

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

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CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month (except December) 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 34 No 3 is Wednesday 23rd August 1989.

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

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EDITORIAL

Some of us have been caving for what seems to be a long time, or at least the joints give that impression and others of us are relatively new on the scene. Those of us who are elder (and wiser?) sit back in our cane armchairs as the new breed flit back and forth across the continent caving and look on in wonderment. We then look back in to the caverns of our mind and say "Ahh yes - been there, done that" then return to a state of somnolence with a wry smile on our face.

What caves can I visit? We are snapped out of our dreams by an inquiring voice. I am tired of seeing the same caves; what else is there I can do? Where is your sense of adventure, the spirit of finding the unknown I enquire. When I was young, in the good old days, we went out and found them. What is wrong with these modern whipper snappers?

But, wait a minute! I guess I had to start somewhere. I did not just leap into it and gain instant expertise. It had to be acquired the hard way; by asking questions and going caving with others who knew. I guess I am still learning things I thought I already knew or had taken for granted.

It is better to ask questions and be directed on the right path then to go blindly stumbling around in the dark and fall in the hole of ignorance. We are not the best judge of what we know. If someone takes the trouble to ask then they are obviously keen and can be guided into tasks that need to be done because we could not do them before.

By occasionally getting out of the armchair we may find we still enjoy the activity and can maintain continuity in the directions that the Group takes.

Also it is better to be a living role model than an historical figure from the past. The new cavers are prepared to take a break from their flitting to and fro and listen so we certainly owe them the courtesy to take time and share our knowledge and experience.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

Nullarbor

10-23 September. 1988

Party: Max METH - Adelaide, Gary WHITE - Ceduna. Andrew WALL - Canberra.
Greg JORDAN - Hobart

Features visited (in order): 5N345, 5N347. 6N2. 6N17. 6N152. 6N348 - 6N355 inc,
6N285, 6N356, 6N357, 6N83, 6Nxxx, 6Nxxy, 6N206, 6N63, 6Nxxz, 6N44

Sat 10th Sept: Andrew and I drove to Ceduna, meeting Gary at 6pm then drove on and camped the night at the Head of the Great Australian Bight.

Sun 11th Sept: We spent some time viewing about 30 whales which were in the area then drove west along the cliff tops. We looked at the **Fluted Blowholes, 5N345**, and later, at a point just before reaching the Merdayerrah Sandpatch we investigated **Splinter Cave, 5N347**. This is merely the space between the cliff and a huge section which is splintering off. It affords access (hairy) to sea level. After setting up camp at **Weebubbie Cave, 6N2** we explored the dry end of the cave.

Mon 12th Sept: We mapped the **Chowilla Landslip, 6N17** and extended a small cave under the eastern wall to about 10mm. The skull of a rock wallaby was found in the cave. The species had not previously been recorded in this area. Gary wanted to drive to **Old Homestead Cave, 6N83** by a different track than usual. We started out along the Old Coach road to the WA/SA border, then turned north to the railroad.

First we passed **6N152**, an unnamed blowhole then explored the ruins of Naliwoodin - due north of Eucla. Further east we found a 3m deep blowhole **6N348**. After this we turned north following a track on the SA/WA border finding a deep blowhole **5N349**.

Tue 13th Sept: The blowhole proved to be 13m deep and gave access to a 50m long cave. It had the remains of many dead animals in it, mainly rabbits. 40km further north we found four blowholes **5N350-353**. Our track met the railway at the abandoned settlement of Deakin. We headed west and found 2 more blowholes **6N354 & 355** before reaching Reid. At Reid we headed north to Reid **Blowhole, 6N285** then 20km further to another blowhole **6N356**. Here we headed west.

Gary saw a cat and chased it. It ran (to our surprise) about 500m into a large doline, 20m diameter and 3m deep. There had been no hint of the doline and without the cat it would have been missed. We named it **Feline Doline, 6N357** and it contained a veritable oasis of trees; pittosporum, acacia and cassia. The cat had hidden in a small cave beneath a dense and prickly acacia tree. Since no one was game to try to evict the cat, the cave was left unexplored. (Well it was a very large cat.....honestly).

We then drove south to Forrest and picked up Greg Jordan who had arrived on the Indian Pacific earlier that day and after another 35km arrived at **Old Homestead Cave, 6N83** and set up camp.

