

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P O Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

Volume 32 Number 3 December 1987



N E W S L E T T E R



Merry Christmas

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the
Royal Society S A meeting room at the Museum

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DEADLINE for articles for Vol 32 No 43 is Wednesday 24 February 1988

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EDITORIAL

As we approach the end of another calendar year we reflect on what we have achieved during the year and where such achievements are leading us.

We have had a successful year. Many new caves have been discovered and existing caves have been pushed beyond their known limits. In some cases we have been granted access to caves previously closed to us. Much of this is due to the enthusiasm and perseverance of our members. Treating each cave as a new discovery can be quite rewarding. Just because someone has been there before does not mean that it is fully explored. The "been there, done that" syndrome does not achieve anything.

New and seemingly new caves are always being reported in publications ranging from glossies to government publications. As we have a centralised records system and members actively caving we can readily verify and assess these new finds. Sometimes these lead to exciting new discoveries; sometimes they turn out to be known caves with a different name.

At times some members get discouraged at the future prospects of caving; seeing little prospect of new caves or seeing known caves become boring or placed out of reach. We must be careful that we do not bury our heads in the sand and hope that it is only a bad dream.

By being active and lobbying constructive and practical ideas we can influence those in power to come up with solutions that provide a sensible balance. Everyone will not always be pleased but if common sense prevails the eventual solutions will benefit all. All it needs is a little patience; not over-reaction.

Having said that, I would like to wish all members, their families and newsletter subscribers a joyous Christmas followed by a safe and prosperous New Year.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

FLINDERS RANGES (or... "MAD PETER - BEYOND THUNDERDRUM")

12 - 14 October, 1985

Apologies for the delay - Editor

Party: Divers - Peter HORNE (trip leader and illiterate writer of this report), Trevor BURFORD, Peter GIRDLER and Anne WILSON.
Dry Cavers/Visitors - Lee DIXON, Jean TURNER and John WOOD.

Caves visited: F11, F29, F33

Thursday, 11 October 1985 and Friday, the 12th found our party of 7 heading north from Adelaide to visit Woodendinna Lake Cave, or "Narrina" (F11) as it is more commonly known. Lee, Jean and I left at 0600 on the Friday, heading for Brachina Gorge (between Wilpena and Blinman), stopping only a couple of times for refuelling and leg-stretching. Using a detailed map kindly supplied by one K. Mott of CEGSA notoriety (although CEGSA might deny this), our footsore team went walkies through some very picturesque, low-hill countryside on the southern end of the Trezona Range, and found the fabled "Thunderdrum Cave" (F29) at the bottom of a small gully.

We hopped in (since we'd seen some kangaroos in the area) and had a good look at it - a bit dusty but just worth the effort! Having heard rumours of Thunderdrum going through the hill in the 'old days' (maybe Late Tertiary?!), we wandered down to the main Gorge and walked along for a while, searching the cliffs for signs of the 'Other End'. All we found was a near-vertical, 2-3m wide fissure (perhaps 5m high x 15m long?) which ran into the cliff, about 10m above the bottom of the Gorge.

This fissure however, was very unpleasant to enter, being the obvious lair of some wild animal due to the icky, stinky black ooze which covered everything. We climbed as far as we dared but being somewhat concerned about our health (i.e. we couldn't breathe in there!) we soon departed - suggest the use of scuba gear to explore it fully! We then drove on to Blinman for some vitals (Golden North ice-cream and drinks) before driving the 30-odd km east to Woodendinna Lake Cave.

We arrived around 5 p.m. to find the other members of the party already there. After establishing camp, we opened the cave's gate and had a quick look through the main chamber. The lake level had dropped only about 0.3m since June last year, but the air quality had noticeably degraded - very hot and extremely humid. (possibly low oxygen or high CO2 levels?). We left the lid off overnight to give the cave a chance to breathe before carting our heavy diving gear in.

Sunday, 8 a.m. saw all of us up and having breakfast. Soon after 0900 the four of us who were diving established a dive plan which would minimise silting whilst maximising sightseeing for Peter Girdler and Trevor Burford, who had not been there before. We hauled the gear in, then 'suited up' outside the cave. We were soon in the water and I led, finding a convenient roof projection just under the surface where I tied off my guideline. We swam into the main water-filled chamber, with Peter buddying with me as I reeled out, and Anne and Trevor following on the line. We soon covered most of the chamber and reached a small air-pocket about 60m from the Main Lake, where 3 of us could surface and talk to each other

We then swam to a 3m long, 1m wide x 1m high air pocket which led to a small hole -the entrance to **Clay Balls Chamber**. As I had previously explored this beautiful little 'island of air', Anne removed her scuba tank and attached it to her buoyancy vest

so that she had a 'return ticket' to the surface after she'd explored 'Clay Balls' (it is a very long swim if you're holding your breath!!) She spotlighted the large lake so that the 3 of us could easily find it from below, and we all carefully surfaced and marvelled at the strange beauty of this unique feature.

Swimming out of the chamber, Trevor pointed down to a small hole between some big boulders, and thinking he wanted to go in, I shot through since I had the reel. Below the slab, I saw that it was basically a swim-through some 10m long, coming back into the large chamber in several places. I swam through and floated up the slab, and watched with some hilarity as Trevor hovered for over a minute above the now-silted small entrance, watching for my return. I finally swam over and tapped him on the head before he knew I was there - yes, cave diving CAN be a stress on the old heart!

