

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

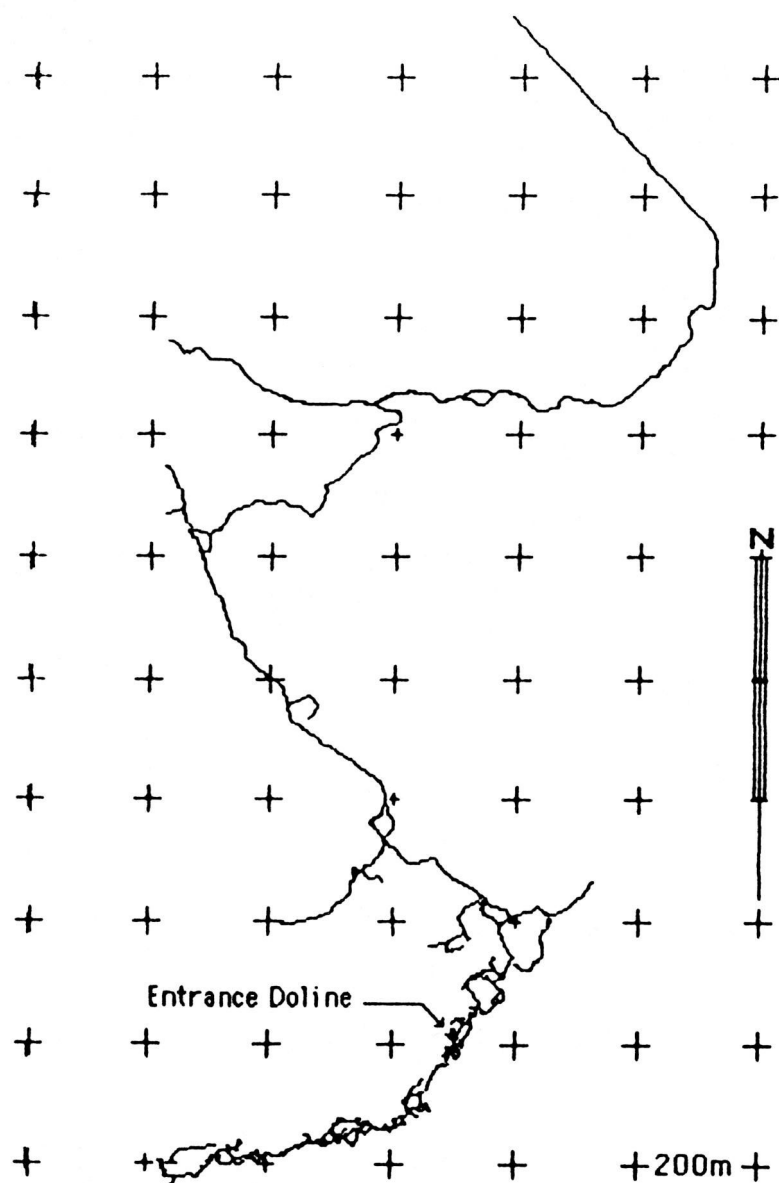
c/o South Australian Museum, North Terrace, Adelaide.