Wed, Thu, Fri 14th-16th Sept: We explore in Old Homestead Cave, in the **Trident Series** of the south cave and in 2 separate areas of the north cave. After 3 days of work we decide to have a day off.

Sat 17th Sept: For our (day off we decided to go for a drive. 1 km north of our camp is **My Hole, 6Nxxx**, a 3m deep blowhole with a 20m long cave. From here we drove north, finding additional blowholes after 9, 12, & 15km. These are not numbered. When we reached the railway we headed east to Forrest, finding **Bulldozer Nest Blowhole, 6Nxy** on the way. This has a tube opening about 1m below ground level which is a tight squeeze. A bulldozer has evidently removed about a metre of stone from the top of the tube. A pile of stones and the bulldozer tracks were still evident. Access to the cave was probably impossible prior to the dozer's activities.

Sun, Mon 18th-19th Sept: We completed the survey of the Trident Series and sadly admit that it has at last ended. There are actually still some leads, but these are not expected to be significant, but then again... I could point out that the total length of passages in the **Trident Series** is now over 2km and the "end" is a complex zone of rock breakdown passages and phreatic tubes many of which breathe quite strongly. I could mention these things but I won't. Nor will I mention the fact that passages of the **Spring Series** (the other main arm of the south cave) are known by survey data to exist only 30m away in the same direction as the main trend of **Trident Series**.

Tue 20th Sept: Another rest day with SRT practice in the doline of Old Homestead Cave courtesy of Greg Jordan. Then a drive to **Thampanna Cave, 6N206** where camp was set up before dark.

Wed 21st Sept: We could only afford 1 day in **Thampanna Cave** and this was spent in the large chamber beyond **The Tube**. Like others before us, the way on (if it exists) could not be found.

Thu 22nd Sept: We drove to nearby **Thylacine Hole Cave, 6N63** and in a tightish flattener type area which appears to have no definite end, we found the mummified remains of a brush-tail possum, a species which was not previously known to have existed in the area. We got back to the surface quite early and the day was hot and still - and we didn't relish sitting back at camp for 2 hours in the heat. So we took a scenic drive with the air-conditioner on full. It was so comfortable that when we found a large unrecorded doline **6Nxxz** about 7km from camp we were reluctant to get out to explore, (just kidding) and it was beautifully cool inside.

Fri 23rd Sept: This was our last day on the Nullarbor. We drove to **Kutowalla Doline, 6N44** which is a large doline 20m deep but with no cave. But there is a very small cave and a potential exists to push past a blockage to ? That will keep till next time.

Max Meth

Chris Hales for the latest trip details

NULLARBOR - Boat trip to the cliffs

22-27 November, 1988

Party: Gary WHITE, John DUREGAN, Judy WOOLLATT, Peter BETTS,
Max METH

The Great Australian Bight stretches 1300km from Coffin Bay on the southern tip of Eyre Peninsula in SA to Israelite Bay in WA. It contains 2 separate sections of vertical coastal limestone cliffs.

1. From Point Culver to Twilight Cove in WA
known as the **BAXTER CLIFFS** - they are: 150 km long
2. From Wilson Bluff to Twin Rocks (head of the bight) in SA
known as the **BUNDA CLIFFS** - they are: 175 km long

Both cliffs have average heights of 80 to 90m. Incidentally these two cliffs are separated by the Roe Plain and a distance of 295km. Over this distance the cliff exists inland (up to 40km) as a degraded scarp. Actually, the Bunda Cliffs are not continuous, being divided by 23km of the Merdayerrah Sandpatch. (that's quite a sand patch)

There are over 400 caves known in the inland limestone area but only one in the actual cliffs. This one, **White Water Cave, 6N344** was found by accident after the wreck of a fishing boat, the "White Water", near Twilight Cove. The crew managed to get ashore and sheltered in the cave while awaiting rescue. Naturally the question arose whether other such caves existed.

Our trip was organized to explore the Bunda Cliffs in SA. We had use of a 13.5m yacht "Overproof" belonging to Peter. The cliffs have not been explored by cave explorers before because of logistical problems:- The entire coast is exposed to the Southern Ocean, and there are few safe anchorages and no port facilities of any sort. On our approach side the nearest serviced port is at Ceduna, 270km east of Twin Rocks.

It took 3 days to sail from Ceduna to Twin Rocks with the first 2 nights spent at anchorage. Goat Island then Fowlers Bay. The third night we sailed all night, arriving off Twin Rocks just before dawn. Radar showed us to be about 4 nautical miles from the cliffs. During the entire voyage the wind had been blowing from the SE at 15-25 knots. We hoped in vain for the wind to abate because any landing at the foot of the cliffs was impossible.

