

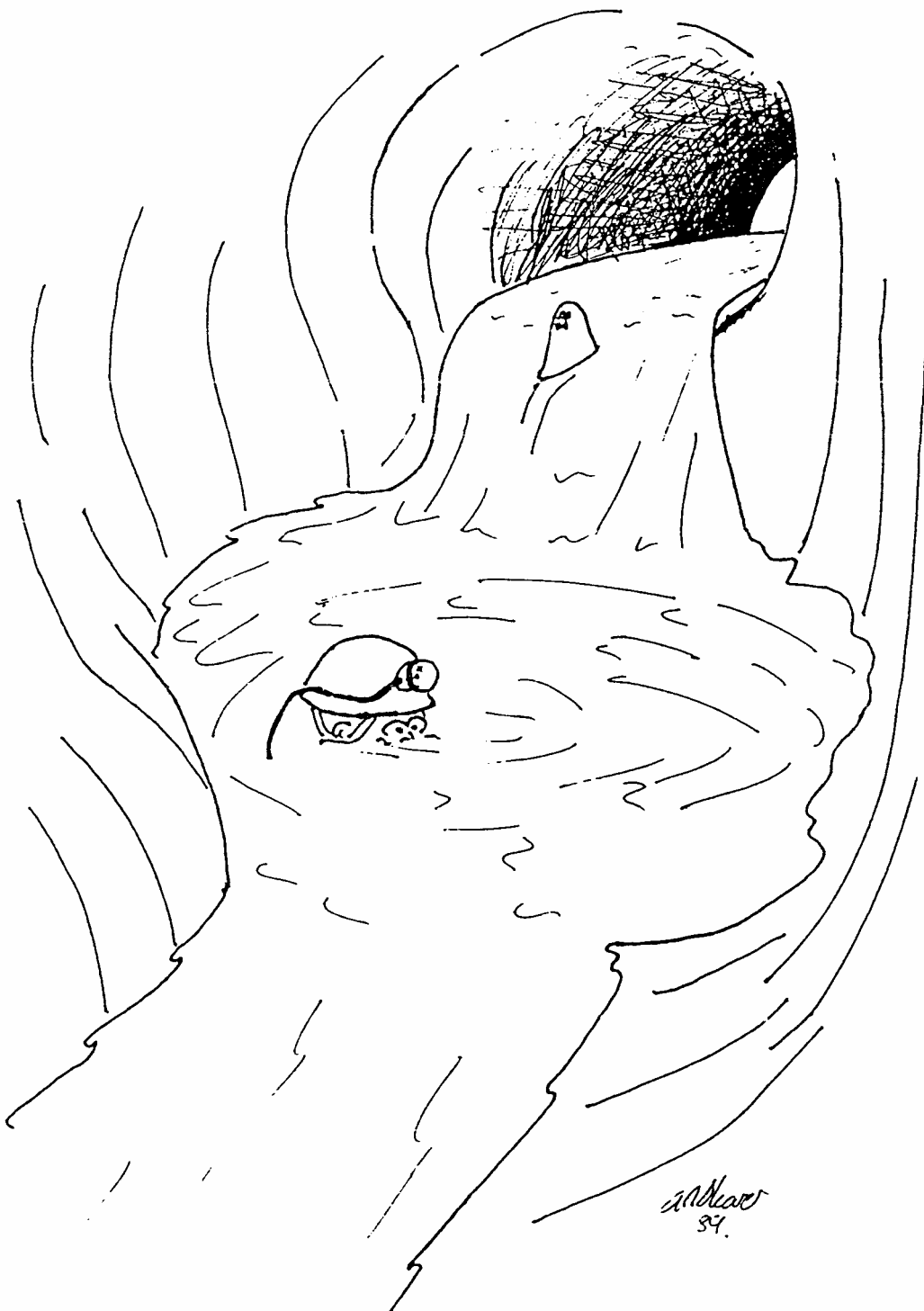
CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P O Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

Volume 34 Number 3 September 1989



NEWSLETTER



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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 4 is Wednesday 25th October, 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

How many times have you heard the complaint that trips continually visit the same caves or the same areas within a cave. Often this occurs because members blindly follow the leader in and out of a cave or rely on the leader to organise everything. Perhaps all we, like sheep, are being led into complacency.

