

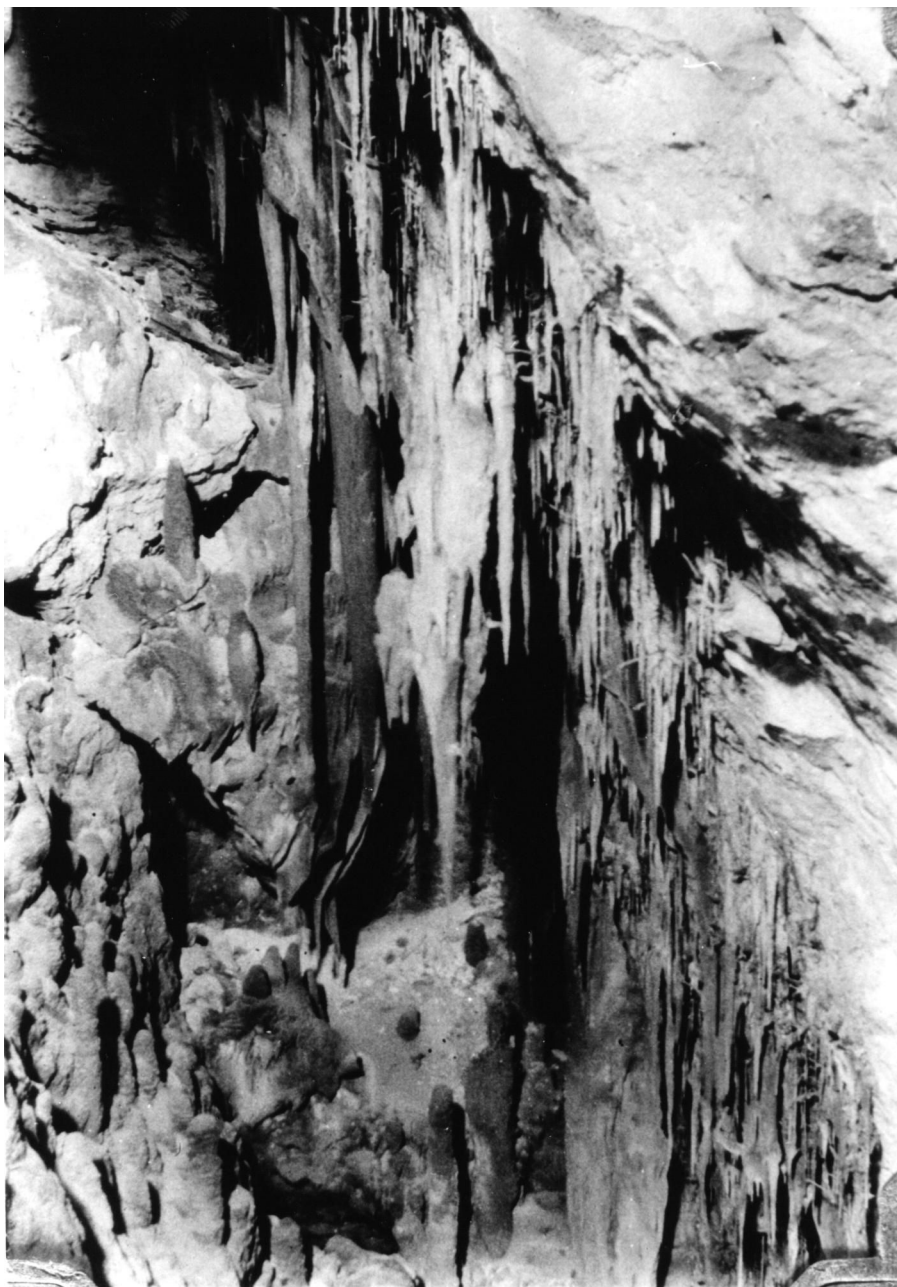
CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P O Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

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N E W S L E T T E R



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.45 p.m. in the
Royal Society S A meeting room at the Museum

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COVER Decoration in Graveyard Cave (now known as Ivy Cave) 5N13
Photo by H.G.Watson (approx 1934)

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 32 No 3 is Wednesday 28 October 1987

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EDITORIAL

G'day! my name's Fred Noell from HEROS and I'm taking a group into Supa Doopa Cave to take some photos. Huh! what do you mean who am I and what is HEROS? I thought everyone had heard of the Highly Experienced and Responsible Organisation of Speleologists and I am a full member of it. But we have always been allowed in. Membership card? er.. well.. I must have left it back in Adelaide. Oh come on! you can't mean no card - no access. What am I supposed to do now?

This sort of scenario has and still does happen. Rangers in charge of caving reserves do not retain their positions in perpetuity and can not be expected to remember all present and past members of caving societies together with their experience.

With management plans being formulated, and hopefully, being formalised for caving reserves, mechanisms for cave classification have been initiated. What has not been addressed is the issue of caver classification. Just as cave classification needs a committee to assess new caves and reassess existing caves in the light of new information so does the classification of cavers. You can not have one without the other.

The responsibility of making on the spot decisions should not be left to the ranger in charge. There are too many variables to consider. They have other duties related to the running of reserves more worthy of their expertise. It also removes the cloud of uncertainty from those wanting to undertake speleological activity. Trips may be planned more efficiently as one set of rules applies to all throughout the State.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

Glenroy under the Nullarbor, again (reprinted with permission)

On the eve of Easter Thursday, amidst an infinite column of vehicles heading North for holidays were three cars, into which were crammed eleven Venturers, four Rovers, and one parent, all members of the Glenroy Scout Group. In high spirits these bold "young" adventurers headed out for an exciting eight days of caving on the Nullarbor. We knew that we were leaving civilization by the steady increase in the price of petrol, which in Mundrabilla was 78.5 cents/litre.