Instead we tacked to the west and tracked along the cliffs for 3 hours. At 9 o'clock far from abating the weather forecast was for strong winds (to 35 knots). I had no doubt that the boat could handle these conditions, but could we. Only myself and Peter were well enough to be on deck, Gary was so seasick he had remained in his bunk continuously since we left Ceduna. Since it would be at least 24 hours before we could reach Fowlers Bay again, we decided to abort the trip. It did take 24 hours to reach Fowlers Bay and the weather was still adverse and Gary was still in his bunk.

However, the trip was very enjoyable and I did manage to log about 26 km of the cliff noting 21 large cave openings larger than 5m diameter. The largest being over 50m high. Two openings at sea level were large enough to sail our boat into - but sadly I could only watch them go by.

Another 2 days sailing and we were safely back in Ceduna again, and not planning any boat trips - and why was Australia going up and down?

Max Meth

NULLARBOR TRIP

14-22 April, 1989

Party: Glenroy Venturer Unit

Caves visited 6N2, 6N3, 5N21, 6N37, 6N165, 6N193, 6N206

On Friday 14th April, 14 Venturers and leaders crammed into a Kombi, a Golf and a Hilux and headed way out west where the price of a Farmers Union Iced Coffee skyrockets and it eventually becomes unavailable.

Friday night was spent under the stars just out of Poochera and we "roughed it" in shearers quarters at Mundrabilla Homestead on Saturday night. We then spent the next three days caving at Mullamullang Cave, which consists of one long passage about 5 km in length and numerous side passages making it one of the longest caves in Australia. It has large chambers, several lakes and many giant rockpiles (which progressed to BRP's and eventually to FRP's). It also contains a giant underground sand dune.

A round trip to "The Dome", the furthest point from the entrance, was an 'epic' journey, taking ten to thirteen hours to complete depending on which group you were in. These epics involved carrying our lunch, water (in a wine cask bladder) and an empty, marked (!) bladder for nature calls as well as enough light for 15 hours. At the Dome we added our names to the "Dome club" - a list of previous expeditioners - and also saw the rare blind spider native only to the Dome in Mullamullang Cave. As far as we know we are the only Venturer Unit to visit the Dome.

From Mullamullang we explored Witches and Kelly Caves, both containing some spectacular decoration. We stayed the night near Thampanna, a cave with a greet abseil, caving there for seven hours the next day.

We then visited Abrakurrie, a cave with a HUGE chamber. Had a very welcome, invigorating swim in freezing water in Weebubbie and went down Bunabie Blowhole.

The food and weather were both great. Waking up to a hot drink and a fire that had been lit by a practised firelighter (thanks Lance) (*You mean Pyro - Ed*) made getting up at 6.00 a.m. to be underground by 7.30 (*am or pm - Ed*) almost bearable. We ate like kings, especially with camp oven pizzas complete with anchovies, home-baked cake and freshly baked camp oven bread. Everyone had a specific job: quartermasters, navigators, caving gear QMs. vehicle packers and water monitor.

Total distance travelled 3231 km

Average total caving hours for trip: 35 hours

Cost per person: \$90

Chris KENNEDY

GLENROY VENTURER UNIT

Give Chris Hales details of planned trips - others may be looking for trips.

LOWER SOUTH EAST

18-19th February, 1989

CAVES VISITED: 3G4, 3G38, 3G40, 5L1, 5L10, 5L34, 5L35, 5L15, 5L40, 5L60, 5L69, 5L86, 5L159-161 (see separate report)

PARTY: Peter KRAEHENBUEHL, David TREHEARNE, Darren CRAWFORD, Mark THISELTON, Paul HARPER, David & Debra McINTYRE, Mac MacDONALD, Fern RAINTREE.

Saturday morning saw the group of 9 keen cavers meeting at the Lady Nelson Information Centre around 9 a.m. At that point the dry cavers separated from the cavers who are still wet behind the ears (divers).

The dry cavers visited Hells Hole (5L40) a beautiful 30m large diameter sinkhole. We then spent approximately 1 hour searching near an airstrip looking for L109, L110 & L111 but we were unable to locate them amongst the thick pine forest. We then continued on to another large sinkhole along side the airstrip, Caroline Sinkhole.

