CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P O Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

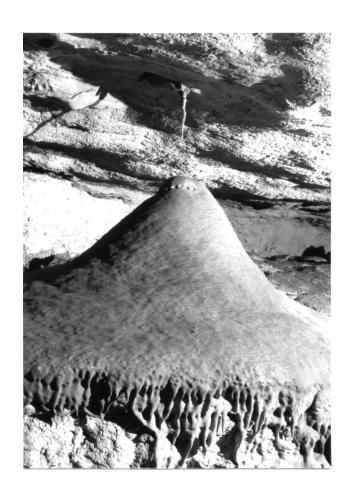
Volume 33 Number 2 September 1988

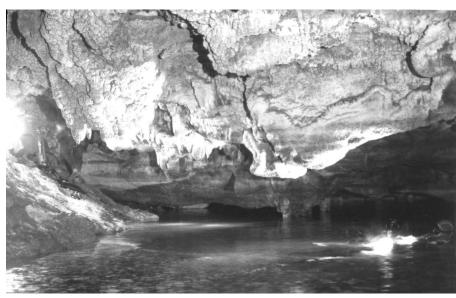


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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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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Photos by Kevin Mott

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 33 No 3 is Wednesday 26th October 1988.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of individual authors and not necessarily those of the Cave Exploration Group (South Australia) Inc. nor its' Committee.

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EDITORIAL

- Wanted !! Some-one, a leader somewhere to go caving with, especially on long weekends. Qualifications must be prepared to go on a trip. Heard that request before? Sure I have, but it does not apply to me. I cannot lead a trip. I do not know where the caves are and anyhow, I do not think I would be able to lead a trip.
- How often has this been the response to requests to lead trips with a resultant paucity of trips. Committee members are then felt obligated to lead a trip just so there are some in the programme. These trips naturally go to the areas and caves that the leader only wants to visit; not the ones that the members really want to go to.
- The only way we can learn more about the caves and their environment is if we visit the caves purposefully, not simply tagging behind some-one else.
- If you want to visit an area or a cave then why not nominate yourself to lead a trip for that purpose. You can lead the trip in an organisational capacity. If specific caving expertise is necessary than the committee can arrange for a suitable member to assist. There are a sufficient number of capable full members for this not to be a burden to them.
- Cave location details, maps, ownership and access requirements can be provided to any member who is serious about increasing his or her knowledge about caves. Some of those who are now regarded as experts in particular caves started their illustrious caving careers by taking this initiative.
- Some-one just may be waiting for you to take the initiative. If you do, it may well be infectious. The more CEGSA is seen caving the more our credibility will be maintained and greater will be our store of speleological knowledge.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

KANGAROO ISLAND

31 March - 8 April, 1988

Party: Kevin MOTT, Karin SEFTON, Mike SMITH, Lance & Wayne HOEY,

Tony MARDELL, June & family, Fern RAINTREE, Phil SHEARMAN, John MEIKLE, Sue ASHE, Lee DIXON, Grant GARTRELL & family, Peter HORNE, Mac McDONALD & family, John JOHNSTONE, Garth &

Ida JACKSON.

Caves visited: K6, K7, K31, K56, K58, K59, K61, K89, K90, K91, K92, K93, K94, K100, K101, K102.

Most people travelled over at various times on Thursday when there was very few of us able to refrain from barking over the edge of the Philanderer. After the voyage over, everyone was looking forward to warming up round the camp fire. When we arrived at the campsite there was no campfire; not even any warm coals - what a lot of wimps, no fire and early to bed. Next morning all was explained. Easter was early and fell into the fire ban period by about two weeks and we couldn't get a papal dispensation despite the saturated ground and the Oakbank ruling. It certainly put a damper on the trip.

That day we searched for the elusive K7, without much luck. Having given up in disgust we headed for the road as we figured it to be the nearest point of civilisation. Lo and behold, what should turn up but another cave (K89). The cave was quickly explored then surveyed out to the road. Much to Tony's horror he discovered that a pack containing his Goretex coat had been left behind in the bush. A quick recce trip failed to find the coat but did turn up two new caves (K90 & 91).