On the way out soon after, I noticed a low, flat ledge near the main lake, and as I'd heard that 'some divers' had once found a passage linking the main chamber to a lake on the far side, I swam in with Trevor on my tail. To my surprise it kept going, but as it was already milky I decided to exit and plan another dive properly after lunch.

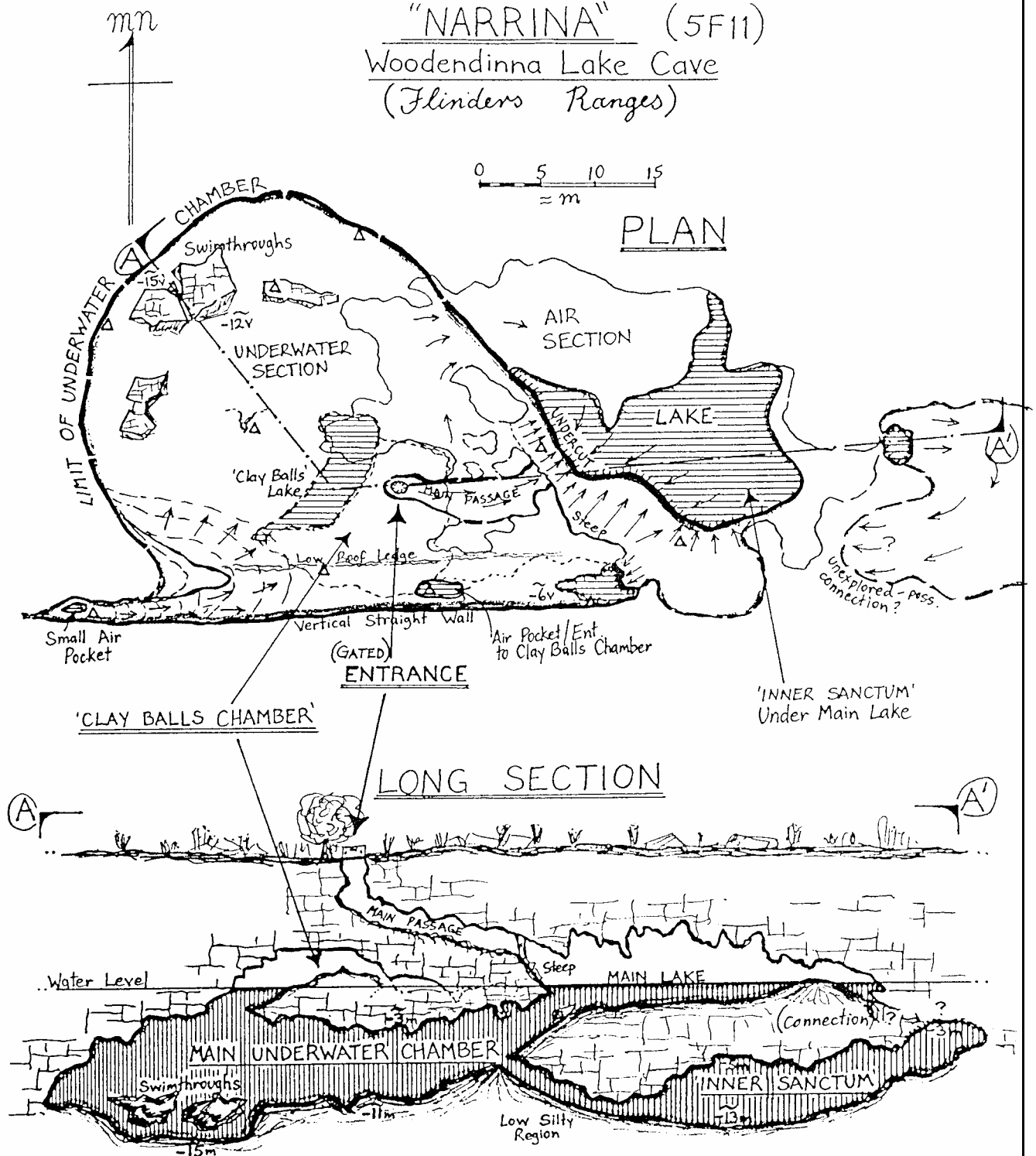
We discussed the next dive and the problem of increasing silt, and Peter Girdler volunteered to accompany me on the push through the new section while Anne and Trevor went for another look in the recesses of the main chamber. Swimming into the main tunnel, the silting was only moderate and after a short search we found the most obvious passage - a 1-2m high, 3m wide flattener. As we moved past 15m in, the silt began to clear in milky layers and 20m in we suddenly entered a large chamber filled with crystal clear water! Several offshoots could be seen, with silt pouring into one (probably a passage connecting to the main lake chamber?) but I decided to swim through the most obvious open area. The roof was irregular and dark in colour, and the floor was just dark silt. In the larger area (which I name the **Inner Sanctum** despite other recommendations such 'Sanctum Sanctorium' and 'Burford's Passage' etc.), the water depth on the roof was 7m and the floor was at 1m - plenty of space! As we swam further, the roof rose and the passage stopped at a depth of only 3m below water level - so close and yet so far!

Exiting was hazardous enough in 0.3m visibility without adding to our problems by trying to take bearings. However, the Inner Sanctum is obviously very extensive and needs to be carefully surveyed (as does some of the above-water chamber). The largest area of Narrina is certainly under water!