The first night we slept under the stars at Kimba, but the following night we slept under canvas in the Nullarbor National Park, near New Cave, which we abseiled into that night. Each morning we were heartlessly awoken at 6.00 am by a hyperactive leader.

The days were spent driving and exploring a large number of caves; these included, Old Homestead, Witches, Thampanna, Ivy, and Knowles.

The highlight of the trip was a 120ft abseil into Warbla Cave, on which our "fearless" leader, Michael Woodward, presented Steven Crowhurst with his Queen Scout Award.

The absence of water to wash in was made up in full by a vigorous swim in a freezing lake in Weebubbie Cave. The food was good, but we still had to resort to eating a scrawny rabbit, which was ritually sacrificed on Easter Sunday.

We found ourselves lost twice, due to no fault of the navigators, who still hold to their story that the map was wrong. Overall we travelled 3144 km, explored ten different caves, and went to another five, all for only 63 dollars per head. This joint Venturer/Rover activity proved to be very enjoyable and exciting; as a result I would recommend this kind of expedition to all other units

CAVES VISITED

- N1 Warbla - 120 ft abseil.
- N2 Weebubbie - huge lake.
- N3 Abrakurrie - giant chamber.
- N7 Murrawijinie - roadside visit.
- N8 Murrawijinie number 2 - roadside visit and handprints.
- N9 Murrawijinie number 3 - roadside visit.
- N11 New Cave - pretty chamber.
- N13 Ivy Cave (also known as Graveyard cave).
- N20 Catacombs - grovel with decoration.
- N22 Knowles - aboriginal handprints.
- N83 Old Homestead Cave - long confusing cave.
- N183 Witches Cave - confusion with decoration.
- N206 Thampanna - great abseil with crawls, decoration & water.

Scott Polmear
Glenroy Venturer Unit

NARACOOORTE

16 -18 May, 1987

Party: Chris HALES, Kevin MOTT and Gary GROTH-MANAT

Caves visited: L5, L21, U10, U12, U14, U37, U58 & U72

The trip down was quite uneventful except for the minor episode of the car overheating just before Coonalpyn enabling me to coerce the dreaded Mott to wade into a roadside swamp to collect billies of water for the radiator.

Kevin had arranged for us to liaison with a group from Maranatha camp on Saturday morning and so after introductions the group was divided into two. Kevin would teach ladder and abseil skills to one group and then visit a cave afterward. This group comprised of Karen, Malcolm, Robert, Jason, Matthew, Tanya, Rose and Gary. I was to visit Monbulla and Wrecked Car Cave with the other group and we were to practice map reading and compass work; we were joined by 3 visitors from the VSA. Our group consisted of Brent, Ray, David, Donella, Ian, Don, Damon, Matthias and the 3 visitors.

At the Wrecked Car Cave everyone took a turn at reading the compass and the appropriate paper work (survey data), whilst the others followed their directions and searched for the survey points ahead. We made our way through the western traverse while the group from VSA came along the eastern. When we reached the other end we had lunch, and during this I mentioned that a connection between Wrecked Car and Monbulla had not been made for a long time. We considered that it may now have been blocked and not passable at all.

The group were enthused at this and after lunch we returned to the depression by the drain and the next hole up the hill. While some of us crawled through to try and make contact the others removed rocks from the uphill hole. Almost immediately we made a connection and they slid down to join us. This made a group of 9 and it was quite easy to search several areas at once. After several false leads Don and Matthias left the cave and walked to the next entrance uphill and within minutes we had made a connection with them again.

David and Ray had found a possibility through the flattener of connecting with the largest Monbulla entrance and were keen to try. The rest of us went around to this entrance. We gave them an hour to try and reach us. We called out at various places without success and then decided to crawl down the only lead that I knew of. Within just a few minutes we saw their lights, and so the whole system was proved to connect still.

That evening we attended the CEGSA/VSA dinner and apart from completely confusing the hotel staff about how many seats we required it was rather a quiet, but pleasant evening.

Later that evening a dreaded Wonganui was heard in the bracken and caused quite an upset around the campsites. (*I thought it was confined to K.I. Ed*)

The next morning our group moved out to Brown Snake Cave while the other group visited Cathedral Cave. I wasn't too happy about negotiating the Brown Snake tube, especially when my hips touched both sides, but with some persuasion they conned me in. We looked at many of the larger sections before stopping for a break. After lunch we were shown a small passage that was supposed to lead to bigger and better things by David, Don and Brent but in fact it looped back to the entrance chamber through a nasty, rocky squeeze.

Now three candidates Ray, Damon and Matthias were tricked into entering this passage to see these marvellous chambers. While they laboured on stomachs and knees we sat quietly at the point where the passage rejoins the entrance chamber and waited. It was during this wait that someone (who will remain unknown) suggested that a note be placed at the end of the passage so that we could hear their response to being tricked. It was decided to write on the note 'beware of wombats' and so the fun began.

Quote -- "There's a paper in front with something written on it" "What's it say?" ... 'Beware of wombats', giggle, giggle. At this point I started making grunting noises and after about 10 attempts they finally heard me. "Did you hear that?" ... absolute silence, then they relaxed. "There it is again, did you hear it that time?" "Yeh, someone's joking" The third person spoke .. "Was it a grunting noise?" -- "Yes" The third person -- "Well it might be a wombat - it said wombats not wombat". "Maybe it's a possum". At this point (unknown to us) one of our victims retreated. "Grunt, grunt, grunt" - - - "I seen some droppings, I don't know about this, perhaps we should go back" - - "Yeh lets go" The lights disappeared as they turned about and began to retreat. David was sent in to prevent them going all the way back through, but even this didn't help. David said "come through this way and see this enormous chamber". "But there's a wombat in there". "It won't hurt you, come on" David said. "I don't know, are you sure; where is it?" Eventually they emerged to be greeted by large grins. What of the one that retreated? Well he had heard the tail end of the conversation and tried to justify his actions, but eventually admitted the idea of sharing a tunnel with a wombat wasn't his idea of caving. Mind you it's not exactly mine either.