From a suggestion made by Kevin Mott we then located a large depression 8m wide, 12m long and 4 metres deep within a forest, that was reputed to have a lead from it. After digging with a crow bar and shovel we did not find it (*As Basil would say - SORRY! - KRH*)

On the way to Dry Creek we stopped and looked at another large sinkhole, but this was filled with a number of old car bodies and other rubbish. At Dry Creek we located and explored Snow Flake Cave, 5L1, so-called probably due to lublinite. As we were running short of time we left the cave to return to our cars only to find the other group of wet cavers who we were to meet at the Princess Margaret Rose Tourist Cave for lunch.

The entire group then headed to Currans Creek area where we located and explored G4, where Paul Harper found a small axe or hatchet. G38 and G40 had a beautiful coral shaped formation of lublinite on the ceiling.

We then made a half-hearted dash to find G14 but were not able to find the entrance, so we then headed back to Mt. Gambier to clean up before eating at a Greek restaurant.

The two groups (wet & dry) then went their separate ways.

The dry cavers visited Morgans Cave, L34 where we found the water level to be slightly higher than previously known by Mark. David and Mark then found a number of candles and clay figurines placed on a ledge within a chamber in the northern end of the cave.

On Sunday morning we left Mt Gambier heading home and called into Considines Cave, L86. Then into Mt. Burr Cave, L69 where a couple of bats were spotted. We did not explore much of that cave due to the water level. We then headed to Graveyard, Gran Gran and Quarry Caves where the people did their own exploration of the various caves.

The group then went their own way home after a most enjoyable weekend of caving.

Mark THISELTON

YABBY FISH'N (Part 2)

THE DREAMTIME CONTINUES

BLOKES INVOLVED: Darren (Jimmy bloke) CRAWFORD, Peter (Bricey bloke) KRAEHENBUEHL, Alan (Monkey bloke) JEVONS, Ivan (Fishy-Fishy) RILEY.

The Fishing venue: Wet Cave, Mole Creek, Tasmania, 7MC203E - 8 October, 1988

The Story So far...

After five hours of photography at Genghis Khan Cave Jimmy bloke said, "Hey blokes my bait. it's back! Let's go yabbie fishin'." Bricey bloke, he knew the way. Monkey bloke, he'd been there too. But Fishy-Fishy, he wasn't too keen on this yabbie fishing' stuff....

We arrived fairly late in the afternoon and slipped into the old condom simulation suits (well and truly soiled at this stage) and wet thermal underwear. Again a short walk brought us to the MC203 entrance. The cave showed no mercy and we were faced with a wade before even entering, we accepted this and followed a main river passage. The water was knee deep and the going relatively hassle free.

The river was flowing a greet deal foster than MC13 so even more care had to be taken to avoid a full 6°C plunge. Events throughout the cave were fairly typical of those previously encountered on earlier fishin' trips. Deep pockets were still a hazard and did make the occasional surprise appearance, catching a couple of us off guard. Peter and Darren played 'silly buggers' by jumping out of two daylight holes (MC144 and MC145). "Just to get two more numbers than you other blokes". - Bricey Bloke.

Deeper into the cave more formation was encountered than was previously expected. Several huge flowstone canopies hung ominously overhead. The blokes were suitably impressed and after saying "just five more minutes" about six times, we regretfully turned our heads for home. The escape was uneventful and we returned to a dark sky. Overall a very pleasant way for us to complete the expedition and left us hungry for more.

Jimmy BLOKE

THE BLOKES GO YABBIE FISH'IN" (Part 3)

THE BLOKES INVOLVED: Darren (Jimmy) CRAWFORD, Peter (Bricey) KRAEHENBUEHL, David (Cap'n Gear Freak) TREHEARNE, Paul (Tortoise Bloke) HARPER.

The fishing venue: Ewens Ponds.5L159, 5L160, 5L161 – 18 February, 1989

Bricey Bloke said, "Hey blokes, haven't been fishing' for a while". Jimmy Bloke said, "What about a feed of yabbies blokes?" Bait thought. "Oh no, not again!"

We had seen the slides, heard the reports, read the book and even watched the video, so armed with a map and dive gear we promptly headed the wrong way and visited the Victorian Border. More map reading incompetence later and we finally arrived at the ponds. The usual ritualistic donning of the pressure cooking suits and testing of the SCUBA gear led to the cold water immersion. The water was quite a bit

colder than the waters of the gulf, and the clarity, fantastic! I had to add one more weight to my belt which left one spare on the jetty. This later turned out to be a sad mistake, as some scum snorkeller decided it would look **good** in his/her collection and left me with a lighter load of dive gear for the way home. I guess some people can't recognise gear that has been temporarily left for a reason!