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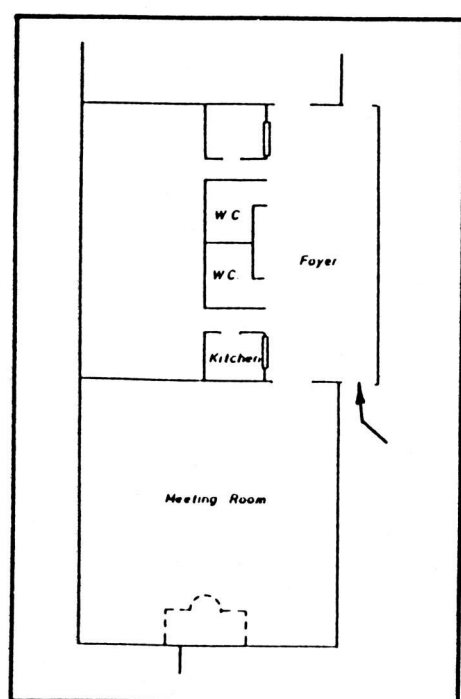
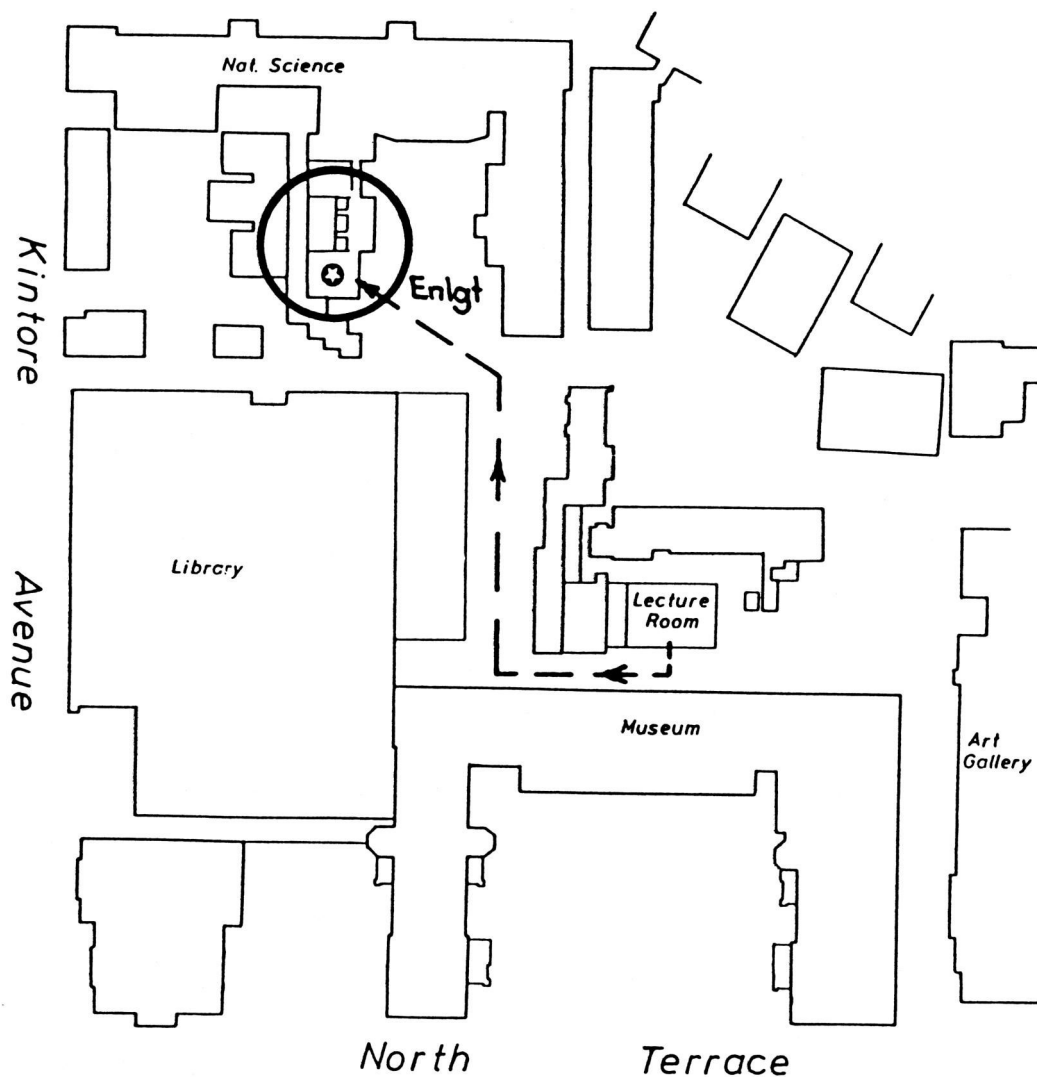
N E W S L E T T E R