We need to continually look at caves as though they were virgin territory, explore our environment and learn all about it. Visiting the same caves over and over again will only degrade them faster and add nothing to our knowledge. Try visiting a cave you have not visited before and try entering a cave without the map. Use a sense of adventure; make your own map (it is good practise) and compare it to the original, see what you can find in the cave, where does it go?

Exploring a cave is as much about finding out about the cave as seeing where it goes. No map can be 100% correct as all maps are subject to personal interpretation. Exploration also involves digging to find the way on. Many passages are hidden from view by accidental blockages.

Study of existing maps and interpretation of signs such as water paths and breezes give us clues to the location of potential cave passage. After all, "Exploration" is our middle name. Cavers taking the time to look behind the right rock, pull out a rock or rocks and making the effort to go right to the end of a passage in controlled exploration have contributed to our knowledge and given us many of our caving assets.

The knowledge we have about caves is based on that little part of the cave we know. New discoveries can lead us to revise our theories of cave development and the environment at that and subsequent times. In his book 'Geological Observations in South Australia' Rev. J E Woods states "It may seem strange that so much food for speculation is to be found in the earth beneath our feet. It leads to much knowledge. Let us not be presumptuous, however. How small it is in comparison with the vast amount still unknown, and yet within reach!"

*M*uch of the cave tourism in this State is a direct result of cave exploration and excavation, as are some of the world's most significant fossil discoveries. Caves that are regularly visited for adventure and recreation would number considerably less if not for the exploration and digging activities of the Group.

*T*he majority of people visiting these caves are not even aware that the area was dug, or seem to appreciate the effort put in to making them accessible. Often it has been assumed that the cave or passage was always accessible. I think this says something about the sensitivity we have for caves and shows that controlled exploration can actually enhance the value of caves. Generally this activity takes place quietly and with a minimum of fuss and publicity.

*I*f we are to expand our knowledge of caves we must be prepared to throw away the concept that because the cave has a map we know all about it. That is bureaucratic thinking. Critically exploring and examining a cave not only adds to our knowledge but is personally rewarding.

*E*xploration, and this includes controlled digging, is as much a legitimate speleological activity as photography, surveying and palaeontology. We could sit on our backsides doing nothing and stagnate or motivate ourselves and through exploration make the next 35 years of CEGSA history an era of more achievement than the last 35 years.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

THE NON-BICENTENNIAL TASMANIAN CAVING EXPEDITION

16-23 April, 1989

Team: Darren 'twisted' CRAWFORD, Peter 'petzl' KRAEHENBUEHL, Andrew 'no-name' SHEARER, Paul 'panda' HARPER and Ivan 'slimy humus layer' RILEY

Caves visited: Genghis Khan - 7MC38, Kubla Khan - 7MC1, Midnight Hole – 7IB11, Mystery Creek- 7IB10, Owl Pot - 7JF221

Sunday, 16 April. The fun begins.

Everyone arrived at the airport on time! After a farewell wish from David Trehearne and the small band of rellies, we flew to Melbourne and on to Launceston. No problems with the hire car, but a few hassles with the lead acid batteries that were going to be waiting for us at the terminal. We discovered that they were locked in a storage area in Launceston. We went shopping for food while Ivan checked out some after-hours phone numbers to allow collection. When no one could help us we headed off to the caravan park and then the pub.

Monday, 17 April. Kubla Khan.

Panda and Ivan went back to get the battery packs. When they got back, we packed lunch (which turned out to be tea) and packed the required tackle. We then jumped into the magic bus - our Tarago that the foolish hire company rented us - and headed off for a chat with Chester Shaw, the head ranger. We caught up with another ranger who told us that Chester was out for the day, so she gave us the key to the Kubla Khan gate. A speedy drive soon followed and we were at the 7MC1 entrance. We headed into the cave at 12-00pm and got out at around 4-00am. Please refer to the detailed trip report later in this issue.

Tuesday, 18 April. What happened to my body day.