After much hot, sweaty work we finally dragged all of our gear out of the cave and back to our cars, then returned to just have a cooling-off swim in the lake. However, I was to be denied this luxury! As I started to climb down to the water, my fogged-up glasses (balanced precariously on my nose) fell down the slope into the water! "No worries - I'll simply go back to my car and get a special small scuba cylinder and mask etc. and search for them", I said. Oops... no car! Lee and Jean had taken it for a run! So... trudge, trudge, trudge, lower, drag, groan - complete heavy scuba gear back to the lake again! After 10 minutes of fruitless searching the entire floor of the lake near the entrance passage to 10m depth, some bright spark suggested looking just under the surface, on the ledge ...ta da! Specks found! Anne, Peter and Trevor then helped me drag my gear out again, thank goodness!

We broke camp on Monday morning, locked the gate and said our farewells. Jean, Lee and I then drove back to Brachina Gorge to have a look at Yellowfoot Rock Wallaby Cave (F33) and other nearby features (within a km).

"NARRINA" (5F11)
Woodendinna Lake Cave
(Flinders Ranges)



(Sketch Based on Surveys)

P. Horne, 15.10.85
 ASF Gr. 2:2
 (Main Underwater Chamber
 Surveyed on 10-11 June 1984
 [P. Horne, M. Nielsen, G. Newman,
 A. Wilson]; Inner Sanctum
 explored by P. Horne & P. Gindler,
 13 October 1985).

This potentially boring drive from Narrina was made bearable thanks to the entertainment provided by some very strong-legged flies, which managed to defy wind speeds of up to 60km/hr on the bonnet and windscreen of my car! F33 proved to be well worth the walk - a very interesting little cave, although it is quite unstable in many places where dry dust-covered 'plates' of shale or slate or whatever move freely about, falling on cavers (ask Jean!). There was also a small colony of bats, which took off when we arrived. One of these horrid little flying mice bombed Jean with guano and then crashed into my right eye as we were leaving the cave! So much for the old saying "Oh, don't worry, they won't hit you - sonar, you know!" WE know!

We left the Ranges soon afterwards and had a pleasant 5 and half hours drive home through peak-hour-plus traffic. All things considered, it was a successful trip. The Flinders Ranges are ALWAYS worth 3 days away from the Big Smoke!

Peter HORNE

TOWN WELL CAVE, CURRAMULKA (Y2)

31 May, 1987

Party: Greg BULLING, Peter GIRDLER, (surface assistant/belayer),
Peter HORNE (party organiser / Chief Padlock Loser),
Dennis THAMM and Sonia TUCUN.

Overcast skies and a chilly autumn breeze greeted me as I crawled out of my leekie blanket around 0630 hrs on that SUNDAY - an hour far too early for me, as most CEGSAites may know! Sonia picked me up at about 0700 and we then collected Dennis before commencing the 2 hour drive on the lonely road to Curramulka, on the Yorke Peninsula.

At 0937 or so, we arrived to find Greg Bulling and Peter Girdler there, and after the usual pleasantries ("What the hell took ya so long to get here?" etc.), we prepared the ropes and ladders for the 33 metre pitch down the well into the cave, which Sonia was mad-keen to explore.

I knew that things were going too well ('scuse the terrible pun!!) when I managed to easily unlock the very secure, expensive padlock on the first attempt and unwrap the chain. I swear that it REALLY LOOKED like it was secured to the other handle of the door when I lifted the lid! I couldn't find any suitable words - just sat silently, staring down the deep, dark pit - as the chain and 2 padlocks reached sub-terminal velocity before bouncing off the wooden debris 33 metres below, and disappearing in the deep pool, a few seconds later!!

With the spectacular image of the free-falling padlocks still clearly in my mind, I then prepared for the abseil as Dennis hopped onto his 12mm Bluewater and dangled in the blackness taking photos. Sonia shot down the ladder and then I was forced to endure a very painful 2 minute abseil as my 'swami-seat' decided to simulate a primitive castration device ... one of the problems you encounter when you don't do this sort of thing regularly!! I was very thankful when I got to within a metre of the ledge at the bottom, but was horrified to encounter a dreaded GORILLA on the rope which I luckily caught a few cms from the Figure - 8. ANOTHER 30-40 seconds of pain and Dennis helped me to sort it out before I finally could get my weight off my ...er ... harness!

Greg came down next, and we all then crawled through the various bruise-bits to Stooges Extension (a very pretty, decoration-filled chamber) where Dennis enticed us on past a **Perilous Pit** to see a lake he had found. Talk about frustration! Going to all this trouble and then finding a LAKE which was BIG .. and none of us had our cave

diving gear !!! (Well, it really wasn't all THAT big...). I guess we spent 2-3 hours in the cave altogether - we didn't explore it fully and I didn't particularly care as I had a bit of a fall near the entrance and my right leg felt sore and numb. While Dennis took Sonia 'exploring' in the kitchen area, I donned a facemask which Peter Girdler had lowered from the surface and had a look in the well-pool for the drowned padlocks and chain - to no avail, unfortunately!

Greg and I then left the cave and packed some gear while Sonia and Dennis came up uneventfully. I spent a few minutes, taking measurements for a new locking system, and we then closed the lid and headed home, tired but contented. The 'Iron Man' cave had once again entertained a small band of die-hard cavers!

Peter HORNE

FLINDERS RANGES

10 - 12 October, 1987

Party: McRae Family and 12 Noarlunga S.E.S. Unit members.