Saturday was spent back in the area of K89 searching for the jacket which was eventually located. We thought of selling it off and telling Tony we couldn't find it, but our conscience won out. Locations for K89 - 94 filled in the rest of the day. Those who didn't go back to K89 visited K59 and the north coast areas of Harveys Return and Ravine des Casoars.

While all this real caving was going on, some of the people were renewing an old love affair with the Influx. The promise of large caves with lemonade waterfalls lured many people to this convict style activity. Lance almost had the misfortune to leave some of his vitals in the Influx when he tripped over a stake. The layout of the tourist area had been altered so as to cause mass confusion to simple minded cavers so that area was resurveyed.

Horney, as masochistic as eve, elected to make K58 the cave of the year. He even managed to coerce Lance, Wayne and Karin to assist him in his dastardly deeds (fools). During the survey of the cave he managed to destroy his good Silva sighting compass in what has now been christened "Compass Crusher Crawl". Despite this, he later returned to ooze his way through the cave to complete the survey as far as could be traversed without breaking bones to progress.

During the second week further survey work was carried out in the area of the 10 minute walking trail, including a level traverse. Diana was taken on a guided tour of the new discoveries in the K89 area. During this tour Horney was persuaded to

demonstrate his masochistic tendencies with the smelly thing in K101. It turned out to be a rotting kangaroo. A further search for K7 was attempted with the usual lack of success. A later trip by Colin McRae and Brent Golledge managed to find the cave. It was not where we were led to believe it was and consequently we searched all round it without finding it.

During a fishing break to Western River Cove, Lance was conned into exploring K61. Despite no fires the trip was successful in that it tidied up many loose ends survey-wise.

Kevin Mott

Going on a trip? Let Sue know so others may know.

KANGAROO ISLAND

11 - 13 June, 1988

Party: Kevin MOTT, Graham & Charni PILKINGTON, Lance HOEY, Max METH,

Garth & Ida JACKSON, Clare BUSWELL (FUSS) and Guy SMITH (FUSS)

Caves visited: K1, K2, K3, K9, K10, K11, K52, K102.

This trip was arranged with National Parks to provide their staff and local emergency services with introductory training in cave search and rescue.

The trip over on the "Flounderer" was relatively uneventful except for the fear of us being camped at Cape Jervis for the night as we were running late and needed to detour to Christies Beach Police station to collect the notes for the course. What a relief to see the lights of the venerable "Flounderer" also approaching the cape.

Throughout the trip I was suffering from the dreaded lergie so whenever I looked like coughing I was declared the centre of a 10m no mans land. It did, however, excuse me from caving activity during the trip.

As many of the SES personnel could only arrive on Saturday afternoon, when a helicopter familiarisation course was scheduled, Graham and I had time to make last minute preparations to slides, overheads and course material. During this break the others visited some of the caves to be used to familiarise themselves with the caves.

Following the completion of the helicopter exercise some practical caving and laddering sessions were held in K1 and K9 until the lure of tea proved too much. This practical session was included to give participants an introduction to caves prior to the lectures. Lecture sessions on caves, cavers, equipment, techniques, accident situations and the role of those involved in cave search and rescue followed tea.

Those who were keen took part in another laddering session prior to breakfast on Sunday. After breakfast morning lecture sessions covered cave searching, cave maps, rescue techniques and logistical problems. Two searching exercises using K2, K3 and K4 for exercise #1 and K9, K10, and K52 for exercise #2, provided a good insight into problems associated with cave searching.

All participants took part in a cave rescue exercise in K1 on Sunday afternoon. The exercise stopped short of a lift out the entrance but concentrated on the logistical and communication problems that may arise in a caving situation. A debriefing session was held during tea.

Those who did not have to leave on Monday morning and still had the caving bug were taken on a trip to K11. Max and Lance used this time to further their work on their beloved Influx (K102) and actually entered a cave of sorts. They even produced a map of it. True to Kangaroo Island tradition the only rain we had was as we were packing up.