OLD HOMESTEAD CAVE - 6N83



Scale 1: 12,500

as at April 10, 1986



ENLGT

— NEW VENUE —

CEGSA
GENERAL MEETINGS

Royal Society of S.A. rooms

7·30 pm - 10·30 pm

4th Wednesday of each month
except December

NO SMOKING
NO ANIMALS
NO DIRTY CLOTHES
& EQUIPMENT

allowed in the building

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

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Because of administrative changes within the Museum, clubs and societies associated with the Museum are no longer able to use it as a mailing address.

POSTAL ADDRESS: Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
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ADELAIDE South Australia 5000

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COVER Diagram

Survey traverse diagram of OLD HOMESTEAD CAVE - 6N83
(after April 1986 trip.)

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 31 No 2 is Wednesday 28 May 1986

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

Recently where we have had the opportunity to receive favourable publicity at several functions we failed to appear. I do not intend to make excuses but perhaps the time has come to take a good look at ourselves.

It is said that we are what we eat - CEGSA is it's membership. If we want to be like mushrooms and hide in the dark and live on past glories then we might as well drag out our lounge chairs and act the part. To be noticed we must be active.

We can not complain when others are asked for advice in lieu of us. The experience of past or older members must be built upon by the current membership to maintain credibility. There are always new caves to explore and document. The environment within the cave is continually changing and needs to be monitored.

It is too late to glean experience when the person we seek it from is gone. Interaction must be maintained between old and new members and all must be prepared to actively cave and be seen to be caving responsibly. Training sessions in techniques need both experienced and novice members as all members have something to learn. You never know, you just might enjoy yourself.

Members must be prepared to promote caving as an enjoyable, organised sport amongst other organisations. We also need to avail ourselves when management authorities request assistance with conservation or restoration projects.

WE either crawl out from under our rock or be prepared to get crushed.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

RIVER MURRAY 9-10 November 1985

PARTY Kevin MOTT & family, Bill PARKER, George PARKER, Harold PARKER, Ed SCHUMACER, Peter HORNE, Lee DIXON, Jean TURNER, Sonja, Chris JOHNSON, Colin McRAE & family.

This trip set out with the aim of investigating some cave reports by Bill and George Parker. In the book "River Murray Pilot" they noted a cliff near Waikerie was named Cave Cliffs.

The party aimed to meet at the 60 kph sign at Waikerie. What we didn't know was that there was two routes into the town. Despite this the party finally rendezvoused and after a prerequisite breakfast for some members of the party, it was across the punt and on to the caves. We duly arrived and on introducing ourselves to the owner found out that we were on the wrong property. Can I be responsible for farmers who are ahead of the Dept of Lands mapping capability?

When we finally arrived at the correct property, the owner was not there, despite previous arrangement. I remained at the homestead to wait for the owner while Bill and George left to launch the boat and the rest made their way down to the river bank. The homestead is situated in a commanding but sheltered position on a bend in the river. It is in a freshly surveyed block so location of the caves was made relatively easy.

While Bill and Harold tried their hand at fishing the rest of the party surveyed the two caves.

Cave Cliffs Cave (5M20) is a single chamber 23 x 20 x 7m high. From the back of the cave the floor slopes down towards the entrance. A 2m diam x 2m high roof dome is at the back of the cave. The floor of the cave at the entrance is flat and sandy with several native tobacco trees.

Moy Cave (5M21) is so named because of a tin sign above the cave. The entrance is behind a talus pile about 6m above the river level. The entrance chamber 8m x 4m x 1m high leads to a low chamber 5m diam. on the east side where a low crawl leads to a terminal chamber 7m x 3m.