Caves visited: F1

Friday morning the McRae family (along with 12 Noarlunga S.E.S. Unit members) headed towards Melrose in the Flinders Ranges. With camping restrictions around Melrose, we decided to spend the four days at the Caravan Park.

Most of us enjoy an adventure so we decided to climb Mt. Remarkable then hike through the gorge below. After resting at the cairn we walked on to Goat Rock, 4 km north-west to check out the waterfall. Drinking, resting and eating some nuts, we then headed north-east through Spring Creek, threading our way through scenery unbelievable, down part of Mt. Remarkable Creek with no tracks and only map and compass to go on. It came as a shock when I reached into my bum pack for the compass that just wasn't there. My favourite Suunto compass had fallen out when I forgot to zip up. No worries, we had another. Oh-oh, John's compass has its needle floating. Having walked this way before and with the aid of a very worn map, we hiked past Grey's Hut, Gibraltar Rock and Rosedale to Melrose, some 26k in all, with some anxious moments to talk about around the fire that night.

Sunday after another slow start we drove to the "blowhole" area searching and finding the cave. We worked in the usual ant like fashion, setting up belay, ladders and anchors. Seeing as I always like to be first in, I bottomed first. The single pot chamber always has the danger of falling rocks so I set up a little area, where I spent the next 6 and a half hours yelling to top, helping in the people then showing them the way down the winding passage through the squeeze to the pool and out again in time for the next person to go through. I became familiar with this section, noticing the bones, frogs and groans from members through the squeeze. When I visited the blowhole in '83, I saw 5 frogs at the pool, this time only 2. I feel, however, the water is at least 4 metres higher this year.

Gear required this time:

- 2 x 30' ladders
- 1 x 50m Bluewater rope.
- Belay point - stitch plate.
- Long trace and tape sling around jug handle.
- harnesses made from tape for comfort while on belay.
- 25mm tape - assorted lengths.

To finish off the weekend we spent time relaxing and trying to dry out from a heavy fall of rain Sunday night/Monday morning, before heading off home.

Colin McRAE

KANGAROO ISLAND

10 - 12 October, 1987

Party: Sue ASCHE, Paul TEAGLE, Ida & Garth JACKSON.

Caves visited: K6, K11, K59, KH1, KH18, KH19, KH31.

Sue and Paul were met at Kingscote Airport and we went out to Kelly Hill where we camped for the weekend. Saturday, we visited K59 and also had a look at Remarkable Rocks and Admiral's Arch. The main purpose of this trip was for Sue to take photos of the decorations in K59 and to fix the identity number in place.

On the way back to Kelly Hill we stopped off and had a look at KH19. This cave has considerable decoration in it but one has to go very carefully as there isn't much room between floor and stalactites. We also saw KH15 and another un-numbered cave.

Sunday we stayed above ground and walked from the caves to Hanson Bay and back. On the way back we detoured to have a look at the entrance to K11 as Paul hadn't been there before.

Monday we visited KH1, KH18 and KH31. The latter being a new cave and as far as we knew, unexplored. We had a look through it and found a passage with a strong flow of air coming through it. Unfortunately it needs a bit of rock moving before we can go further. If I hadn't been overcautious Sue would have gone further as we could see along it about another 15 to 20 metres. Time was running out as Sue and Paul had a plane to catch.

On the way back to the airport we detoured to have a look at the entrance to Mt. Taylor Cave.

A good weekend was had by all.

Garth JACKSON

NULLARBOR August 1987

Party: Max METH, Ken BOLAND	14th - 30th
Gary WHITE	15th - 29th
Mark SEFTON	15th - 22nd
Andrew WALL	17th - 27th
Paul HARPER, David MacINTYRE	23rd - 25th

and Neil MONTGOMERY, Lois PERRY
with Narrabundah College students 20th - 26th

Features visited: 6N3, 6N37, 6N83, 6N133, 6N206, Fluted blowholes, Wilson Bluff blowholes, and several other blowholes.

FRIDAY Aug 14th

Ken arrived at my place in Adelaide at 3.30pm. Half an hour for loading and we were on our way, arriving at Ceduna at 12.30am; a total of 1604 km of driving for Ken for the day.

SATURDAY Aug 15th

Gary, who lives in Ceduna, arrived at 7.30am in his Toyota Landcruiser. This time 90 minutes to transfer gear and we were westward bound. Our first stop was the Head of the Great Australian Bight to investigate reported **Fluted Blowholes**. We found 2 blowholes 15m deep connected at the bottom by a sea cave. Whilst there we were treated to a view of a mother and baby Southern Right whale.

We then drove to Wilson's bluff and located the cairn built in 1866 by the explorer Delisser. A start was made on surveying several nearby blowholes. Mark arrived mid afternoon. Very light rain fell overnight.

SUNDAY Aug 16th

We located 8 blowholes. One, we named **Bayview Blowhole**. It is only 1m from the edge of the 75m high cliff and there is a hole in the wall through which the sea can be seen. Another, we named **Southern Right Blowhole** because a whale was sighted while we were there.

In 2 vehicles now we drove to **Thampanna Cave** stopping at **Thylacine, Webbs** and **Kelly Caves** on the way, hoping to find Dave London and his group. We didn't stop at **Snake Pit** and of course that's where they were. As Gary and I set up camp, Ken and Mark rigged the 11m ladder in the cave entrance and had a quick look at the entrance chamber.