The weekend was highly successful and everyone who participated in the weekend learnt something. Park staff and the SES were all keen to further the knowledge and skills they learned. The biggest lesson CEGSA learnt was that we need SES to cater for future trips.

Kevin Mott

LOWER SOUTH EAST

June 11-12, 1988

Party: Mark THISTLETON, Rob DAYMAN, Elliot DUFF, Reg HAYES

Caves visited: L5, L15, L21, L34, L35, L36, L37, L60, L69, L70, L86, U14.

The trip was originally being organised as an appreciation of the Lower South East area for some of the Scout Caving Group's party leaders. However at the last minute three of these people were not able to attend, and as I still wanted to visit the area I inherited the trip. Kevin Mott assisted me in providing information and maps on suitable caves to visit within the area.

On Saturday we visited L69, but soon found that the water level prevented a serious visit by us as we were not prepared to get wet. We then visited the Tantanoola Tourist Cave, allowing Rob to have a chat with the guides, whom he knows.

We then went on to visit L86 where the roar of cars travelling along the road above could be heard within one of the chambers. Some excellent decoration was found on the way to and within the second chamber.

We then visited L34 where we met a possum on a ledge in the passageway leading to the sump. Within part of the cave, one could be mistaken for being within a forest, as there are numerous large tree roots from the roof to the floor, which need to be negotiated along the way. (These roots are from the pine forest above).

Upon returning to Naracoorte for the night, we met up with Simon Kendrick, and after talking with him for a while and realising his numbers were less than he had planned for, we invited ourselves to join Simon that night for a visit of U14.

On Sunday we again returned to the Lower South East to visit L35 where we found a nice squeeze joining the two chambers through a rockpile. We then went over the road to L5 and L60. We were also prevented from full exploration due to the water level.

On the way back to Naracoorte we called into Monbulla to visit L5 where we met up with guess who - Simon Kendrick and his group.

Finally to cap off the trip we visited L21, where we were most impressed by the formations, although very muddy, there is evidence of various coloured decoration to be seen.

To sum up, a very relaxed trip, and good introduction to the Lower South East.

Mark Thistleton

Ring Sue Asche for the latest trip details.

RIVER MURRAY (I had it - but!)

21-22 August, 1988

Party: Kevin MOTT. Ron SIMMS, Kerry NINNES, Graham & Roger PILKINGTON,

Karin & Mark SEFTON, Lance HOEY, Wayne O'HARA, 9 members of FUSS

Caves visited: M1, M6, M18, M19, M25, unnumbered at Blanchetown

Kerry, Ron and myself arranged to meet at Sedan at 9-00am on Saturday morning. Surprisingly we all made it nearly on time. It was here our troubles began. While waiting the few minutes for Kerry to arrive I thought I'd get the maps etc organised. Blast. *@# no maps or survey sheets. I had them ready before we left, but..... We could make do without them as Ron had some paper in his folder. Folder? It was here in the car.

Track notes to M25 were taken using a scrap of paper resting on a knee (somewhat reminiscent of the Lewis days). At M25 the cave was surveyed, entrance photographed and the cave tied in to the cadastral boundaries. The entrance is a sink 11m diam x 2.5m deep with a collapse on the northern side and a 2m deep overhang on the southern side. The cave, a single 20m long passage leads off from the western side. Roof height at the start of the passage is 1.8m but soon decreases to an average of 0.5m. The floor of the cave is silty with occasional rocky sections. At the entrance a skull lies crushed beneath a rock, a warning perhaps that the roof is not ideally suited to digging. The surface vegetation is reminiscent of that of the Lower Flinders being parkland type with Callistris predominating.

Following lunch we proceeded to M6 to relocate this feature relative to the Sturt Highway. A breeze was found at the end of the cave at a spot where a lot of water has been disappearing. Ron demonstrated his cave divining techniques and although the timber such as there was, was not entirely suitable he did manage to get a positive result. The map of the cave desperately needs upgrading and is an ideal project for a budding surveyor to cut his teeth on.