It was our first freshwater dive, and we soon found out how unforgiving these sinkholes are on buoyancy control. Darren was my partner for the dive, and we both played freshwater elevators for a while, until we got the buoyancy under control.

The weed life and the fish were just fantastic, not to mention the 'sand boils'. We were all incredibly impressed with the dive. The morning dive lasted about 1¼ hours followed by a quick walk back to the cars.

That evening, we returned to do a night dive in the ponds with the near full moon to light up the way. The stars and the moon take on an eerie effect through the crystal clear waters, so we tried not to disturb the silt on the bottom by trying the "shuttle kicking" mentioned in the Lands Dept. "Guidelines for Use of Ewens Ponds". This together with not getting too close to the bottom meant that very little silt was disturbed.

Night time was also EEL TIME. I was waiting for the remake of EELS IV as we watched a large eel munch away on a reasonable sized dead fish. Being the brave boys we are, we all didn't want to swim over it in the relatively shallow channels connecting the ponds. Eels.YCCK!

Apart from my main light giving up after only 20 minutes and forcing me onto my reserve light, it was a top 60 mins in the moonlit ponds.

"Only one thing bloke. I didn't **see** no Yabbies. I think we go there another time!" - Jimmy Bloke.

Krunchy

NARACOORTE - PHOTO MONITORING & SURVEY

5U22 - FOX CAVE

20-21 May, 1989

Party: Peter KRAEHENBUEHL, Chris HALES, Jo BAUER (NPWS),
David McIntYRE, Paul HARPER, Jack HAYWARD,
Deborah McIntYRE (entrance only)

After discussions with Jo Bauer in the morning prior to leaving the main part of the Park. we entered the cave about 10.30 a.m. to reassess the photo monitoring points identified on the last CEGSA trips into the cave three years previously. On these last two trips Peter Kraehenbuehl and Kevin Mott started a preliminary assessment at the request of the Assistant District Ranger, Brian Clark.

During the 'morning session', the photo points were discussed with Jo, and seven monitoring points were agreed to and marked on a map carried with the party together with the reasons for the points or a description of the point. This trip also clarified where the Fox Cave Adventure tour was conducted into the cave.

At the chamber containing the rimpool and large cracked column, some conflicting views were had regarding the management of this chamber, both parties agreed to disagree at this time. We accompanied Jo to the surface so she could go home (late!) and after a lunch break the surveying began. On the Saturday afternoon and the Sunday two photo monitoring points were surveyed and test photographs taken at both these stations.

If we could get two survey / photography groups into the cave at once I think that the photo monitoring points could be established with one more weekend's trip.

I have proposed other work to be completed in Fox Cave to Jo Bauer and Brian Clark in addition to the photo points initially requested by Brian.

These include a 'photographic map' of the cave to establish some base-line visual data of the cave in it's current state - which could be compared on a long term basis, and completion of Grant Gartrell's 1:240 map of the cave with an update to the metric scale of 1:250.

So if you're interested in some work projects at Naracoorte see Peter or Kevin - there's heaps to do!!

Krunchy

MOLE CREEK, TASMANIA

WET CAVE, 7MC203E

8 October, 1988

Party: Darren CRAWFORD, Ivan RILEY, Alan JEVONS, Peter KRAEHENBUEHL

After 4½ hours of photography in Genghis Khan Cave we looked at each other (not a very pretty sight) and said "Hey. lets go caving". Peter and Alan had been to Mole Creek several years ago on a Rover Meet (a booze party for overgrown scouts), and had been through Wet Cave (while sober. we only drank at night). Thus. the suggestion was made, a quick 1 hour 'get wet' trip to Wet Cave. We went back to invite the others along, but they were still recovering from Khubla, so off we went anyway.

After learning the hard way yesterday, that bread bags and dunlop volleys were not the best footwear for a river cave, I wisely borrowed an oversized pair of wetsuit booties from the back of the car. So off we went, fishing for yabbies again, however, this time, the bait disappeared considerably higher than the kidneys (as did the water level, in other words, the water wasing cold. The 'highlight' of the visit was when we found a single glow-worm on the roof.