When we completed the cave surveys we travelled on to Overland corner to meet the crew who travelled back by boat. From there it was on to the Monash Playground. But wait - a car was missing - where was Ed? Peter Horne went back and finally found Ed on the road into Overland corner. His car was suffering from fuel vapour lock. Having regained the whole party we ventured on to the playground. Camp was set up at Overland Corner. We blindly followed Bill for what seemed an eternity when suddenly we came upon a sandy beach on a bend in the river. A magic campsite except for the fact that the whole Australian population of flying insects was also ensconced there. We tried our hands at fishing but the only thing caught was European carp.

On Sunday we travelled south and checked out a few reports by Colin McRae. These caves had been found by the Highways Dept. a few years ago but have since been filled in.

To wind up the day the party explored M17. This proved to be quite a grotty exercise sliding about in the claggy mud but everyone enjoyed it.

Kevin MOTT

KANGAROO ISLAND 1-6 April 1986

PARTY Jack HAYWOOD, Chris HALES

We arrived at 2 pm, and after setting up camp at Flinders Chase, decided to try once again to locate the New Year Caves, K33 & K34. After two hours we called it a day and went to Kelly Hill to visit Roger Collins. Roger volunteered to help us locate the four wheel drive track the next morning so we headed back to camp.

That evening whilst away having tea, a low eat anything kangaroo entered our tent and devoured our map of K11, Frosted Floor Cave. Another camper chased it out but couldn't get the half eaten envelope out of its mouth.

This incident destroyed our plan to continue that survey. The next morning we continued the hunt for K33, K34 with help from Roger, and eventually we stumbled across them. We spent an hour taking our own location marks before actually entering New Years Eve Cave to begin the survey.

K33 A 3.5 metre diameter hole tapers down to 0.5 x 0.7 and then bells out into a small chamber 9 metres deep. The chamber approx. 9m north/south x 3m east/west has good decoration and some animal skeletons which appear quite complete.

At the western end of this chamber a small tunnel leads off for approx. 12 metres to a rock collapse and flattener. A strong breeze was felt coming from here. Jack crawled through and took bearings/distances in this section which was too small for me to enter.

That evening we completed the survey, almost, except for just one small part that didn't seem right and that meant the next day Jack had to crawl through the tunnel again (what a joy it is to be big sometimes).

The following morning while Jack moaned and groaned I laid back and sketched the entrance chamber, keeping myself as busy as possible. When this was completed we moved onto Kelly Hill to begin looking for K32, which we hoped to locate and survey. Mr Mott had given us a small explanatory piece of paper dated Easter 1964 which told us where to begin and it also mentioned a hairy rockpile.

After much tramping through prickly bushes (Buggerbush) we found the depression and located K32 (although who could be sure). We took bearings on nearby land marks and then entered the cave.

The entrance is 0.5 x 0.3m and drops down into a collapse chamber with some rather unstable sections. There is a small amount of old decoration and some tree roots.

On Friday 4 April we made our way to K11, Frosted Floor Cave, to see how far previous trips had pushed it. After rigging a ladder, we entered using a survey from OP6 to find

our way about. We soon located the passage we were seeking and moved through the tunnel and chambers up to the area we had turned back from on the last trip. A strong breeze blew along this tunnel. We moved along up to a rock collapse that stopped us and then returned to a side passage that blew strongly and continued along there. This also had a rock collapse, but cavers had moved through and continued only to find their way blocked again.

We discussed whether to survey or not and decided in the negative because we were not sure where the last survey stopped. We left the cave cursing the friendly kangaroo that had ruined one of our main aims for making this trip...

That afternoon we walked through the scrub from behind the Kelly Hill office heading west toward the New Year's Caves. Eventually we came across a small depression with a blue tag 'KH19' on it. A short distance from this is another small hole with a breeze blowing out of it. Further west of this, another small cave was found. This had an echidna living in it. We walked out to the South Coast Road and back to Kelly Hill.

On Saturday morning we again went looking for features. That afternoon we visited Trog's Delight via Silt cave, K14, to take some photos. When this was accomplished we made our way back through to the tourist cave, (after a couple of short cuts that weren't).