The next pit stop was the Blanchetown pub to locate a Ray James who reportedly knew of caves in the area. We didn't find him but came away with a supply of metwurst, liverwurst and locations of a couple new caves in Blanchetown itself. The story has it that a stone dropped down a hole took a couple of seconds to reach the bottom. The owner was only too happy to show us its' location. There was only one problem: the

land had been sold and the new owner poured a slab of concrete over the hole then built his house on top of it. When questioned further he pointed out the location of another ex cave. We were welcome to look at it. The area where the cave was, was in a gully which had been benched to provide more habitable space. All that remained of the cave was a 6m + passage 1m wide x 0.3m high.

We planned to camp at Swan Reach that night so decided to look at M18 and M19 on the way. The river level was up quite a bit making access to M18 at river level nigh on impossible. Ron and Kerry were not all that keen on free climbing down (wimps) so we cancelled the visit to this cave. On to M19. Here we had more success and Ron and Kerry had a quick look at the cave. As we were making our way back to the cars we were so impressed with the refraction of light from ice crystals in the clouds we camped there. Kerry then remembered the dog food. You guessed it, I had it, but.... That night I tried my hand at fishing. On the third cast I caught something so large it broke my line. Oh well it will be a peaceful night. It was till some local yobbos turned up at 8-30 and had their radio at full volume till the early hours of morning.

In the morning we broke camp and were about to proceed to Swan Reach when it was discovered that the survey notes from the previous day were missing. We retraced our wheel prints and finally found the errant survey notes in Blanchetown. When we left the ex cave the survey notes were left on the roof of the car and Kerry, who was following, didn't see them blow off but remarked later that she thought some unlucky sod will miss those papers. Despite lying there all night nothing except my pencil was missing.

We reached Swan Reach at 9-30 and after stocking up at the bakery waited for those coming to the survey field day to arrive. As each group of cars arrived at the ferry we tried to assess if they were cavers or others. The time came when we finally had to head for the cave. The last caver to arrive was Wayne who I mistook for a yuppie tourist. Graham was already at the cave with my survey sheets and maps.

Two teams were despatched underground to try their hand at cave surveying and a third team attempted to locate the cave relative to cadastral survey marks using survey compass, theodolite and stadia. Surveying was slow and some mistakes were made but all were eager to have another survey training trip.

Kevin Mott

Contact Sue Asche, Membership Liaison Officer, for up to date information on trips.

CEGSA Badges

To complement the vinyl stickers we now have a supply of cloth badges, all of which are available to Full Members.

Stickers:	Large	\$1-00
	Medium	\$0-50
	Small	\$0-25
Cloth Badges		\$3-00
Lapel Badges		\$2-00

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to the following new Full Members

Alan JEVONS (Ridgehaven) Tony HAMBLING (Williamstown, Vic) Brent GOLLEDGE (Tepko via Murray Bridge)

Welcome to these new Associates

Guy SMITH

3 / 22 Gover Street NORTH ADELAIDE 5006 (H) 267 2692 (W) 275 2874

Ivan RILEY

12 The Parkway **HOLDEN HILL 5088** (H) 261 6193 (W) 230 5459

Glen DALLIMORE

15 Olinda Road WINDSOR GARDENS 5097 (H) 261 3757

Change of address

Mark & Karin SEFTON 36 Norman Street ST MARYS 5042 (H) 277 9086

Donald McDONALD

11 Welby Avenue SALISBURY EAST 5108 (H) 250 9545 (W) 259 5271

Gareth EVANS

22 Sassafras Drive HIGHBURY 5084 (H) 337 8157

David DENNIS

53 Hopner Avenue BURTON 5110

(H) 280 8691 (W) 213 9761

Hills Speleo Society

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CASTLE HILL NSW 2154

NEWSLETTER

This volume of the CEGSA Newsletter will only contain three issues instead of the usual four issues. By doing this we will bring our newsletter into line with our financial year. Each issue will still be published in the same month, except that new volumes will now start with the March issue and appear as follows.