MONDAY Aug 17th

Using the map in the **Nullarbor Atlas** we pegged the surface locations of 2 points in the cave to the west of the entrance in **The Tube**. Gary and I set up the Radio Direction Finding (RDF) transmitter in the cave at each point. Ken and Mark located the first, but couldn't receive a signal at the second.

All 4 of us then started a survey of **The Tube**. On leaving the cave there was a second ladder in the pitch. Andrew had arrived from Canberra. He informed us that Dave's party had arrived in a mini bus, visited the cave and left before we surfaced. They intended to return tomorrow, hence leaving their ladder.

TUESDAY Aug 18th

The 5 of us continued surveying past **The Tube**. This delineated a "chamber" 90m x 120m but blocked by many rockfalls. The appearance in the cave is of several rockpile chambers joined at various levels. The second RDF point was located on the surface.

WEDNESDAY Aug 19th

Gary, Mark and Ken set up the RDF transmitter at the far end of **The Drain**, to the east of the entrance, then took the gear to a second RDF station, **Gnome Point**. Andrew and I located the RDF point on the surface then joined the others who had been surveying at **Gnome Point**. Gary and I went to the third RDF location **Turkey Nest** and surveyed its locality. The final RDF point was at **Crystal Dome**, some 1000m from the cave entrance. Andrew, Mark and Gary surveyed at **Crystal Dome** until Ken and I returned to the surface.

All three RDF points were located on the surface and a start was made on triangulating their positions back to the cave entrance.

THURSDAY Aug 20th

Ken and I finished the RDF surface survey then we all drove to **Old Homestead Cave**. Andrew had driven to Mundrabilla and arrived at 8.30pm in company with Neil Montgomery and the Narrabundah College expedition.

FRIDAY Aug 21st

Neil Montgomery organised 4 teams to map the **Spring Series** and it was very late before they returned to camp.

Our team of 5 continued the mapping of the main tunnel in the north cave 700m from the entrance. We soon found a major junction where passages on 3 levels intersect the main tunnel. One side passage goes back towards the entrance, crosses over the main tunnel, then recrosses again at a still higher level. A floor hole connects to the main tunnel, this connection had been ignored/missed on the survey of the main tunnel.

SATURDAY Aug 22nd

It had been fairly windy overnight and I was a little worried about leaving the tent while caving. Mark left for Adelaide at 8.00am leaving just 4 in our group. We headed to the **Thunderdome** in the south cave mapping the **Last Hope Tube** and an area of maze like passages in the **Plughole**. Andrew checked an awkward ledge in the **Whale Way** but found only a disappointing 5m long passage. We returned to camp at 9.00pm where light rain had been falling but the wind had (fortunately) abated.

SUNDAY Aug 23rd

It was a nice sunny day (typical for this mid winter trip) and we were a little slow trogging up, preferring to bask in the sunshine. Just as we were ready, Paul and David arrived from Adelaide. We all headed for a 300m long side passage of the north cave. This passage started out 5 or 6m high but finished up only 300mm high. An RDF point was set up near the end and Ken left for the surface to locate the point. Meanwhile, just before the agreed transmit time, Gary sat on his watch, resetting it to 1am. We had to guess the time to keep to the transmit schedule, but we were a few minutes out. Ken, on the surface, was convinced we had gone bonkers, and had upset him deliberately. Neil Montgomery surveyed the connection via the **Lizard Link** to **Whale Way**, and exited the cave (for the first time) without going through the **Bundahburger Squeeze** and the **Improbability Drive**. The new path is much easier to negotiate and was adopted as the main "drag".

MONDAY Aug 24th

Ken, David and Paul went with Neil's group on a surveying trip. Gary, Andrew and I measured the new RDF point's location and found a new rockhole and blowhole to the west of camp.

TUESDAY Aug 25th

Paul and David left, heading for **Mullamullang Cave** and Adelaide. Using Neil's data, 2 surface locations for RDF stations were set up over the **Spring Series**. We all then joined Neil's group and went on a guided tour past **Joes Room** (named after Joe Jennings) to the first RDF location.

Joe had suggested to Neil to include **Old Homestead Cave** on his itinerary for a trip planned for Spring 1984 (hence **Spring Series** as the name of the passages discovered on the trip). Joe died just before the trip.

The tour then proceeded through large and small phreatic passages for 300m to the other RDF location. We arranged for college students to operate the RDF transmitter so we returned to the surface. To be quite honest I was glad of the chance to get back to the surface. What I had already seen was very impressive indeed, but I was feeling slightly tired.

Transmissions on the RDF gear were due for 6 and 9pm. At 6pm we located the first point, some 700m from the cave entrance. At 9pm we failed to receive a signal. Lois Perry exited the cave with some students at 10.30pm. This being Neil's last day, he stayed exploring till well after midnight.

WEDNESDAY Aug 26th

We showed Lois and 5 students through the north cave to **Twilight Zone**, some 750m from the entrance. Then the survey of the main tunnel was completed to this point. An unusual phreatic area which resembles fingers was discovered. Neil's party had left by the time we returned to camp.

THURSDAY Aug 27th

Just Ken, Gary and me here now. We decide to redo the RDF point in **Spring Series** and eventually agree to shift its location to **Sky-By-Night** as this rocky chamber is some 10m higher than surrounding passages. We leave the RDF gear here and head off south "exploring". We find the westerly passage leading to **Great White Bite** where a student had found a fossil shark tooth. From here Neil had surveyed a passage heading north (back towards the entrance). We passed Neil's survey limit and extend the cave 120m but cannot find a way on to connect with known cave.