This was our last day and after goodbyes and thank yous to the NPWS people we returned to get ready for our homeward trip.

Chris HALES

PUNYELROO CAVE April 1986

PARTY HAYWOOD, Steve BUNNEY, Chris HALES.

With the onset of bad weather we changed our plans from climbing to caving and so headed for Swan Reach to check out a couple of loose ends. We first went to the section on from Randalls Rock to look at a gap alongside the rockpile that we felt was a possibility. This did not go...

Jack had talked about dismantling a large rock at the end of another passage so we decided to give it a go. After three hours of gardening we had opened the hole enough to allow head and shoulders to be inserted for a look see. A gentle breeze was blowing in our faces and the passage appears to continue.

Time was against us, so we called it a day and will now have to make another trip to complete the breakthrough.

Chris HALES

SOME BAT CAVES IN NORTH-WESTERN QUEENSLAND

In the course of recent fieldwork north of Camooweal, Queensland, I was taken on 30 April to two small bat caves near Lawn Hill Gorge National Park, by bat expert Sue Hand (University of New South Wales). This area of Queensland north of Camooweal and south of Lawn Hill, is a vast dissected plateau of marine Cambrian limestone with patches of Tertiary freshwater limestone. Karst is well developed in some places, but caves are not obvious.

The two bat caves are in the valley of Louie Creek, and are off limits to tourists generally. The first that we visited (Louie Creek Cave) is the smaller one, little more than a deep rock shelter, and indeed it was used as such by the aborigines, as indicated by the sooty ceiling and a number of stencilled hand rock-paintings at the entrance. It is an archaeological site. Three species of bat were found here (*Taphozous georgianus*, *Myotis adversus*, and *Eptesicus pumilus*)

The other cave (Probe Cave or Hot Cave) is more respectable, though not large. Its entrance is a slot at the top of a rock fall (possibly 25m above the creek), which quite effectively blocks and hides the cave. Humidity just inside the entrance is extremely high, but decreases as you go further in, and becomes reasonably comfortable. The cave is essentially one large chamber - though possibly there is a lead off to a lower level back towards the entrance and to the right - with a dry dusty floor and a small amount of dead (or seasonal?) decoration. Bones are scattered around the walls and include those of *Macroderma* (the ghost bat) and snakes. Four species of bat occupied the cave when we visited: *Hipposideros ater*, *Taphozous georgianus*, *Eptesicus pumilus*, and another species not previously recorded from the area. The *Hipposideros* has the interesting habit of hanging by one foot and slowly rotating. I do not know the register numbers of these caves.

The important Riversleigh fossil locality to the south was the reason for my visit to Queensland. The fossils seem to have been deposited in pools in a widespread karst area of Cambrian limestone, and then been enveloped by contemporary Tertiary freshwater limestone. (The Gregory River today is so saturated with lime that its banks have been cemented, and small tufa dams have formed in several places.) Ancient tufa springs and flowstones can be seen at some of the fossil sites.

Despite the obvious karst, no modern caves are known in the plateau, although small swallow holes can be seen, and possibly also boulder-choked collapsed entrances. However, there is good evidence for at least one ancient late Tertiary cave. This cave, now at the top of a 50m cliff, had filled up with silt and bone, (including bat bones) which had become cemented, before the whole land surface thereabouts had been eroded away to leave only a patch of the younger sediment on the cliff top. This is now the subject of close investigation.

Neville PLEDGE

SECOND VALLEY / RAPID BAY COAST

I haven't spoken much about the area to the group since we decided to try and locate and survey the features there, but that does not mean that we have given up, forgotten or aborted what we want to do, (even though at times I wonder).

The problem is conditions, the sea can appear smooth and calm but quite often in this area small swells are working right on the shoreline. If you have ever been in a cave and heard a deafening roar and turned around to see a 1m wall of water heading your way, speedily occupying your tunnel you will understand my fear.