> No 1 March

No 2 June

No 3 September

No 4 December

LOAN OF EQUIPMENT AND LIBRARY BOOKS

When members wish to borrow equipment or library books would they please ensure that they give sufficient notice to the appropriate officer to enable him to collate the items required. Unless there is an urgent need at least a week's notice would be desirable.

With equipment, this enables the equipment officer to ensure everyone can get what they want and the equipment is clean and in good order; assuming it comes back **promptly** from previous borrowings.

Library books may be with another member so time is required to arrange a transfer of books required. Once again make sure that books are returned **promptly** at the end of the borrowing period.

LIBRARY REPORT

The library books are finally on shelves at home, so if need be you may come around between meetings and borrow books. Please ring a couple of days before to see if I am going to be home; also give me a couple of days notice if you require any books be taken in to the meeting (HINT HINT Peter).

There are books which are overdue as well as books which are missing, so if you have any library books at all please return them. Remember the Library is there for everyone to use

LIBRARY LIST

The following list details the books held in our library. Society journals are not included The list is tabulated by reference number then title (alphabetical order) and author.

An asterisk (*) indicates that the book is missing. Please check that you do not have the book at home; others may wish to read it.

100	A Preliminary Report on the Karst of the Nullarbor Plains	J N Jennings
-	A Taphonomic and Palaeoecological analysis of	C A Newton
	The Green Waterhole (5L81), a submerged late Pleistocene	9
	bone deposit in the Lower Southeast of South Australia	
182	Across the Nullarbor	Ion L Idress
137	American Caving Accidents	S Knutson
148	An Environmental Profile Study of the Stuart Shelf -	A Jensen & A Wilson
	Central Tablelands - Western Sandplains -	
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83	An index to Cave Maps in N S W	A Pavey
186	An Introduction to Abercrombie Caves	K Keck
9	An Introduction to Geology	B W Scott
80	Archeology of the Gallus Site, Koonalda Cave	Ed. R V S Wright

21 Australian Wildlife - Jnl of The Wildlife Preservation Soc S.A.

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14	Before the Deluge - The Story of Palaeontology	H Wendt
120	Beginners Guide to Photography	E C Partridge
7	Bibliography of South Aust Geology	E N Tindale-Smith
34	Bulletin Geological Survey of SA #1	
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33	Bulletin Geological Survey of SA #23	
35	Bulletin Geological Survey of SA #29	
30	Bulletin Geological Survey of SA #35 (1)	
31	Bulletin Geological Survey of SA #35 (2)	
29	Bulletin Geological Survey of SA #36	N Thombor of al
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	Cave diving nazards Cave diving in Australia	I D Lewis & P Stace
- 112	Cave Management in Australia #1	1 D Lewis & F Stace
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103	Cave Surveying and Mapping	I Batley & V Purdie
98	Cave Surveying in South Australia (CEG OP#1)	R T Sexton
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75	Caves of Jenolan 2 The Northern Limestone	Ed. B Welch
64-67	Caves of the Nullarbor *(67)	Ed Dunk ley & Wigley
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98	CEGSA OP#1 Cave Surveying In Australia	R.T.Sexton
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98	CEGSA OP#4 Mullamullang Cave Expeditions 1966	
72,73,9		I D Lewis
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89, 90		Bruce Bedford
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110	Development and Management Plan for Giants and	R Webb	
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,	0 Discover Naracoorte Caves	I D Lewis	
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20	EFS Manual 1976		
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11,95,	. •	F Folsom	
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160	Geology & Hydrology of N.E. Yucatan	New Orleans Geol Soc	
169	Ghar Parau	D Judson	
170		A Dept Mines & Energy	
3	Guidebook to the Caves of S.E. NSW and Eastern Vic	R Nicholl & J Brush	
50	How to be a survivor - A plan to save space ship Earth	R Harriman	
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40	How to conduct meetings	W Foulsham	
30	Hydrology of the Murray Basin Province in SA Vol 1		
	Geological Survey of SA Bull. 35		
31	Hydrology of the Murray Basin Province in SA Vol 2		
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-	Proceedings Royal Geographic Society #70 (1909) Proceedings Royal Geographic Society #71 (1970)	
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170	Speleo Digest 1965	
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54	Speleology Manual Technique	H Guerin
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	Geological Survey SA - Bulletin #36	
161	Structural Control of Subsurface Chemical Weathering	D Hawke
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34	The Building Stones of SA-Geol Survey of SA Bull. #10	
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Representatives Select Committee