An interesting point was that "Vertical Caves of Tasmania" describes Wet Cave as having 'very little impressive decoration, except for a few canopies hanging from the roof'. All I can say is that if this is the case. I can't wait to visit a well decorated cave.

No-one can go on a trip if they don't know about it - Tell Chris Hales

After successfully avoiding the deeper sections of the river for 40 minutes, we turned back and headed out (at that stage, having water only up to your waist was considered shallow). We emerged from the cave very wet and very cold (funny about that) just on twilight. After warming up and putting on some dry kimbies, it was into Mole Creek for a can of coke and a hamburger, then back to camp for a bit of Michael's good old fashioned home cooking.

All in all, a most enjoyable day's caving. But I do think the prospect of parenthood has been considerably reduced for all four of us, although freezing and de-frosting is all the rage these days, isn't it. The water really was bloody cold.

Ivan RILEY

KANGAROO ISLAND

13- 20 May, 1989

Party: Eddie & Corinne RUBESSA, Lance HOEY, Kevin MOTT & family,
Paul TEAGLE, Garth & Ida JACKSON, Lee DIXON, Peter HORNE,
Vien., John JOHNSTONE, Steve BERRISS

Caves visited: K1, K2, K5, K7, K9, K16, K52, K55

Like most Kangaroo Island trips of recent times, people were coming and going all the time. Most of the caving was done on the Sunday to Tuesday with the rest of the trip being a more leisurely exercise.

The trip over on the Philanderer on Saturday morning was quite pleasant. Peter Horne just made the ferry with nanoseconds to spare then had the cheek to wave at the yellow v-dub left stranded at Cape Jervis. At Penneshaw we were quietly pigging out on savoury muffins when Lance declared he would like to see K13. "No problems" say I. "I'll just get the maps" Arrrhhh!!!! Sleepy little Penneshaw is shaken awake and gradually turning blue. My satchel, complete with maps, compasses, survey notes and other paraphernalia is still on the lounge room floor in Adelaide. If it wasn't for my good memory the trip could have been ruined. At least I could remember most of the important facts, others had compasses and we could "borrow" a couple of the maps I brought over for Diana. We didn't visit K13. Garth was waiting patiently for us at the Kelly Hill campsite.

On Sunday we retraced the 1949 survey by L Mansfield (Dept. Mines) to relocate his survey stations. Only four stations could not be relocated

- pt. S - in the tourist route - covered by a concrete pathway
- pt. O - at the end of the tourist route - covered by a rock wall
- pt. N - fallen from roof
- pt. F - covered by "bad ground"

When locating pt. A we found a second steel peg on top of the peg at A. This was the surface peg placed by Mansfield which was presumably disturbed when the fence around K1 was constructed. Some time was also spent looking for the connection to K2. Only when it was found later on the trip did we realise just how close we were. The route, like many others in the cave, is not blatantly obvious. The original Mansfield data would have been useful but neither the Dept. Mines nor CEGSA now have it.

A resurvey of the cave would be major task and is best approached by tackling those areas that have been mapped to a low grade or have not been mapped at all. Mansfield's traverse can be used to hang other surveys on to. Sections of the cave away from Mansfield's traverse will need an approach survey to tie them in.

We travelled to Ravine des Casoars on Monday to look at the extension to K5 reported by John Johnstone several meetings earlier. K16 had a large expanse of water in it. The maps of K5 & 16 are fine as grade 2 maps but could be upgraded to better show detail. We proceeded to the extension in K5. Steve, Lance and Eddie went on through with instructions to map their way out. John and I would not fit through initially. A half an hour of mind over matter and I could get through, almost. As the survey party exited I went up to clarify a problem. Eddie was positive I could get through, I did. Turned out I was trying to go the wrong way.

After the constriction, the cave opened up and a short scramble over the rock pile brought you into a chamber. This chamber is 25 x 20 x 4m high. The floor is broken rock and the whole chamber is dark and dirty looking. One striking feature is an area of white angular rocks below a similar white patch on the roof with chunks of roof sitting there by what seems to be force of habit. There is some very good decoration in this chamber.

Tuesday Peter, Lance and Eddie went bush to look at K7 and see how it compared to the original map. A new map of the cave was produced and compares favourably with the original. Garth and I started a survey of the new tourist route in Kelly Hill Cave.