Everything was taken in good spirit and I am sure it will remain in all our memories as one of the highlights of this Naracoorte trip.

That evening a bed mysteriously shortened in length and the Wonganui was heard again. Monday 18th - We visited Sand Funnel Cave and while most went off exploring. Jo Bauer showed Kevin, Don, Ray and I where the water seems to be disappearing through the silt.

The other group visited a Tourist Cave.

Chris HALES

NULLARBOR

16 April to 3 May, 1987

The rest of the report started last issue (Vol 32 #1) covering
Friday 24th April to Sunday 3rd May

Please note the correction to first half of this report as in Letter-to-Editor: apologies to Dave Warren & especially Noel Plumley for our name-swapping. It just goes to show that we should either do more joint CEGSA / WASG trips to get to know each other better; or none at all. Either way we wouldn't get the names wrong!

Still at Old Homestead Cave: Fri 24th

While the rest of the RAAF party were busy packing to leave, we had Brian slaving over our defunct RDF receiver. He declared it kaput. Fortunately, Ken had his geophone amplifier from which Brian constructed another receiver. The RAAF party left us with most of their perishables and two tables for permanent residence. One of the tables is ideal for map-work.

With the RDF back in operation we tried the South cave again. Max, Ken & Brad took the underground duties and set up on RDF-S, SA & SB. At RDF-SB they did about 30m of survey and tried to find a way on. No easy path was evident. The surface work was done by Gary with help from Graham. S & SA were easily located but SB was erratic and after three "RDF-SB's" were positioned in a 10m sided triangle we gave up with a "best choice". The temporary receiver was not frequency-tuned and it was very difficult to detect the signal from the high noise level.

Mac & Geoff arrived with fresh supplies to add to the mound we had just inherited. They had driven from Adelaide without stopping for anything but petrol. Better see our previous half-report for what we think of that. Or below for that matter!

Sat 25th

This was the day we tackled the **Potholes**. Graham, Tom, Mary & Mac took the southern limb to continue from the end of the Wednesday trip. Mac was tired after his non-stop drive out to N83 the day before so he left us before we could unpack our survey gear. He was supposed to go back to his tent for a rest-up; tomorrow there would be no stopping him! However, the cave claimed its' third victim of the trip and twisted Mac's ankle. He did not get to see any more of **OHC** this trip. After a slow start while we got to know how to survey as a team, we raced ahead covering a total of 270m. Not that it was all easy-going. Tom was on point and losing all enthusiasm as the initial walking tunnel had become a dig-your-own-cave grovel when Mary suggested we tackle an even smaller side tunnel instead of the "main drag". After getting a reluctant Tom started it was all we could do to keep a tape in his hand to slow him down. The detour was an 8m link into more walking tunnel. It was a pity to spoil Tom's glee by telling him I had already been there from another direction and done a line-traverse along it. This just made him even more eager to continue our survey and continue it well past my turn-around point. We did not get very much further as the cave sealed off in dirt-piles. The faint breeze had died - it being around dusk - so the survey was halted.

Max, Ken & Gary tackled the northern **Potholes** area via the lower level entrances. Max left the higher Pothole levels for another time, even if they were our original way into the area. His team managed 140m through the low twisty tunnels. They completed the water course to the **Pot** (a chamber without a hole) and along the way discovered a passage paralleling the main north-bound tunnel, but smaller. These passages were not explored to their limit as time ran out.

Rudy Frank had arrived during the underground escapades. It was assumed that he would remain faithful to the ethics of the Armchair Caving fraternity. We were shocked to discover that on his second trip out to **Old Homestead** he was contemplating entering the cave.

Sun 26th

Up at daybreak for a push out to the North end of the cave. Graham, Max, Gary, Brad, Ken, Nick, Mike, John, Rudy and Geoff were ready to go by 8am. Ken carried his camera gear for 2000m leaving it just past RDF-NH. We moved the temperature recorder to the same place. The trip was quite uncomfortable due to an almost total lack of breeze. This prevented the normal cooling process in the humid cave from taking effect. The result was not just uncomfortable but dangerous as overheating and the stuffy atmosphere for ten cavers leads to stumbling and stupor. We were lucky that the cave could not make up its mind and occasionally gave a gentle breath in or out. In these conditions we did not take adequate water. We should have delayed the trip to another day anyway as exploration in a cave like **Old Homestead** is very difficult without a guide. On arriving at the end of the line traverse, at about the 3km mark, we

stopped for a rest and then took half an hour to decide how to do a full survey from there with the ten people we had. I think the stupor was prevalent!