Twice in the last six months I have snorkelled fully kitted in diving gear with a friend for 45 minutes to reach a particular cave only to be beaten by the swells which have suddenly started. This is most frustrating and finding friends (enemies, victims, anyone) who is stupid enough to continually come and try to do some work under these conditions is even more frustrating. The other problem is lack of visibility but I've already rattled on enough so let's get back to the more important things.

In February this year Jack and I snorkelled from Second Valley checking on the various features, and after about 3 hours, convinced that we were only a 'stones throw' from Rapid Bay we headed back.

On May 4th a friend and I did the same exercise, this time from the Rapid Bay end. After a 30 minute walk and wade and a 45 minute snorkell we still had not reached the point Jack and I had got to coming from the Second Valley end. So our 'stones throw' was just a little bit out. (You should have used a smaller stone - Ed.)

It appears that to speed things up we will have to organise a boat to do the centre section of this coastline.

There are at least 15 features along the coast between Second Valley and Rapid Bay and possibly up to 20. Of these 5 are above water level and pose no great difficulty, the others, well...

I will try to give updates of our attempts to complete this project more frequently, and if anyone would like to help they would be most welcome.

Chris HALES

CEGSA - VSA DINNER

31 MAY 1986

CEGSA	31
VSA	6

On Saturday morning Peter Horne, Chris Hales and I left Adelaide for Mt. Gambier. There we met up with Peter Kraehenbuehl, Alan Jevons and Fred Aslin; then on to L19 for surveying with Andrew Cox and members of CDAA. Peter and Chris departed for further survey work in L179.

Over the last few years Lions have been cleaning up L19, providing a path into the wire mesh enclosure in the doline and planting shrubs around the perimeter of the doline to

hide it all. Now Life-Line is building a platform in the eastern end to enable tourists to see the lake. CDAA is preparing a map showing the underwater extensions for display when the cave is opened. CEGSA members have been invited to assist with the mapping. Anyone able to assist further should contact Andrew on (03) 62 2561.

Some of those at Naracoorte explored U132, if they could make it in the entrance, while others looked at U65.

Saturday night was the social event of the year despite the fact that some members attended wearing the same clothes they had on during the day (shame!!). After the excellent meal a semi moving type audio visual explaining the nature of cavers was presented by yours truly. It was semi moving because due to a technical oversight no screen was available. The overheads were projected onto a concertina door and the image to be continually shifted to enable everyone to see.

On Sunday one party visited U47 and another visited U8 for photography. Several of us had a quick look in U10-11 to see how the progress was going on the graffiti removal. After checking the area north of the U11 entrance we did a touristy through to U10. As we were going through the first chamber we commented how surprisingly clean this section was. Then it dawned - this section has been cleaned as well. An excellent job.

Kevin MOTT

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

OBITUARY

Captain J Maitland Thomson

Captain Thomson died on 9 April 1986 aged 83 years. He was one of the Foundation Members of CEGSA. Capt. Thomson first noted the Nullarbor caves marked on his marine charts and they intrigued him. He later started to systematically explore and record them; even learning to fly to facilitate this task.

Many cavers have been inspired by his enthusiasm and there is little doubt that our knowledge of Nullarbor caves would be considerably less without his efforts. His comprehensive photographic collection provides a benchmark to gauge changes to the caves. His contribution to speleology is a lasting memorial to this outstanding man. There are very few cavers with his dedication.

Our condolences are extended to his family.

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Volume 30 contained the following issues

- 30 (1) June 1985
- (2) September 1985
- (3) December 1985
- (4) April 1986

Key to abbreviations in this issue

D	Description	Pa	Palaeontological
E	Exploration	S	Surveying
M	Map	Sc	Scientific
P	Photography	To	Tourist

The index is divided into the following categories

Caving activity by region†
Technical and other articles

Caving activities are listed by Cave, reference, author and activity.

Technical and other articles list the title of the article, reference and the author.