Wednesday was R & R day with a trip into Kingscote to stock up on money food and liquid refreshment. A stopover at Western River Cove provided us with fresh fish for tea that night. I don't know if it was the lack of diving or the fact that his video camera once again failed but Horney was at it again. He and Lee seemed to spend ages on all fours in some kind of ritualistic dance. Turns out he was giving mouth to snout resuscitation to a TOAD FISH.

There being some doubt expressed about the map of K9, Peter and Garth set out to confirm the mapping. On the way out there we stopped off at K52 to show Diana through the cave. Peter later took Garth for a touristy through K55. I had a hard day visiting Seal Bay and fishing at Yivonne. That night we returned to the Kelly Hill system to locate the K1 - K2 route. Peter, Lee, Diana and her husband went in from K1. Garth and I went in from K2. We found the way down but I couldn't get through. With the aid of voice communication the others finally found the way to the connection. It was quite enjoyable watching the others exude themselves through the crack. Once again Horney caused complications by getting his foot caught under a rock. We were able to free his foot by passing a leg down alongside of him and manoeuvring the offending rock out of the way.

Friday was spent tidying up loose ends and taking in the tranquil setting of Kelly Hill before packing up on Saturday and heading back to Adelaide.

Kevin Mott

Planning at trip? Want to know who is available? Contact Chris Hales

NARACOORTE

10-12 June, 1989

Party: Max METH, Mark & Karin Sefton, Eddie & Corinne RUBESSA, Lance HOEY, Athol JACKSON, Kevin MOTT & family,
and for the dinner, Peter HORNE, Vien..., and Mark NIELSEN

Caves visited: U3, U15, U26, U48, U59, U132

The main purpose of this trip was to celebrate another CEGSA / VSA dinner. The majority of people left on Friday night and travelled to the Naracoorte caravan park in order to get in a full days' caving before the Dinner. The caving activity included continuation of the survey in Shaftesbury Shaft and exploration / familiarisation trips into Anderite Cave and Victoria Quarry Cave. Having family considerations to heed, I slummed it by leaving on Saturday morning and set up a borrowed camper trailer in Harry Baker's back yard. Harry turned eighty two on the Sunday and although he is not quite as active as he used to be, he still likes to keep up with the latest happenings in caving. Congratulations Harry. I used the rest of the afternoon to contact various landowners to talk about indemnity.

The CEGSA / VSA Dinner turned out to be solely a CEGSA affair, albeit poorly attended, with the Puddles Horne entourage providing the only fresh blood. They made the epic journey from Mt Gambier. A meal at Naracoorte is decidedly better than sloshing around grotty pollution holes in the South East. Peter also provided some relief to the diners by filming with his now it works, now it doesn't, video camera. We might have to look at altering the date of this event to once again attract the crowds.

On Sunday everyone moved to Beekeepers Cave to commence a resurvey of the cave. The start of the resurvey was delayed while we waited for our gear to arrive. Seems Max was showing Lance and Eddie where Robertson Cave is. Two parties undertook the survey; one surveying a baseline through the cave to enable other surveys to be tied together, the other surveying the rockpile chamber opposite the "sump". The right hand branch of this chamber was surveyed back toward the entrance for 50m. The baseline survey was taken through the "sump" and continued for 25m in either direction from the "sump". Having tried to set up the dial in the sump using a fixed leg tripod I now know why I made baseboards some years ago.

During the lunch period Athol and Lance accompanied me to the Reserve. There Brian Clark showed us how the Alexandra tourist cave is developing new calcite growth in the area that was excavated several years ago. To encourage this growth the tourist areas have been delineated with rope "railings" and the raking of the silt has been discontinued. Whilst there, the time was productively spent sorting out misconceptions and establishing what CEGSA can do at Naracoorte.

For those who wanted to go caving on the Monday, VDC Cave was chosen to receive the honour. This was purely a recreational caving trip to give those who had been surveying all weekend a chance to do something completely different.

Kevin Mott

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Change of address etc

Garth JACKSON	(H) 08 48 22 078
Mac McDONALD	(H) 362 3911
Kevin MOTT	(H) 362 2441
Ivan RILEY	(H) 336 7884
Corinne RUBESSA	9 Shepherds Lane CAMPBELLTOWN 5074 (H) 336 4775
Eddie RUBESSA	as above

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion is to be put to the General Meeting on Wednesday 26 July, 1989.

"That the group uses \$200-00 from the Premium Interest account to purchase a new rope when Bluewater II+ becomes available."