There is a gap of about 130m between this point, **Pillock Point**, and the end of the old south cave. A connection would result in a round trip of some 2km. The RDF point was successfully located and we returned to camp somewhat weary at 11.45pm.

FRIDAY Aug 28th

Ken and I located the new RDF points on the surface then we packed and left **Old Homestead Cave**. Driving south Gary spotted a limestone outcrop 500m west of the track. We found a blowhole and 2 rockholes there. A kestrel was nesting in the blowhole much to the consternation of Gary, who found himself nose to beak (so to speak). Then we drove to the Eyre Highway and Mundrabilla for an ice-cream. We headed along the top of the scarp eastward until finding a N-S track. Just before the track a 1.8m diam rockhole was found. We drove north past **Winbirra Cave** and spent the night at **Abrakurrie Cave**.

SATURDAY Aug 29th

After breakfast Ken and I performed tests with the RDF gear in **Abrakurrie Cave**, then we all explored the cave. The trip was drawing to a close and we were inevitably

heading east toward Ceduna and civilisation. We drove back to the scarp edge and headed east. In an erosion valley on the scarp edge we found small cave entrances. The bush was becoming quite dense. Heading north-east we found 2 new blowholes before sighting the microwave tower near Eucla. Continuing due east now, we found a rockhole (N24?) on the track which heads west from the Weebubbie track. Then it was on to Eucla and Ceduna where we arrived at 11pm.

SUNDAY Aug 30th

Gary lives in Ceduna but there was still the drive to Adelaide for me and to Melbourne for Ken. And that was another Nullarbor trip safely over.

Max Meth

CORRA LYNN CAVE 5Y1

26-27 September, 1987

Party: Graham PILKINGTON, Max METH, Mark & Karin SEFTON

Knowing that access to **Dreamland** was "restricted" which prevented me from continuing the survey of **Corra Lynn**, I took the party to north **Crystal Maze** to push a going lead at the end of the survey of that area. I had great hopes for a breakthrough as we had made many in this area over the past decade and a definite breeze had been there.

Two possibilities were present. The first was the obvious continuation of the ending tunnel past a rock constriction. This fizzled just out of sight. The second lead had the breeze - it was a low duckunder that needed excavation. We all took turns until Karin's second go. She'd got new-cave fever and just wouldn't stop - just another bit and all would be revealed! And it was; rubble to the roof and another end.

The next trip was to **Guzoff North 2**. Max & I have been excavating here for a year digging a walking trench to the blocking dirt-filled fissure. The original belly squeeze dig was started by Dennis Burke circa '74 but could not progress due to the 10m long drive and the rocks encountered. By the end of the weekend, we had driven our walking tunnel up to the fissure and 1m into it. Rocks had been no problem with such access. Another difficulty that had been encountered by Dennis was stale air. The walking access has largely cured this but after a few hours the dig needs a "breather". The blocking dirt pile is at least 2m across to the far wall - we have not probed further than that. Luckily for us, the dirt is very stable and can support a through tunnel of man (pardon me, caver) size proportions.

Graham PILKINGTON

CORRA-LYNN CAVE

24 - 25 October, 1987

Party: Max METH, Mark SEFTON, Lance HOEY, Mac MacDONALD

We decided to see if the blockage in the **Alberta** section could be cleared. Water had caused clay to slump down from a fissure in a narrow tunnel. Access into a large portion of the cave had then been impossible. Fortunately we were able to clear the blockage. Although the passage is still quite muddy I do not think that further slumping of clay will occur. We hadn't thought the blockage could be unblocked and had only

planned a reconnaissance. But since the job had been done quickly we decided to tour the upper levels beyond.

We found a very wet and sloshy area in the upper level passages which more or less blocks off that area still. (Unless you don't mind getting incredibly grotty.) Instead I decided to explore a passage (in a dry area) that had previously been discovered but not entered.

Mark had brought survey gear with him so we mapped as we explored. (I think this is a first for this cave). About 130m of passage was found, boosting the length of **Corra Lynn** to **13.5 km**. All this had taken a long time and we left the cave around 10pm.

The next day we continued a "long term" dig off the **Skeleton Crevasse**. About 10cm of progress was made. Our dig has some large rocks in it which must somehow be removed.

Max Meth

LOWER SOUTH EAST

10 - 12 October, 1987

Party: Kevin MOTT, Mark & Karin SEFTON, Mia THURGATE

Caves visited: L201, L262, L263, L264, L270, L271, 3G4 and several un-numbered features

Mark, Karin and myself left early on the Saturday to travel to Mt. Gambier via Naracoorte. We were hoping to see Brian Clark on the way. But, as luck would have it, we just missed him. After a quick late breakfast it was on to Myora forest headquarters to join Mia who journeyed over from Melbourne on Friday. Pleasantries aside the main task was to establish ourselves, have lunch and provide Mia with her daily shot of caffeine.

Following this ritual we went out to the L201 area where I wanted to familiarise Mark and Karin with the caves and tidy up some surface surveying. On the way out of the camp I gave a direction of "straight to the left". No-one let me forget it for the remainder of the weekend. The first thing that was obvious when we reached L201 was that the area had just been professionally surveyed. What a stroke of luck. This would save us a lot of work and enable us to better locate some of the features. It also means, unfortunately that the government has succumbed to pecuniary pressures and intends to UN-DEDICATE a proclaimed reserve and freehold it. A feat they have previously claimed was not possible. If only we had millions to spare.