CAVING ACTIVITIES

Adelaide Hills

Nil

Eyre Peninsula

E3	30(1) p10	M Meth / G Parker	E
E4	30(1) p9	M Meth / G Parker	E
E5	30(1) p9	M Meth / G Parker	E
U/N Sea Caves	30(1) p10	M Meth / G Parker	E
Wallaby Sam's Cave	30(1) p9	M Meth / G Parker	E

Flinders Ranges

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F2	30(3) p38	C Hales	E
F8	30(2) p20	C Hales	E, S
F11	30(2) p19	C Hales	E, P
	30(4) p51	P Horne	S
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F21	30(3) p38	C Hales	E, P
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	30(4) p51	P Horne	E
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	30(4) p51	P Horne	E

Kangaroo Island

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Lower South East

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L42	30(4) p49	P Horne	Pa
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L238	30(2) p23	P Horne	E
Hanging Rock Cave	30(2) p23	P Horne	E

Murray Plains

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	30(4) p50	P Horne	E, S

Nullarbor Plain

6N83	30(3)		M
	30(4) p46	G Pilkington	D, E, S

Upper South East

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U4	30(1) p9	C Thompson	To
U9	30(1) p9	C Thompson	E
U22	30(1) p9	C Thompson	E
	30(4) p53	T Colhoun	P
U40	30(2) p25	K Mott	E
U42	30(1) p9	C Thompson	E
U43	30(2) p25	K Mott	E
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U64	30(2) p24	K Mott	E, S, P
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U116	30(1) p9	C Thompson	E
U117	30(4) p52	T Colhoun	E
U132	30(4) p50	P Horne	E
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U134	30(2) p26	K Mott	S
U135	30(2) p24	K Mott	E, P
U136	30(2) p25	K Mott	S
U137	30(2) p26	K Mott	S, P
U138	30(2) p26	K Mott	S, P
U139	30(2) p26	K Mott	S, P
U140	30(2) p26	K Mott	S, P
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U142	30(2) p26	K Mott	S, P
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U/N(Kingston)	30(2) p25	K Mott	E

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	30(1) p5	G Pilkington	Pa
	30(1) p5	G Pilkington	S
	30(1) p6	N Pledge	Pa

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	30(2) p18	C Hales	E
	30(2) p20	G Pilkington	E, S
	30(2) p21	G Pilkington	E, Pa, S
	30(3) p35	G Pilkington	S
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	30(4) p53	P Kraehenbuehl	P, E
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Y18	30(2) p26	C Hales	E
	30(4) p51	P Horne	S, E
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	30(2) p18	C Hales	S
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Y22	30(1) p7	C Hales/K Mott	D, E
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15 Longest Caves - Nullarbor	30(4) p56	

LIBRARY REPORT

As you know I now have the library stored at home and it is not possible to bring all the books in to each meeting, so if you require any books to be brought in to the meeting please let me know. You may phone me at home on 791013. Some of the books are missing so once again I ask you to have a look in your home for them, thank you.

Bill PARKER

PROGRAMME

JULY

5 - 6

9	Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	43 George St. Hawthorn
12 - 13	Mt. Gambier	John Ellis

19 - 20

23 General Meeting **7:30 pm**

26 -27

AUGUST

3	Training – Morialta	Peter Kraehenbuehl
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9 - 10

13	Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	43 George St. Hawthorn
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16 - 17	Naracoorte	Kevin Mott
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23 – 24	Penola	Kevin Mott
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27 General Meeting **7:30 pm**

SEPTEMBER

6 - 7	Flinders Ranges	Stan Flavel
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10	Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	43 George St. Hawthorn
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13 - 14

20 - 21

24 General Meeting **7:30 pm**

27 – 28 Flinders Ranges

OCTOBER

4 - 16	Nullarbor – 6N83	Graham Pilkington
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Contact See Office Bearers
M.Readon 333 2472

Please inform the Social Secretary of

- any trips you are planning
- any type of trip you would like to see run
- any cave or area you would particularly like to visit

Remember - we can only satisfy your desires if we know what they are.