The day was spent allowing our bodies to get over the shock of what had hit them the day before. We also cleaned gear. We later returned the Kubla key and got the Genghis key. The remainder of the day was spent in Genghis Khan Cave taking photographs we missed last time we were there.

Wednesday, 19 April. The nasty gatekeeper.

We returned the key to Chester and gave him a copy of our last newsletter (containing trip reports from our last trip) and annual report. All gear was packed into the magic bus and we zoomed off to the Junee-Florentine area. We checked out the area and headed into newsprint land for alternative exits due to a 5-00pm deadline to reach the gate. The gate we wanted to leave from was locked so we didn't push the point with the nasty gatekeeper. (A young temporary who did not like five greenie look a likes in a magic bus) We then set up camp at Mt Field National Park.

Thursday, 20 April. Hoot-Hoot Pot (and the nice gatekeeper).

Owl Pot was the order of the day - after we made arrangements with the nice gatekeeper to leave the gate we wanted to escape from unlocked. For rigging details of 7JF221 refer to later article in this issue. Another late evening was enjoyed by all. We were all amazed how good a hot shower makes you feel. (*Whimps - Ed*)

Friday, 21 April. Bus, magic bus.

The magic bus had heard its' day of rest was over and it wasn't impressed when we drove it to Hobart. Three of us had a scenic flight over the south-west and we then dropped off the battery packs for delivery back to Adelaide. The remainder of the arvo was spent in Hobart. We then headed to the Dover caravan park and a counter meal at the pub (the seafood was very cheap).

Saturday, 22 April. Glow-worms.

When we awoke we spent time cleaning gear and we headed off to visit Mystery Creek Cave. After a brisk walk to the entrance we donned our gear and headed in. Time was spent doing photography and general exploration. We were impressed with the large number of glow-worms. We also visited the area that Peter and Darren had reached during the last trip down Midnight Hole (this is a great SRT cave). After some geographical embarrassment through pampas grass (thanks Ivan) we reached the car and headed for camp. We then had a bite to eat and drove back to Launceston, arriving around 1-00am.

Sunday, 23 April. That's it kids.

General recovery in the AM. Peter shaved off his goatie and we packed our rucksacks ready for the flight home. We washed the magic bus because it looked as though it had seen enough of Tasmania for a lifetime. After some lunch we returned the magic bus and flew out, arriving at Adelaide around 4-30pm.

Summary

Although we didn't complete as much SRT as we would have liked, we still completed as much as we thought our bodies could handle. Tasmanian caves take a lot out of you. The weather was quite good compared to what was dished on previous trips. A trip to Tassie should be on all cavers hit list.

Darren CRAWFORD

KUBLA KHAN

17 April, 1989

Party: Peter KRAEHENBUEHL, Darren CRAWFORD, Andrew SHEARER, Paul HARPER and Ivan RILEY.

While Peter and Darren rigged the final pitch out of the lower entrance, (7MC1), Ivan, Andrew and Paul found the top entrance, opened the gate, and rigged the first 10m pitch. We all rapped in (not dance but abseil) and continued down the next ten or so metres. Ivan then pulled the rope (50m) and the same thought crossed our minds - 'so this is it - we are going to die.'

The next pitch was 25m and the trail was easily distinguished by reflective markers. We were all impressed with the effort made to keep the flowstone clean by providing scrub stations. (A bucket of water and a scrubbing brush.) We followed the trail to the **Opium Den**. This turned out to be a 'little' offshoot of the main chamber. After some slides we went to where we thought the **Jade Pool** was but we couldn't find it. We found it further up the track.

We followed the rows of formation known as **Forbidden City** and the **Khan's Army** to the **Khan** and **Begum** (top stuff). More slides were taken while Andrew and I searched for the way on. We then regrouped and ate tea. We then headed off for the

Dungeon but failed to find this first off, so we left it to spend more time in the **Pleasure Dome**.

The team headed down through **Sallys Folly** with a few hairy bits that needed a handline. (A long tape or 20 metre handline would be a good idea as we used our 50 metre rope and it was a pain in the bottom!) Here we followed our way through, confirming locations with the larger plunge pools on the map. A 5m climb up through some formation brought us to the head of our next pitch (25m). I looped the rope around a large column and headed down to stream level.