It was ?decided? that two survey teams of 3 or 4 each would operate with the others carrying the bags. For the first couple of legs only one team was needed, then a large chamber was reached (the end point of the lead member of the last trip). The teams then parted company as one went on and down while the other dropped off the side into what first appeared to be a large passage junction but turned out to be just an alcove that went around the upper chamber at a lower level and connected up with the other survey team's path. One team continued to the next small chamber and surveyed that while the other team ducked under a side ledge and surveyed on. By this time the survey teams were 3 each and the 4 sherpers were pathfinders. A route was found via an awkward small rift into a set of four chambers. The first was named **Strata Title** and formed a temporary base-camp for all the party. The sherpers having explored up-ahead and not locating any way on decided to sit it out while the survey team (yes, down to one) did its job. Lethargy was really setting in as the cave had become stagnant. Mapping of the first two chambers was completed and the third half finished when Nick reported in saying he must have taken a wrong turn as the exploration team had not located the chamber we were mapping! He helped complete the map of the **Not-Here-Chamber** then led us for a quick look at the remaining two chambers. A total of 210m was mapped; this pushed the cave 100m further north. Nick had come for a second look to find what must have been missed - the way on. The furthest chamber was about 10m diameter and showed signs of having been a pond up to 1m deep. The whole chamber was coated in snow-white calcite protrusions/encrustations up to 10cm long. The long slog out in the still air was hardly rememberable. Exciting things like travelling down a tunnel that was supposed to be the way we came in and running out of trog marks kind of upset things for a while. It seems there are many more tunnels to explore! We only had to backtrack a short distance. It was about 11:30pm when we exited - a 15+hour trip.

Max and Graham suffered more than the rest of the party on the way out. Tiredness, stumbling and dizziness were the main symptoms. The others took most of the load from our packs and the supply of Oranges from Ken was a life-saver. The probable cause of our difficulties was lack of salt. We had been out on the Nullarbor the longest (with Gary) and had been the most active over that time. Our diet had consisted almost exclusively of fresh food and neither of us add salt to our food. A dose of salt that night cured both of us.

Mac went to Forrest to see what a railway looked like, it might have changed. While there he talked to the residents and organized caving hospitality if we should need it. Anyone for a hot shower and a roof over your head? Pity it's so far from the cave. If they can re-route the Highway so that the tourists get a view of the Bight they should be able to move a couple of iron rails south a bit so that the more important members of the community can catch a train to the best cave in Australia.

Tom & Mary left for Melbourne. They said they could not come to the Far North with us because they had to pack and leave, so they said. It took them all day to pack what they unloaded in a few minutes. Maybe they spilt a packet of sugar in their tent and wanted to pick it all up?

Mon 27th

After the long day of yesterday we (that is I) was too tired for a trip today so everyone agreed to go for a surface walk along the path we took. At least some of us walked. Mac and co. drove out. Their excuse was Mac's foot.

The cave after RDF-NH appeared to exist under a strip of land with a distinctive vegetation and topography. The cover was low grassland on a gentle slope between bluebush on the rocky elevated side and the plants adapted to a salty claypan. The endpoint of our push was close to where a rocky rise "blocked" the way on. The grassland went SE along the edge of the claypan and another grassy strip ran NW through a saddle in the bluebush country.

Graham and Ken returned to camp with the news that a new blowhole had been found, about 900m from camp. There are now 20 or so blowholes known within 3km of Old Homestead cave and this is creating a mini dilemma for our records system. Should they all be numbered separately or referred to as features on the plan of Old Homestead cave, e.g. "OH blowhole 16". There isn't any other similar sized area with so many numberable features.

Returning with digging gear Graham and Ken spent a couple of hours opening the entrance which was originally only rabbit burrow in size. This gave access to a 4m deep hole with the breeze issuing from the bottom. It was not possible in the available time to dig into the passage that could be seen.

Tues 28th

The surface locations of the new RDF stations were measured by tape and magnetic compass.

Max, Gary & Nick mapped the 40m **Smitten Mitten** off **Apple Crumble**. Max's jemmy was recovered from its 6 month rest in the cave. The temperature recorder from RDF-S was brought out.

Ken went to the **Twilight Zone** (RDF-NB) to photograph until collected by Graham for the survey from RDF-NA. John and Rudy completed the team. A total of 480m of cave was mapped including 240m of new side tunnel. While investigating one of the numerous indents, alcoves and such, Ken created the now famous saying "3m and doesn't go". This was to become the catch-phrase that meant Graham was needed to remove the constriction. The first event led to a 30m long tunnel that reconnected to the main run. The survey stopped 50m short of NB at the entrance to the **Oesophagus Tube**.

Late that day the seismic recorder was retrieved from the south cave.

Wed 29th

Graham and Ken did a 2 hour survey in the **Potholes** that managed a whopping 35m (58 hours per km) and checked out the tunnel along the "main drag" that was abandoned on Saturday for easier going. It seems to terminate in dirt-piles after about 50m but connected to the "walkway" in several more places.

The ladder in the North cave was de-rigged then gear and water stored for next trip. We all packed & travelled to **Thampanna Cave**.

On the way Max, Gary and Graham visited the **N137** doline and found 2 possible ways to make it a cave. The doline is 45m across with a 4m high cliff on 3 sides. Surface water washes into the doline and sinks in a spot where a strong breeze is evident. Elsewhere a weaker breeze was noticed in a sandy flattener.

We were last to arrive at the Thampanna campsite and the best sites were all taken. The smoothest area we could find was on the track - lucky no traffic passed by while we were there!

Thur 30th

It was a late start, enthusiasm was low after the discovery trips at Old Homestead. It took ages just to rig the 11m pitch. While Max decided to have the morning off the rest of us went down the Thampanna **Drain**. Mac & Geoff went off exploring. Nick, John & Mike explored for the survey team. Graham, Ken, Gary & Rudy continued the survey from the end of the **Drain** towards the known end of the cave.

At a "3m and doesn't go" passage, Nick, John, Mike & Gary went off to visit the **Tube** and **Second Collapse Series**. Max joined up with the survey team and followed Graham to find out why he had been quiet for so long after disturbing the sleep of those waiting to continue the survey. I had just returned as Max arrived and helped him make access more acceptable to 3m and doesn't go's. The reason for the return was not because an end had been reached, not even because the roof was almost low enough to have to stoop, nor because of some quirk that needed others to share in the romp-in-new-pastures. It was because I got scared of my own footprints. Yes, after minding my own business travelling in what I thought was a straight line away from the entry point, I came across these boot prints that matched my own. Shock and horror. How could I be so miss-orientated? I reversed and made a strategic withdrawal while I could still remember something of my travels. Hence my meeting up with Max.