TRIP FEES

Gone are the days when members could just pile into a car or cars and freely take part in trips on an ad-hoc basis. Trip leaders now have to spend time arranging permits, checking on liability problems and access arrangements with landowners, finding members who want to go on a trip and hire any equipment that may be required for a trip. Often this cost has been borne by the leader. These costs can mount up so it is reasonable to expect a leader to be reimbursed for these expenses by members of the trip.

Our Rules already allow for this. We have no set fee as it is almost impossible to cover all situations. A minimum fee would be in the order two dollars per participant. Members intending to go on a trip should ask the leader if a fee is to be charged if the leader has not already stated it.

Remember it is hard for a leader to determine how much a fee is to be if no-one informs them of their intention to go on the trip until a couple of days before the trip.

STRANGER WHEN FICTION

In a land not too far away, there was a place known as Cavern-Country.

It was a wonderful place to visit, with caverns in the ground containing beautiful stalactites and stalagmites which were a sight to behold.

So the rulers of Cavern-Country made the most beautiful caves into a park for the people. They appointed Cavern Keepers to look after the caverns.

After a time, a group of people, the cave explorers, came to Cavern-Country almost every time they could, because they loved the caverns and wanted to learn more about their secrets.

For many years the explorers and the Cavern Keepers shared information and even though the Cavern Keepers often changed jobs and left Cavern-Country, the explorers were still there, learning more about the caverns all the time.

But then the rulers said that they couldn't pay the Cavern Keepers as much to look after the Park, because they had spent too much money on Festivities. "Your Park must make money" said the rulers and "That is all the money you get!"

So the Cavern Keepers had to spend more time making money and had less time to preserve the caves, which disheartened the explorers who always thought that the Cavern Keepers loved the Caverns.

And so the explorers didn't go to Cavern-Country as much any more, they knew so much about the caverns and the Keepers didn't have time to listen anymore, so the explorers went elsewhere to help those who would listen; which broke their hearts, because they knew so much, and only wanted to help look after the Caverns they had known for so long.

NEW ISOPOD FROM U7

Four isopods (slaters) were recovered from Appledore Cave for the purpose of checking for eye degeneration when compared with surface isopods. The specimens were recovered deep into the dark zone and due to the geological conditions were confined to the lower chambers of the cave.

Before detailed examination of the eyes took place, a request for slaters from the Tasmanian Museum was received. All specimens were forward to Allison Green, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology, Tasmanian Museum.

In a report by her, the following points were made:-

Two species represented by

PORCELLIONIDAE
Porcellio dilatatus Brant (1833)
1 male 2 females

ARMADILLIDAE : ARMADILLLINAE Sphaerillo sp.

1 female

Specimens of Porcellio dilatus have been previously recorded in Bat Cave, Naracoorte, South Australia, but had not been known to penetrate the dark zone.

The specimen of Sphaerillo sp. is a native isopod. It does not belong to an established species, or to one of the undescribed species of Sphaerillo.

The specimens have been added to the Tasmanian Museum's collection and registered as :- G3248 Porcellio dilatatus and G3249 Sphaerillo sp..

Ron Simms

LET'S BELAY THAT BELOW

An interesting article by Ann McLaren appeared recently in the A.S.F.'s "Australian Caver" magazine (No.116), where the issue of standardized climbing calls and their problems was raised.

Calling out indistinct or clumsily-worded phrases in the muffling environment of a cave is a difficulty all cavers experience at one time or another - especially when people with different levels of experience and training are involved.