Again we pulled the rope - getting used to the idea now - and headed off to the **Pleasure Dome**. Going over the larger rock piles we followed the river until it closed in and there we found a spot to change. Off came our condom suits and on went the neoprene booties and into the **Pleasure Dome** we went. WOW!! What can one say apart from "you have to see it!" 20m high and rimpool after rimpool. Brilliant stuff! Lots of slides then out to do the 'ethical approach to the **Stalagmite Shuffle**'. From descriptions we'd heard the SS was horrendous so we opted for the water.

All went well until we encountered a waterfall and whirlpool. After Andrew and Peter went for a dunking I managed to get up over it then a chain was formed and we got through it.

We then climbed up a slope of formation (Andrew on lead) through a squeeze and into the final chamber. A grotty prussik out. Peter, Ivan and I derigged and that was it - we didn't die.

This cave has definitely got my vote as a 'gutsy and gorgeous'.

THUMBS UP!

Darren CRAWFORD

FLINDERS RANGES

28-29 July, 1989

Caves Visited: F11 (Narrina - Woodendinna Lake Cave)

Party: (SA) Peter "Puddles" HORNE and Yan BACH

(VIC) Andrew "Grovel" COX, Glenda JEFFERY, Frank HOMEWOOD and
Tony, Sheryl, Wendy & Debbie HAMBLING

APART from having to kiss my wonderful leckie blanket bye-bye around 5am so that Yan and I could pick Frank up from the bus terminal at 6.15, the trip out to the Flinders Ranges that chilly Friday morning was quite pleasant and uneventful, with the 470km or so from Adelaide to Wilpena Pound covered in just under 5 hours. The hills would definitely have been lush and green had it not been so dark and overcast ... we almost needed to wear our caving helmets just to see the road! (Well, maybe it wasn't quite that bad, but you get the picture...)

The newspapers warned of many closed and flooded roads, but nothing was going to deter me from my mission ... to meet up with my Victorian cave diving friends (all 3 or 4 of them!!) Andrew and Tony and their families/friends who had spent the previous fortnight wandering around in the mighty mountains for a holiday. It seemed to be an ideal opportunity to take them all for a touristy/mapping dive in "Narrina" while they were on this side of the nebula, IF we could drive out to the property.

After the fabled "Puddles and Grovel" team had reunited at midday, a brief meal was consumed at the tourist information building where we cheerfully discussed such pleasantries as the impending total destruction of the picturesque campsite by bloody capitalistic tourist-mongers ("developers") during the next year or two and the disgraceful rudeness of the arrogant bastard who flies the tourist plane around the Pound - real "draw-cards" for tourism! Half an hour later, with my tent nicely pitched in a strange, smooth and grassless patch of ground near the others' tents, the last of my dive gear was transferred into Drew's 4WD and we were OFF!

The occupants of the vehicle - namely myself, Yan, Drew, Frank and Tony - were all taken aback when the 4WD STALLED in a 0.3m deep floodway just one kilometre or so from the Wilpena turnoff! A quick shot with the old quick-start WD40 got us going again, and it only took an hour or so to reach the low hill where one of the Flinders' best kept secrets lay in wait!

Since the Victorian crew all had to head back to Melbourne the next morning, we immediately offloaded our diving gear and suited up beside the car, carrying and dragging everything across to the hole so that we could put a short strenuous effort into getting it all down to the water (and back out) as quickly as possible. Lowering the gear down the 3m deep entrance tube, it was quickly dragged perhaps 10m down to a low crawlway where it was passed through (using a human chain system) for 3m into the larger walk-down passage which led more easily to the main lake. As usual, the air in the cave was extremely hot (22.4 C) for workers in dry, constrictive wetsuits, and it seemed to be super-humid and rather suffocating. The water level was about half a metre higher than when I last visited the cave in 1988 (when the President of the Cave Divers Association of Australia, Lance Mitchell, and I had run a quick reference line through the "Inner Sanctum" connection under the main lake's floor), but the floor was muddy and slippery about a metre higher again, indicating that the reports from other divers recently of even greater water levels (and hence more difficulty getting into the water) were correct. However, just why the water level has gone DOWN at a time of near-record rainfalls in the area is a DEEP MYSTERY to this little black duck!