HIRE CHARGES - EQUIPMENT

To cover the cost of maintenance of locks and gates, the Committee has increased the hire rate for keys from \$0-50 to 1-00. The increase in price will be effective from **1st July, 1989.**

NARACOORTE TRIPS

To facilitate trip planning for CEGSA trips to Naracoorte, all permit applications must be forwarded through either Peter Kraehenbuehl or Chris Hales. This will protect our interests in making sure our name is not used by non members and help us co-ordinate our activities. They have supplies of the appropriate form and are up to date with requirements.

WILPENA RESORT DEVELOPMENT SHOCK

Remember when National Parks were removing all unnecessary dwellings and buildings from national parks? Well wait until you hear this....

On the long weekend in June, several of my friends and I spent a day and half combing the planned "Resort" site in Wilpena in the Flinders Ranges National Park. Our personal missions were to clarify for ourselves the extent of the damage to the area and to see the level of tree loss. Estimates have been bandied around and we were unclear as to their accuracy.

We were shocked! After spending the Saturday morning planting Redgums in the park we moved ourselves to the "Resort" site and began to take photographs. The extent of the damage this resort will do was the force behind us returning for the whole of Sunday to do tree counts and estimations. For those who have seen the magnitude of this proposal you will know it encompasses approximately 3.5 x 1.0 km along the southern ridges and valleys of the ABC range, and is within sight of the imposing and statuous ranges of the pound itself. These views are the drawcard for the developers. They have selected a beautiful area for their vandalism.

It has been a policy of Bruce Leaver, the director of National Parks and Wildlife, to develop parks for tourism. I feel so angry that a premier who is a member of Trees for Life could endorse this project. If John Bannon saw what devastation and tree loss was going to occur, he would have serious questions to ask his advisors and department heads. The Government can still pull out. The works are expected to begin in September. From our calculations, we estimate that in the section where the bungalows will be built alone, 900 trees will need to be felled. On the cottages site, 1300 trees will go. These dense forests of Callistris Pines are very old. To estimate the total tree loss is fearful. What a travesty of justice in a National Park! At a time of far reaching concern for the environment and a feeling of encouragement in tree planting programs, this Government is going to bring in such an inappropriate project.

The Flinders Ranges are South Australia's gems. They are the wild places that are so familiar to us and the places for retreating to the quiet and spectacular beauty that contrast so vividly with our everyday lives. Much work needs to be done and many decisions need to be made about them, because there are many degraded areas. The service is so poorly funded and staffing in the Parks is so low. However, a project of this type is totally unacceptable and the losses will too great. The sad thing is that it is because the area is in a national park that it is under threat. If it was private or leasehold land then the Planning Act would apply to control such a monstrosity. National Parks can do what they like it appears. We hope that their mandate is to protect but in the case of Wilpena this is in doubt. What can you do?

- **write** to the premier John Bannon
 Parliament House, North Terrace
 Adelaide 5000
- **tell** your friends - it's URGENT. Survey pegs are in but the project hasn't started.
- join the Australian Conservation Foundation - phone 232 2566 for a form
- join the Wilderness Society - phone 231 6586 for a form

For general information following this paper, please **contact**

- Jeannie, Steve and Tamara of The Last Resort - ph 362 8010
- Meredith and Adrian - ph 333 2472
- John Hunwick - National Parks Action Committee ph (h) 276 6885 (w) 275 5336 or at the Conservation Centre ph 223 5155

Meredith REARDON

PROGRAMME

JULY

1 – 2	Flinders Ranges	Peter Kraehenbuehl
8 – 9		
12	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	12 Cleve St. Mansfield Park
15 - 16		
17 - 22	Mole Creek - Tasmania	Darren Crawford
22 - 23		
26	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Bruce Leaver, Director NPWS
30		

AUGUST

5 – 6	Naracoorte	Kevin Mott
9	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	26 Burford Rd. Elizabeth Downs
12 – 13	Lower South East	Chris Hales
19 - 20		
23	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Nullarbor - Hales & Bulling
26 - 27		

SEPTEMBER

2 - 3		
9 - 10		
13	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	66 Eyre Cres. Valley View
16 – 17		
23 - 25	Kangaroo Island	Kevin Mott Chris Hales
23 – 9/10	Nullarbor	Graham Pilkington
27	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Films

JANUARY 1990

New South Wales	Peter Kraehenbuehl
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Check with the Membership Liaison Officer for any additions or alterations to the programme.