The most interesting point made in this article, I think, was that even though one of Ann's caving parties consisted of an ex rock-climber, an ex scout, a Venturer leader and other caving club members, cries ranging from "LOOK OUT!!" to "DUCK!" were yelled when things (people??) were dropped. Ann said that she thought that "at least the call of 'Below!' would be a universal term to warn of falling rocks, etc".

Which brings me to the point of this controversial (and hopefully thought-provoking) little article ...that IDIOTIC term "BELOW"!

This darn word has gotten under my skin ever since the day I recovered from my hysterics after learning that "experienced cavers" are supposed to calmly remember the word and call it out when a 1/2 tonne boulder is a millisecond from crushing the guy two feet below you!! (Did you like my Metric/Imperial measurements mixture in that sentence, Kev?? I <u>am</u> slowly being converted to metrification, damn it - must be a very nasty virus!)

As Ann's article illustrated, confusion reigns even amongst (reportedly) experienced cavers! What is the situation then regarding the huge number of normal everyday people (i.e., non cavers!) who go recreational caving once in a while with caver friends? Should they be forced to learn and endure such meaningless tripe "in-house" (in-cave?) words, or should the cavers learn to deal with the more natural screams of "LOOK OUT!" etc.?

Most of us learnt to respond instinctively to "LOOK OUT!" by freezing and waiting for impact of some kind, or ducking for cover whenever someone yelled it out. Some useful scenarios:-

- a. Dad falling off a ladder;
- b. the local school bully about to punch some innocent kid's ear in, and
- c. a car loses control and speeds through a densely-packed pedestrian crossing.

I can see it now, if I had learnt the caving calls instead of the normally-accepted ones –

- a 1. Dad begins to fall off ladder, toppling paint tins and nails everywhere.
 - 2. Little kid responds like a caver: "below!"
 - 3. Response by confused Dad and people on the ground who get clobbered ..."What the hell did THAT mean?"

and situations b. and c. - total disaster as people try to work out what that caving fellow meant when he called out to them!

"BELOW" simply does NOT have the feeling of urgency needed to protect the things (or people) both falling and being fallen upon! Probably 95% of people who go caving would yell something apart from "Below" in situations requiring IMMEDIATE vocal warnings. There is also the possible problem that people who are not actually "below" the problem spot, but who might still get into trouble when the wall caves in etc. may not realise that they too may be in danger.

More seriously now, the very nature of the sound is amazingly similar to the OTHER universal climbing word, "BELAY". Consider this next highly-suspicious scenario:-

- a. A Belayer gets into his belaying harness at the top of a 30-metre vertical pitch, and accidentally knocks over his gear bag, with the result that 12 heavy Nicad batteries and a few small torches fall over the edge.
- b. Being extremely experience and "cool" and unable to see down into the darkness, the Belayer yells "Below!"
- c. 30 metres below, a horde of 15 grotty boy scouts (it's OK. I was one once!) preparing to climb hears the muffled cry from above sound like "bellay!" or "blow!", and 15 pairs of inquisitive little eyes instinctively look straight up to see why the guy above was cursing!

Obviously, it's high time that the international caving community got rid of this antiquated, boring, ambiguous and poorly-chosen word and standardised "LOOK OUT!" or whatever as the universal panic word.

I realise that there is about as much chance in getting rid of this long-entrenched and trendy caving word as there is in convincing people that carbide lamps are fossiliferous things of the long-dead past, (*Heretic - Ed*) but that's no reason NOT to review these things from time to time!

Now that I have entered the "sacred cows cattle-yard", I might as well rattle a few other cages and discuss other annoying caving calls. (I really don't enjoy raising heated issues like this, but someone has to do it!! Shaddup, Kevin!)

Ann McLaren mentioned that the call "Take In" was used when a person was preparing to climb and wanted the slack taken up by the belayer. Surely the good ol' descriptive call "Take up the Slack!" is more suitable? I know the old argument that the word "slack" should never be included in any caving phrase as it might cause more loose rope to be released in error, but surely it isn't any less distinct than "Take in"? Four syllables can hardly be confused with two syllables like "More Slack!" or even "Up Rope!" If I was to start to call "Take In" I'd bet that the response from above would often be "What was that?"