The others joined us and the survey was continued into the new large tunnels. Then the problems really started. I asked for a ray over to the other wall of the tunnel. "It drops down a bit before coming to wall". Oh well, set up a survey point and take a ray down to the bottom. 50m and 6 stations later we finally reached a wall. What's more we were now in LARGE cave with a streamway. When a lull in the survey occurred, I skipped off "upstream". Not again! More boot prints. Now I knew they were not mine, I wasn't due for retirement after all. A short time later, Mac and Geoff met us raving about large well-decorated tunnels going for a km or so.

It kind of brought surveying to a halt as "it's getting late - we might as well pack up and just have a quick look". It took us 2 hours. What a cave, at last Thampanna had been converted from a dream into reality. The entrance breeze had said it all but proving it had taken us 7 years. About 1.5 km was discovered this day. The cave ended (temporarily I'd wager) at the **Crystal Dome**. Much better than Mullamullang, this cave is better decorated than anything Naracoorte has to offer. We retired from the cave exhausted but happy. The cave is now about 2.5km long, 4th longest on the Nullarbor.

Gary had left the cave with the others then searched the surface for more caves. He found **Hurricane Cracks** about 2km to the E.

Fri 1st May

The previous day had made further trips for tired cavers a bit of an anticlimax as we all had to leave for home. Mac convinced himself to come out to **Thampanna** in a couple of months time with Gary and de-rigged the cave instead of exploring further.

Ken, Nick, Mike & John went to see other caves and camp at **Weebubbie Cave** for the night on their way back to Melbourne. Rudy took Brad to Eucla to catch a bus to Kalgoorlie then intended to join up with Ken.

Max, Gary & Graham dug at **Hurricane Cracks** to no avail except to show that the dig would have promise if we had a stick of explosive on hand. Graham took time off to examine the approximate surface position of the new extension.

Gary, Max, Graham, Mac & Geoff (all of our remaining party) went to **Kelly Cave**. We explored it casually and Max & Graham found an extensive multi-level section with a breeze that had only been partly visited once before by an unknown person. Camped at **Abrakurrie Cave** that night.

Sat 2nd

A quick tour of **Abrakurrie** & Max's dig. Another dig was located downslope from Max's dig and is probably connected to the same cave, once we get in.

We visited **Kutowalla Doline** where a breathing cave was located. At **Winbirra Cave** we just looked down from the top. Next was an exploration of the cliff top between Wilson's Bluff and the start of the Merdayerrah Sandpatch. Many blowholes were re-visited and new ones found. Another trip will be needed to fully document and hence number these features.

Gary, Max & Graham slept at Ceduna in comfort. Gary was home!

Sun 3rd

Back to Adelaide

Highlights of trip

Old Homestead Cave

Despite making some discoveries in the South cave, the location of Monte's **Spring Series** is still unknown to us. Not that we had time to really look. We mapped 2230m of which 1000m were newly discovered, and a further 200m discovered but not mapped. So much for our objective of only surveying previously found cave! Without the **Spring Series**, N83 is now about 9km long.

Thampanna Cave

100m surveyed at **Drain's** end. About 1.5 km of well-decorated cave found and open walking-tunnel leads were left. Total cave length now about 2.5km.

Kelly Cave

Breeze location found in little-known decorated multi-level alcove.

Kutowalla Doline

Great potential for another major cave.

Graham PILKINGTON
with additions by *Max METH*

NULLARBOR PLAIN

16-30 June, 1987

PARTY: Greg BULLING and Peter GIRDLER

CAVES VISITED: N1, N2, N47, N48, N49, N56

The main purpose of this 2 week trip to the Nullarbor was to explore and photograph the main water filled caves of the region. In all, six caves were visited with diving being undertaken in five of those.

After a quiet trip across from Adelaide our well laden vehicle and trailer reached **Warbla Cave** (N1). It certainly is an impressive sight, with the sheer sided doline approx. 40m in diameter dropping away to reveal a huge tunnel leading into the darkness. The tedious job of lowering all of our gear down the 43m to the tunnel entrance was accomplished using the vehicle, strong rope, VHF handheld radios and a lot of patience! Both the dry and underwater sections of the cave were spectacular and we spent two days diving and photographing before we moved on.

Weebubbie Cave (N2) was the next visited; previous experience there made setting up much easier, but just as tedious. The main lake, 150m long, provides a challenging photographic stage. Lighting in such a huge area is always a problem, with time exposures being the order of the day. The underwater sections of the cave are equally impressive as the dry sections, with the Wilson Bluff limestone providing a spectacular backdrop for the crystal clear water and powerful underwater lights. As had been the case in Warbla Cave it was difficult to drag yourself away from the place and continue on.

After leaving Weebubbie Cave we hit the road and headed west into the approaching foul weather. On arrival at **Tommy Grahams Cave** (N56) the clouds were ready to burst so we decided to get our gear down before the onslaught. After scouting around looking for the small entrance we decided we had found the correct hole, and brought down some Scuba cylinders to take in (we avoided going into the caves empty handed if possible). After pushing the tanks into the hole we soon found we had found the wrong hole - it went no-where. Embarrassed but not deterred we soon had the correct entrance located. The slow and laborious task of getting the gear down to the lake seemed even worse in the extreme humidity of this particular cave.

Soon the rain started with the camp looking rather wet and miserable as a result, so we decided to dive that night rather than sit around in the rain. Once again the underwater section of the cave was spectacular as was the magnificent dry "Inner Sanctum" located at the end of the 1st sump.

