) for the VSA underground transmitter/surface receiver system. To avoid mistakes in meaning due to not hearing the faint hammer blows we used a simple code of

- • on station, cannot hear you, waiting for you.
- ••• RDF point established, moving on to next.
- ••••• wait 15 minutes, a temporary problem has to be fixed.
- 20• abort RDF survey.

Graham PILKINGTON

TELOWIE GORGE CAVES SEPTEMBER 28/29, 1985

Party: Mark KEAN, Jack HAYWOOD and Chris HALES

We left home on Friday night and travelled to Port Germein Gorge, where we found a small parking area to stop for the night.

The next morning we drove to Bangor and located the landowner contact, Mr. E.D. Blesing (Dave), along the WIRRABARA Road. He was most obliging and after finishing the milking he guided us personally out to F21 (LOCH NAGAR CAVE). He had an aerial photograph of the area and we were able to sort out just where the cave was on the topographic sheet and then check it by going there.

We were unable to locate the 2nd cave (F22), and Dave Blesing, although aware of some small rock holes could never remember a particular one in the area indicated on the earlier trip report.

We searched the area anyway, and couldn't find anything to fit the description given, so eventually gave up.

I asked Dave about the narrow strip of limestone that appears on the geological survey, and although aware of it (it passes through his property) he doesn't know of anymore caves. He has 2 old mines on his place.

We travelled to F21 through the back of Blesing's property along a small rough track, which led into the 'Telowie Gorge Conservation Park'. We left the cars on a hilltop and moved down the slope to the cave.

F21 has a family of swallows with young in there at present.

The large gully (which shows on the topo. sheet) can be followed down and then around to the west and will lead to the cave, some small rockholes appear in this section, but none are of any consequence.

We photographed the entrance and approach and took compass bearings as shown on diagrams.

That afternoon we left for Orroroo to visit F20, stopping at PEKINA for a late lunch. We soon arrived at Orroroo Cave and had a look at it's entrance and the hole that has been filled in just to the east of it.

We rigged a ladder and entered what we thought was going to be a small insignificant cave, and were we surprised! Solution tubes run up to small chambers in many sections of the cave and with careful manoeuvring, small rifts can be passed to gain access to other parts.

We all considered this cave to be worth another trip, but with dust masks next time. After packing up the gear we called again at the landowners to say thanks and headed for WIRRABARA to camp for the night.

The next morning we went for a short tourist visit to 'Alligator Gorge' and then left for Melrose to visit the Mt. Remarkable Blowhole and Greys Hut Cave.

We called at various landowners who were not home, but decided to try and locate the blowhole anyway. We parked at a gate, as near as we could ascertain and prepared to start searching, when up the track came a motorcycle carrying young Nigel Bleitske (one of the landowner's sons).

This young man knew just where both caves were and volunteered to show us. Consequently a lot of time was saved and another helpful contact was made.

We left for home that afternoon having completed what we came for.

Chris HALES

SOUTHERN YORKE PENINSULA - OCTOBER 14th, 1985

Party: Mark KEAN, Jack HAYWOOD, Andrew ELLERY and Chris HALES.

Acting on a brief conversation Chris Kean (a dive companion) had with an Innes National Park Ranger, we paid him a visit to obtain permission to try and locate this small sinkhole??

He described it briefly and directed us to its location.

The cave entrance is 1m in diameter and quite difficult to see if you are not right on it. To the northwest (20 metres away) is a small depression in the ground about 1m deep by 5m in diameter.

About 1m into the cave, the surface soil etc. has formed an inverted sand cone which leaves only 2 small spaces which can be entered.

The hole on the south western side needs a dig to see if it goes. The one on the northern side was soon passed and after a slide down a slight gradient for about 3 metres, the floor levels out and changes from a sandy substance to a brown silt.

The average height of the cave is approx. 0.5 metres and the flattener soon becomes so low that we were stopped.

The cave atmosphere was quite fresh and a breeze was noted from one small hole.

Some bones were noted in the cave and I suspect were the results of local predators, they were lying on the surface of the cave floor.

The depth of the cave would only be about 2 metres maximum.

Jack dug into the silt floor and at about 0.5 metres he struck clay, so we may be able to dig a tunnel and push through the flattener toward the doline.

The cave is in 'Innes National Park' and head ranger there has offered his assistance in any way possible.

The original ranger we talked with was Terry Owers.

The Head Ranger is Pearce Doudherty.

Chris HALES

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner and Annual General Meeting will once again be combined.

Venue: Stag Hotel, corner of East Tce & Rundle St, Adelaide
Date: Friday, February 14th.
Time: 7.00 p.m.

Come along for the event of the year – you may be one of those eligible for CEGSA's most prestigious award – the *Leather Medal*.

FEES – 1986

Membership fees fall due on the 1st January 1986.

Fees are:
Full Member : $22-00 (includes ASF levy)
Associate : $9-00
: $14-50 (after 2 years membership.)

Newsletter subscription - $7-00

Fees **must be paid prior** to the Annual General Meeting to be eligible to vote.

MEMBERSHIP NOTICES

New Associate

Andrew PETERSON
53 English Street
Hahndorf 5245
(H) 388 7536

PROGRAMME

DECEMBER

26 -31	Naracoorte	
	Kangaroo Island	George Parker
28 -30	Flinders Ranges	Stan Flavel

JANUARY

4 - 6	Naracoorte	Kevin Mott
11 - 12		
18 - 19	Corra-Lynn	Graham Pilkington
22	General Meeting	
25-27	Victoria	Kevin Mott

FEBRUARY

1 - 2		
8 – 9		
12	Committee Meeting	14 Derwent Avenue MAGILL
14	Annual General Meeting	6:30pm STAG Hotel East Tce ADELAIDE
15 - 16		
26	General Meeting	

MARCH

1 - 2	Corra-Lynn	Graham Pilkington
8 – 9		
12	Committee Meeting	
15 - 16	River Murray	Kevin Mott
22 - 23		
26	General Meeting	
28 – 13/4	Nullarbor	Kevin Mott & Graham Pilkington