After the slack rope has been taken up, the climber calls "That's me" and he then waits for the belayer to reply with "Climb when ready" before starting up the rope or ladder or whatever. Sometimes, however, the belayer just yells back "OK" and THEN gets ready to support the climber... while the climber immediately commences the climb, thinking that the fellow up above is ready for him! Perhaps an additional call by the climber after "That's me" should be introduced, something like "Are you ready to belay?". This would undoubtedly save a lot of pre-climb confusion, I reckon.

The need to rest on long pitches is often a hurriedly-made, last-second decision on the part of the exhausted climber. (This is especially true for cold, cramped wetsuit -clad cave divers!) Some climbers have an ego-problem and many don't want to be seen to be 'weaker' than their peers, so they try to climb more rungs than their friends before stopping to rest their rupturing muscles. Such ego-oriented individuals usually push themselves right to the limit of their endurance before they succumb to the numbing pain and finally yell "RESTING!"... perhaps a second or so before putting their full weight on the belay line!

Dangling there with agonising pain in their arms, the now mortal climbers rely TOTALLY upon the efficiency and skills of the belayer - how many times have you seen people being rescued on climbs by being literally HAULED up the pitch by the anxious toproping team? If the belayer has been "slack", then the rope will be too, and when the climber suddenly tries to rest and falls 5 metres before (hopefully!) being stopped, more than the belayer's ego is likely to get hurt!!

The call of "HOLD!" or "RESTING" is a personal choice, but from my experience I would prefer "RESTING" because it clearly means that I am tired and intend to actually rest on the rope for some time,,, that is, I am not just on "hold" to sort out gear etc, so I will therefore need a very good surface support system.

Avid rock climbers will no doubt claim that the 'standard' or accepted calls are the best, but representing a large number of "casual" cavers, I feel that it is important for us to

clarify this issue a little more before any new ASF or other regulations are drafted for us all to use. It's like the old argument regarding WHEN belays should be used... some say they should be used on any pitch when could cause injury from a fall (that is, anything over a metre since you can easily break your neck if you fall on your head from that height), while others say that it's ridiculous to wear belays on 1-metre pitches or even 20-metre pitches! Caving terminology is FULL of holes! (What is a "cave", anyway. Hmmm? Let's see a universal definition!!)

Obviously then, in the meantime, the easiest solution would be for all members of a caving party to discuss their schools of thought on these aspects prior to undertaking an expedition into a cave. That way, rather than fighting about which calls are "right", people will know what the others are talking about and will honour their choice of a call. This is of course provided that these calls follow some true direction - "I say old boy, watch out for that jolly rock falling towards your head" simply will NOT do!!

I'd be curious to hear (polite!) comments from the "BELOW" camp so that I can perhaps gain some understanding of the mentality behind the word - I hope that this will get a few old caving brains rattling so some solutions will miraculously appear!

Peter Horne



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PROGRAMME

OCTOBER

1 – 2 Corra Lynn Graham Pilkington

8 - 10

12 Committee Meeting **7-30 pm** Murray Road, Inglewood

15 - 16

22 South Coast - exploration Kevin Mott

26 General Meeting **7-30 pm** Underwater mapping 5L81

29 - 30

NOVEMBER

5 Punyelroo Cave – Survey training Kevin Mott

9 Committee Meeting **7-30 pm** 66 Eyre Cres. Valley View

12 - 13

19 - 20 Upper South East Sue Asche

23 General Meeting **7-30 pm** Laddering & Self belay

26 - 27

DECEMBER

3 - 4

10 - 11

14 Committee Meeting **7-30 pm** 3 Harcourt Rd, Payneham

17 - 18

24 - 25

31 - 1/1

Contact See Office Bearers

Check with the Membership Liaison Officer for any additions or alterations to the programme.