After some guess work with the map **Pannikin Plain Cave** (N49) was located after leaving Tommy Graham's. The unstable rocks, our lack of enthusiasm for dragging gear through squeezes, and time meant we baulked the prospect of diving the cave and explored the dry sections only.

It was during our stay at **Murra-El-Elevyn** (N47), the next cave visited, that Murphy (as in Law) first raised his ugly head. After stopping for lunch around the fire we went back to lowering the last of our gear. I was in the cave at the lowering point when Peter informed me over the radio that his coat was missing. On closer inspection of the campsite he found its charred remains in the fire. It had blown in off his chair. "Lucky your wallet wasn't in the pocket" I told him over the radio, trying to cheer him up.

Silence, more silence"itWAS" The fire had not only claimed his coat but \$170 and some family photos.

We had been on the road then for close to 10 days, so we decided a shower at Cocklebiddy Road House would be a treat. After stripping off and waiting 5 mins for hot water we realized we had none. The management assured us it would be restarted in 20 minutes and bribed us with a few tinnies. The sight of two filthy cavers and a truck driver all in a semi-naked state, drinking tinnies in the shower room must have made a strange sight!

The last cave we visited was **Cocklebiddy Cave** (N48). We dived to the first air chamber, a distance of 1,000m. It didn't take long to realize the enormous effort which must have been required for previous record breaking trips.

The long drive home was soon undertaken, everything was going well until 10 kms out from Mundrabilla the car conked out. The distributor rotor button was found to be the problem and was replaced. Five minutes down the road from our first stop we came to a halt once more. On inspection, horror of horrors, the spare rotor button was now also broken. In fact the whole distributor had had it. It was 3.30 p.m. on Friday, things didn't look good.

We flagged down the first car intending for Peter to get a lift to Mundrabilla and make some phone calls. The driver of the car (Brendan) was most obliging and said he'd take us in to Mundrabilla. When we got there we found the phone out of order, (Murphy again) but after some negotiations a call was made to Adelaide where we were told there were no 1976 Volvo distributors in stock (groan!).

In conversation our helpful driver Brendan told us he had passed an empty truck heading east some time previously. After waiting around for some time the truck soon came along and agreed to put car and trailer on the back, our luck was changing. In fact as luck would have it a Highways Camp nearby had a truck loading bay (the only one around for miles!). With the help of some locals we pushed and pulled the stricken car and trailer up onto the truck.

Our good Samaritan Brendan then offered to take one of us through the night with him to give the truckie more room in his cab. We drove all night and arrived in Pt. Augusta at 4.00 a.m. We snuck down to the Railway yards, found a ramp and Brendan towed us off and around to a garage. The truckie had in fact gone out of his way and headed back to Whyalla to pick up his load by 6.00 a.m. Luckily, I had friends in Pt. Augusta so we caught up on some sleep while a second hand distributor was sent up.

As we slept the mechanic in the garage had received the distributor from Adelaide and soon found it was the wrong one! Frantic phone calls seemed to have the situation under control but we decided it might be better for one of us to travel back to Adelaide in case it needed sorting out. I arrived in Adelaide at 6.00 a.m. the next morning a walking zombie. Luckily, Peter was home WITH the car and trailer 2 days later.

Overall, the trip was very enjoyable, although hard work, the potential for detailed underwater survey work is unlimited in the caves of this region, with logistics being the major hurdle.

Greg BULLING

WAIKERIE

18 July, 1987

Party: Kevin MOTT, Mark & Karin SEFTON, Peter (Krunchy) KRAEHENBUEHL, Terina MANLEY, Lance HOEY, Fern RAINTREE, John and Martin MEIKLE and Simon.

Caves visited: M1, M18, M23, M24

On a previous trip to the area a decision to meet at the 60kph sign caused some confusion so it was agreed to meet at the ferry; there being only one of these at Waikerie. Our party, yours truly, Mark, Karin and Lance were late. I remembered Lance's street but not the number (thank goodness for the gear out front) and, strange as it may seem, we were accosted by the White St bakery and compelled to purchase their wares. The others were disgusted by our punctuality especially as they visited the Peake Tce bakery and received inferior products. To exacerbate the situation Krunchy placed his pie underneath his handbrake lever and stuck his hand through the said pie when disengaging the handbrake.

Enough of the trivia for now. The object of the trip was to investigate caves reported in a Dept. Environment and Planning publication on heritage items of the Murray River. We arrived at the site and proceeded to locate and explore the caves. A scramble down the slimy and crumbly cliff brought us down to the bank of the lagoon adjacent to the first of the caves (M24). This is a large rock shelter type of cave 15m wide, 10m deep and 2.5m high.

The second cave (M23) was located about 30m further along the bank. This cave is 4m above the water level and is a solution tunnel extending back for 8m. The limestone containing the cave appears to be more consolidated than that in the upper levels of the cliff. The entrance is 2m high x 5m wide. Some smaller passages off the eastern side add about 5m to the cave's length. Many names, some going back to the 1840's, adorn the walls.

Excursions along the lagoon by foot and dinghy (provided by the owner) failed to locate further caves. Several small cavities lie between the two caves. Martin and Simon caught a perch by dabbing a net found in the dinghy into the water. (*beginners luck Ed*)

The caves were surveyed and located relative to cadastral boundaries. Waikerie was decided upon as the lunch spot so those unfortunate enough to have missed out on the REAL bakery could sample its' wares. This was not to be as it was closed by the time we got there.

M18 was the next port of call. Due to the lower level of the Murray we were able to traverse along the base of the cliffs this time to reach the cave. Having been there before I merely pointed the way on then retreated to the relative warmth of the car. When the party returned I was sure they had not seen all the cave as they were not completely muddy. They claim enough was seen to be impressed.