Mia and I completed the surface surveying while Mark and Karin looked at L201. Near one of the survey pegs we located a small cave half filled with wire (L271). A 2m diameter window drops 2m to single chamber 6m in diameter. The edges are silted up but a very tight joint heads off to the south-east. A quick surveying and photographic trip into L262 rounded off the day's caving exploits. While in L262 a new form of cave growth was discovered in the entrance. It is black, about 80mm diam and 200mm long with one end being luminescent. The cave had snatched Mia's torch out of her pocket as she descended the ladder and wedged it in a crevice.

When the little fairies sprinkled sleep dust around that night disaster struck with a bitter blow. It seems that Mott junior in his eagerness to get rid of dad for the weekend offered to help pack. He put my sleeping bag in the van with the other gear. When the gear was transferred to Mark's car in the wee small hours it transpires that said sleeping bag was not with the rest of the gear so was overlooked. Not to be out done I **bravely** slept fully clothed in my inner sheet. That night was fine. Not so the next night. It was cool - even for me. I set about retiring similar to the previous night but with the addition of several items from sympathetic members of the trip. Well, it got colder and colder so I reached over and turned on the fan heater. What a great night's sleep. I'm darned if I know why Mia was half oozing out of her sleeping bag next morning. Look at it positively, Mia - it was probably better than the alternative - eh??

The next day we called at the pig-farm to map the cave (L270) which we were evicted from previously. It has a horizontal entrance 1.3m wide x 0.6m high. The entrance slopes down into the cave which is basically a single collapse chamber extending 18.0m north and 11.0m south of the entrance with an average width of 10.0m. The cave reaches a depth of 7.5m. There is fine decoration in the cave and one particularly nice patch of coral was dubbed **The Coral Line**. During the survey Mark undertook some photography in the cave. Surveys of L201, L263 and L264 completed the caving activity for the day.

Many thanks must go to John Lennon for making the light table in the office available for our use in drawing up the maps. We were able plot up our surveys and compare them with the cadastral surveys to determine which caves would end up in the freehold land. I offered to adjust the survey marks so the caves would remain under Woods and Forests control but he kindly rejected the offer. One can only try.

Having completed our survey work in the area we decided to have a look at Glenelg River on the Monday. It must be ten years since I was last there and the Victorian National Parks have closed most of the tracks along the river. After an hour or so wandering around the tracks in the pine forest and despite my directions we eventually found 3G4. I think Mark was envisaging spending the rest of his days in the forest.

The cave does not appear to have received a great deal of visitation in that time and although the cave has little decoration the party was quite impressed with its' simple beauty. I had forgotten that one piece was quite tight for me, but I still made it. Just past that point I claimed I could not find the way on. Thank goodness Mia was still in the squeeze. We found an entrance to a cave I did not know about to the west of G4 on the way back to the cars.

We dropped Mia off at the railway station then travelled back to Adelaide via the Robe road. The Woakwine Cutting was visited and is quite a remarkable feat of engineering. Two men dug the drain (1.5km long x up to 30m deep) in two years.

A most enjoyable trip.

Kevin MOTT

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Full Member

Mark SEFTON

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NORWOOD 5067
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OBITUARY - Cyril Reginald Gurney

Cyril Gurney died on October 4, 1987 at Murray Bridge, aged 75 years. Cyril was the owner of Koonalda station on the Nullarbor Plain. He was a man of great determination as evidenced by his monumental efforts in obtaining water from Koonalda Cave. Those who have spent any time at Koonalda will certainly miss his hospitality. If you were prepared to stay and chat there was a lot to be learnt from him about the area. His strength of character was matched by his physical strength. He would leave many of us young blokes gasping for breath as we negotiated the entrance to Koonalda Cave. He was certainly one of Australia's true pioneers.

Kevin MOTT

CONGRATULATIONS - ♀ ☺ ♂

Congratulations to Stan and Kathy Flavel on the birth of their third daughter, Elysia Jayne on October 19, 1987. Looks like Stan will have to say what he wants to now as he will not get a chance in a few years time.

Congratulations also to Phil and Sally-Anne Skene on the birth of their son, Peter Ross, born on November 6, 1987.

OLD HOMESTEAD CAVE - more History

The entrance is a large collapse doline 42m long with overhanging cliffs at both ends. Caves occur at both north and south ends and are joined by a passage under the doline. Prior to 1984 the North cave extended 40m and the South cave 160m from the entrance.

The cave was visited in September 1984 (spring time) by an expedition from Narrabundah College, Canberra. On the trip led by teachers Neil Montgomery, Marilyn Higgings and Lois Perry, all experienced cavers, more than 2km of new cave was found. The students of this college are trained in caving as part of their wide introduction to physical activities. Two students, Jason Passioura and Paul Bilston pushed through a long, low rocky crawlway leading from the side wall of the end chamber of the South cave. This emerged in a large tunnel which headed south for about 600m, with numerous side tunnels. The new find was named **Spring Series** and the obscure connecting tunnel was named the **Improbability Drive**.

After sketch-mapping a large portion of the find, the Narrubundah party returned in triumph to Canberra. This was after all, the first major dry cave discovery on the Nullarbor since 1963 and **Mullamullang Cave**. News of the discovery reached Adelaide fairly soon. **Old Homestead Cave** had not been visited by anyone I knew (me included!), in fact, I had never heard of the cave, let alone planned to visit there (some 80 km north of the Eyre Highway). This is real desolate country, and a visit is not undertaken lightly.