At this juncture Krunchy left us as he had something else on at Roonka. The rest of us headed for Punyelroo Cave. Due to time constraints only a quick tourist trip to Randell's Rock plus a few side passages was made. A few of those still keen did a quick sortie along the continuation of the entrance passage. On the way out two

echidnas were found about 70m into the cave. They were both following the walls into the cave.

Our return home was delayed because everyone thought I had gone bush to heed the call of nature so were patiently awaiting my return. Actually I went to open the gate and was wondering why they were not coming. We finally resolved the stalemate by communication.

Kevin MOTT

Postscript - A reference to M23 and M24 was subsequently found in CEGSA Newsletter, Nov/Feb 1971. At that time no further action was taken to record these caves.

KANGAROO ISLAND

23 -31 August, 1987

PARTY: Chris (Bubonic) HALES, Jack HAYWOOD, Lance HOEY, Jo BAUER, Robin KESBY, Kevin MOTT, Garth and Ida JACKSON.

CAVES VISITED: K1, 6, 14, 59, KH1, 7, 8, 14, 25, 26,30.

The aim of this trip was to complete several surface traverses so we could co-ordinate the new caves west of the ticket office.

Chris was due to pick me up on the corner of Henley Beach Road and Tapleys Hill Road as he low flew to Cape Jervis. While waiting for him to land I was amazed to see how many customers of Hungry Jacks stared at me as I sat in a chair in the carpark.

The trip over on the "Flounderer" was quite smooth and uneventful. At Kelly Hill we dropped Jo and Robin off at Kelly Lodge as they were staying with Diana Pappenfus, the Ranger, then proceeded to join Garth and Ida who had a fire and coffee ready for us.

Saturday morning our party set off with the Ranger to locate a large cave near K52 that Garth had located earlier. On the way we had to detour around the influx which was taking in water, albeit slower than the previous weeks. We relocated Garth's cave and it appears to be K10, although adjacent features nearby need to be checked to confirm it. From the entrance a crawl down through a rockpile leads to chamber 70m x 15m x 2.0m high. KH8 and KH14 were both explored and have lengths of 8 and 20m respectively.

From here a push was made through the scrub to the south towards the Hanson Bay trail. On the way a doline (KH25) 10m diam x 1.5m deep was located. An attempt was made to locate KH30 which was found by Garth about two weeks earlier. In doing this, Garth and I ended up east of K51 which meant we were too far east of where we should have been. Steps were taken to correct this deficiency as we search the bush for the elusive cave. All we succeeded in doing was finding another grotty little cave (KH26). We decided to survey our way back to the Hanson Bay trail, despite Garth continually trying to veer to the right. After having traversed what I estimated to be about 3 times the length we should have we found (wait for it) KH25 again. Damned laterite must have played havoc with my compass. A later plot revealed we started only 40m from KH14 and at a cave Chris had seen on an earlier trip. Having given up in

disgust we headed back to the Hanson Bay trail, but on a slightly more westerly route. There it was right in our path. On boasting of our prowess to the others they informed us that they had also found KH30, before us. While a few of the more adventurous ate a Mott type damper that night some of the party went from the tourist entrance to the K1 entrance. They were all highly impressed by the spring loaded ladder in K1.

The next morning was shattered by several gross acts of wanton vandalism. Those savage balls of fur (Kelly Hill possums) pulled the cork off my jug of port, up ended it, then proceeded to chew the bottom of the cork. Oh for a Wanganui. If this was not enough Lance threw out my billy of coffee grounds and water. Oh such sacrilege. We must screen our associates more closely.

We proceeded on to K59 to do a survey of this cave. It is quite a large cave in the cliffs at the interface of the limestone and granite consisting of a chamber 50m x 30m with a roof height varying from 1.0 to 8.0m. The floor is large boulders of granite and coral covered limestone. Some excellent rim pools are in the cave. On the way back from the cave several of the party reported seeing a whale off the coast. During the afternoon we finished off surface surveying along the road north of the reserve. A trip through K14 to the tourist entrance followed by an encore damper completed the day's activities.

Chris who had been trying to spread bubonic plague all weekend decided to forgo the pleasure of caving on Monday. Why, even Lance, who spent most nights wedged between airbeds, managed to find the reserves to go caving to K6. This cave is far more extensive than the map suggests and is a prime candidate for a good survey team. Everywhere we went in the cave there were lines of string. If only people took the time to learn about the caves they're visiting they'd realise they don't need string to find their way around.

There is still a lot of work and caving to be done and new caves to be found on Kangaroo Island. Anyone going into the bush at Kelly Hill should turn up a cave. Long weekend style trips like this one make it quite a reasonable trip. The staff at Kelly Hill are always keen to go caving.

Kevin MOTT

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MOTION to be moved at the General Meeting, 28 October 1987

That CEGSA membership fees for 1988 be set at:

Full and Long-term-Associate	\$19.00
Associate	\$12.00
Reduction for Country-Full	\$4.00
Newsletter subscription	\$12.00 plus overseas postage
ASF membership levy	\$11.00

MEMBERSHIP

Change of Address

Tony COLHOUN
3/ 46 Weroona Ave
PARKHOLME 5043
(H) 277 8347

Peter KRAEHENBUEHL
5 Reed Ave
MANNUM 5238
(H) (085) 69 1980 (W) (085) 69 1503

Welcome to these new Associates:

Mark SEFTON
4 Percival Street
NORWOOD 5067
(H) 31 5015 (W) 79 9681

Karin SEFTON
4 Percival Street
NORWOOD 5067
(H) 31 5015

Lance HOEY
16 Tarana Road
HOPE VALLEY 5090
(H) 265 1907

Peter HALLETT
44 Lambert Ave
WEST LAKES SHORE 5020
(H) 49 5001

RUMOUR

I normally refrain from the distasteful habit of spreading rumours unless I can profit from same. In this case I'll make an exception.

A certain Life Member, author of a book about Naracoorte caves, co-author of a diving book and currently residing in Melbourne, who shall for reasons of personal safety, remain nameless is reported to have stated that he can no longer negotiate the U10-U12 connection as he is too large.

He He He..... The Mott

THEODOLITE

The group recently purchased a Cooke Troughton and Simms 20" theodolite for use in cave and surface surveying. This will enable us to attain higher grade surveys without the need to beg, borrow or steal the necessary equipment. Members may familiarise themselves with it at our coming survey field day.

GENERAL MEETINGS

JUNE

Bob Sexton, a Life Member of the group, was the guest speaker for this meeting. His topic was South Australia's maritime history. He spoke to us on the type of ships to visit our coastline. Those that were wrecked provide a wonderful insight into their construction and the lifestyle aboard ship during their era. The history of the ships to visit us proved to be quite fascinating. Research into maritime history and naval architecture can be quite time consuming but the results of the research coupled with knowledge gleaned from our wrecks helps to build up a picture of the variation in the styles of ships. It must almost be like piecing together the pieces of cave surveys.

We would like to thank Bob for coming along to tell us about his involvement in our maritime history. It also provided some members with a chance to renew old acquaintances and reminisce.

JULY & AUGUST

The topic for these two meetings was a presentation of the slides used by Capt. Thomson to illustrate his talks on his expeditions to the Nullarbor. They give us a chance to see how the Nullarbor appeared in the 1930's and enable us to compare the state of caves then and now. The only thing lacking from the presentation was the various anecdotes used by the Capt. to accompany the slides as he had a wonderful dry sense of humour.

CEGSA BBQ and AUCTION

Saturday 25 July dawned lousy. This did not, however, dampen the enthusiasm for the social highlight of the year. Old and new members filled the Pilkington residence for a night of merriment. The BBQ did not eventuate but in true caving tradition a variety of meals materialised during the evening. Young and old tried their hand at various computer games. Some found that the hand is not faster than the chip.

At the auction everything and anything that moved or could be auctioned, was. Goods from rubber bands, water bottles T-shirts and overalls to typewriters went under the hammer. A total of \$86-70 was raised.

Thank you to all who attended and made this night so successful.

Letter to the Editor

Graham Pilkington & Max Meth,
Cave Exploration Group South Australia Incorporated,
PO Box 144 Rundle Mall,
ADELAIDE 5000

Dear Graham and Max,

I recently read your CEGSA Newsletter, Volume 22, No 1, June 1987, and was amused to see that Dave Warren had participated on the Old Homestead Cave survey in 1987 and had been promoted to the position "Doctor". I am not sure where this confusion arose as I am certain that I was not posing as Dave Warren or in an altered mental state.

An update on Rauleigh's foot is that he had a fractured fifth metatarsal which has resolved with rest and elevation. He is now quite mobile and fit to lead the Australian Speleological Expedition to Christmas Island.

Regards,

NOEL PLUMLEY
B. Tech.Sc., M.A., M.B.B.S., F.R.G.S.

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP (SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED

Application for Membership

Associate Transfer to Full Full and family**NAME** in full

Preferred name

Private Address.....

Business Address.....

Occupation Age..... yrs

Telephone : Private Business.....

Name, address & 'phone of nearest relative or friend

.....

Give brief details of any previous caving experience:

Date	Cave system/area	Leader	Active hours
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Other caves visited:.....

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Names of any similar organisations to which you belong or have belonged:

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.....

I, hereby apply to become an associate/full member of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Incorporated, and I hereby declare that I have read the Constitution, Rules, and Code of Ethics of the Group and agree to be governed by them and any others that may be set down from time to time, upon notice of my election as a member. I further declare that I will not hold liable the management committee of the Group, its elected officers or any other member for any losses sustained by me in the course of caving activities, whether those losses be incurred through bodily injury or in any other way. I also agree to obey any appointed Trip Leader or their deputy while on a trip; not to litter nor deface property; and not to remove from any cave any material native to that cave, without prior written consent from either the cave manager or the management committee of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Incorporated.

Date..... Signed

Introduced/Proposed by

Seconded by

Application Accepted on by

Fees of \$payable with application. Receipt #

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER

26 -27 Corra Lynn Cave – Exploration Graham Pilkington

OCTOBER

3 - 4
 10 – 12 Lower South East Kevin Mott
 14 Committee Meeting **7-30 pm** 66 Eyre Cres Valley View
 17 - 18
 24 - 25 Corra Lynn Cave – Exploration Max Meth
 28 General Meeting **7-30 pm** Nettlebed Cave

NOVEMBER

1 Surveying Field Day Kevin Mott
 7 - 8
 11 Committee Meeting **7-30 pm** 67 Myrtle Rd. Seacliff
 14 - 15
 21 -22 Mount Gambier Chris Hales
 25 General Meeting **7-30 pm** Vertical caving techniques
 28 - 29 Corra Lynn Cave Max Meth

DECEMBER

5 - 6
 9 Committee Meeting **7-30 pm** 26 Burford St. Elizabeth Downs
 12 - 13 Mount Gambier Kevin Mott
 19 - 20
 27 - 10/1 NSW - Bungonia - Wee Jasper Peter Kraehenbuehl

MARCH 1988

25 - 11/4 Nullarbor – N83, N206 + more Graham Pilkington

SEPTEMBER 1988

10 - 25 Nullarbor – N83, N206 + more Graham Pilkington
 Sept/Oct Tas – Junee- Florentine/Mole Ck. Peter Kraehenbuehl

Contact See Office Bearers

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.