I looked for any information I could find. Our Group had no map whatsoever in the records system and not even an estimate of passage length. And so, inspired by the highest and noblest of caving traditions we decided to "hog the glory".....I mean go out and conduct speleological studies.

Accordingly, a CEGSA expedition arrived at **Old Homestead Cave** in Sept 85 (we had planned to visit **Thampanna Cave** but, reluctantly, changed our plans). Before the serious business of hogging glory we dutifully decided to map the existing cave.

We started mapping in the dead-end North cave, intending to progress into the South cave and on into Neil's newly discovered area. All very simple. Neil had said that **Spring Series** had been found from the South cave. It should be simple enough to find.

Two things went wrong:

- In our survey of the dead-end North cave, we found a 5km long extension of the cave (and not a footprint in it).
- In our survey of the South cave, we could not find the **Spring Series**.

It was hard to tell which of the two was the bigger headache, because:

- We now had the giant task of exploring and mapping the North cave. Some 2 years later we have mapped 3km and estimate the minimum length as 7km.
- Honour was at stake for we had failed to find the **Spring Series**. This raised doubts about our ability as cave explorers. Fortunately for us though, cavers in later trips also failed to find it.
- There was a third complicating factor; on our first trip Graham and I went to the end of the "old" South cave and dug through to a large chamber. In it were the footprints of just 2 people. We assumed that we had found **Spring Series**. But, 150m further on, the cave ended abruptly in a blockage, the **Terminal Rockpile** as we named it.

We knew that Neil was intending to revisit the cave in the spring of 1987, three years after the discovery trip. The location of **Spring Series** would have to wait till then. The situation was resolved by dubbing it "**Monte's Missing Miles**".

We could not reconcile 2 facts:

- Why were there only 2 sets of footprints when Neil's party numbered 11?
- How had the 2 managed to get in before we unblocked the constriction?

We were completely at a loss to explain this and by now we had disturbed the original footprints. We wrongly assumed that the pair had managed to crawl past the area we had unblocked. This seemed possible because the explorers were students of Narrabundah College and they were, therefore, likely to be slimmer and more agile than us. We named the large chamber **Whale Way** and our breakthrough tunnel leading to it

Probability Drive. The **Terminal Rockpile** was eventually "cracked" and our South Cave extended to 750m from the entrance with more than 2km of passage mapped so far.

On the Aug 87 trip the puzzle was solved. Neil, of course, showed us the location of the **Improbability Drive**. He also explained that the **Whale Way** was discovered from the **Spring Series** and is in fact part of the original discovery. (Graham and I merely found an alternate route to it.) Two students, Paul Bilston and Caroline Leiber found a low connecting passage now called **Lizard Link**. This was relatively easy to find from **Spring Series** but rather difficult from **Whale Way**.

Of course this meant that in mapping the South Cave we had not only missed the **Improbability Drive** but also **Lizard Link**. (Not much of a compliment for our survey thoroughness!) In my defence though, these two passages are hard to find. A guide would still be useful for anyone contemplating a visit to these areas.

Max Meth

LONGEST CAVES in SOUTH AUSTRALIA and NULLARBOR PLAIN

1	Corra-Lynn	5Y1	SA	13.5 km
2	Mullamullang	6N37	WA	12.1 km
3	Old Homestead	6N83	WA	12.0 km
4	Cocklebidy	6N48	WA	6.2 km
5	Boars	5L26	SA	6.0 km
6	Victoria Fossil	5U1	SA	3.0 km
7	Thampanna	6N206	WA	2.5 km

ANNUAL DINNER - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



WHEN Friday 12 February 1988

WHERE Stag Hotel - Corner Rundle Street and East Terrace, Adelaide

Wine, dine and join in the fun of one of caving's social highlights of the year. See who is rewarded for their efforts (?) during the previous year. You never know; it just might be you.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in conjunction with the dinner. This includes the election of officers for 1988. If the group is to continue to function we need committee members. Please offer yourself or nominate somebody NOW.

FEES - 1988 - DUE on 1 JANUARY 1988

Full member	\$19.00	plus ASF Levy
Full and Long-term-Associate	\$19.00	
Associate	\$12.00	
Family membership	\$31.00	plus ASF levy
Reduction for Country-Full	\$4.00	
ASF membership levy	\$11.00	
Newsletter subscription only	\$12.00	plus overseas postage

PROGRAMME

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
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JANUARY 1988

2 - 3

9 - 10

16 - 17

23 - 26	Flinders Ranges	Stan Flavel
27	General Meeting 7-30 pm	Members slides

30-31

FEBRUARY

6 - 7

10	Committee Meeting 7-30 pm	66 Eyre Cres Valley View
12	AGM / ANNUAL DINNER 7-00 pm	Stag Hotel
13 - 14	River Murray	Stan Flavel
20 - 21	Naracoorte	Chris Hales

24	General Meeting 7-30 pm
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27 - 28	Corra Lynn Cave	Graham Pilkington
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MARCH

5 - 6

9	Committee Meeting 7-30 pm	26 Burford St Elizabeth Downs
12 - 13	Mount Gambier	Kevin Mott

19 - 20

23	General Meeting 7-30 pm	Mark Sefton – Caving in Spain
25 - 11/4	Nullarbor – N83, N206 + more	Graham Pilkington

APRIL

1 - 4	Kangaroo Island	Kevin Mott
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SEPTEMBER

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.