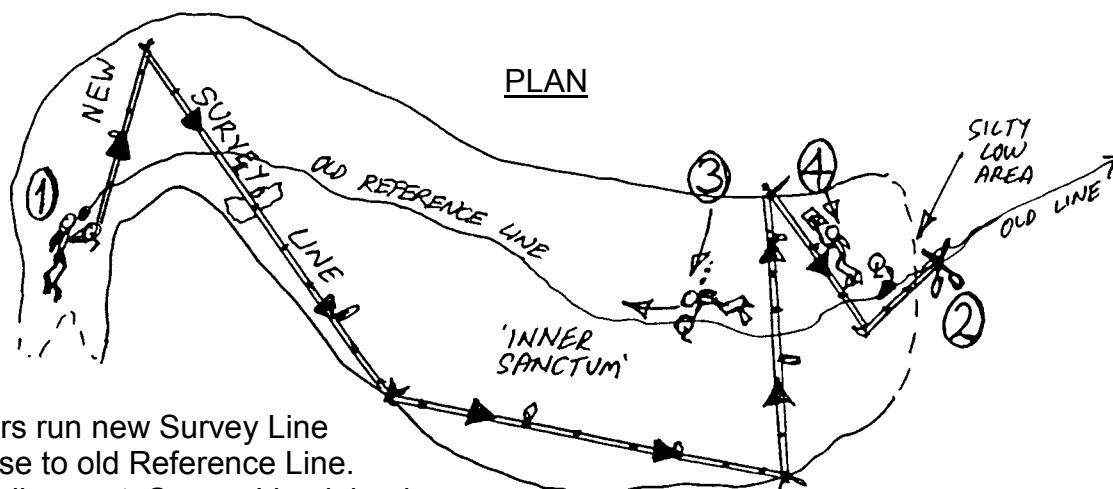
As Drew, Frank, Tony and I carefully clambered into our grotty gear and made graceful entries into the calcite-covered water. I politely asked Yan not to untie the little bit of line which we had wrapped around a convenient projection near her sitting position) just in case she thought she was doing us a favour!) and when we were all ready, I signalled "Dive, Dive, Dive!" and dropped like a stone beneath the surface.

Since there were 4 of us in the water at the same time, I planned the dive so as to minimize silting while showing everyone the main features. I took the reel from Frank and immediately headed left into the main underwater chamber, entering what we call the "false passage" where there is a sheer vertical wall a few metres high with fascinating quartz bands running up and across at various angles. We swam the 55m or so along this area until we hit the terminal air-pocket - now nothing more than a tiny one-nose breathing hole - and swam back along the passage until I looked up and relocated what was once the air-pocket into the smaller entrance of Clay Balls Chamber. This too, was now only a ½m diameter hole in the roof at water level, and only accessible to such people as crazy cavers but not responsible cave divers (unless we had to!...). This effectively ruined my plan to surface in the air-pocket, ditch my gear and climb up and into Clay Balls so that I could show the others this fabulous little "island in the sky", so we continued back into the main underwater chamber and swam straight in, away from where we entered, about 45m to the back wall.

After meandering about for a few minutes, I led the party to the large lake entrance of Clay Balls and we all surfaced and chatted there for a while until I made my exit (so that I could save air for the survey dive in the more restrictive Inner Sanctum later). I surfaced in the main room to find Yan resting quietly nearby, and soon afterwards, the others came back and we discussed the next dive.

It was at this point that Tony regretfully informed us of the fact that one of his two independent regulators had frozen open, thereby leaving him with no reserve air supply. This unfortunately precluded him from diving with us in the Inner Sanctum, so he began to clear his gear from around the edge of the lake while Drew and Frank accompanied me into the Stairwell down into the Inner Sanctum, on the far side of the lake.

It took a minute or so before I found the entrance again, and I soon tied my new survey line to the projection where my old reference line was tied. As I swam down the Stairwell, and turned right, I was astounded to see virtually all of the Inner Sanctum at a single glance (some 25m or so of passage)... it had only been about 3m visibility in 1988, and I could now see that I had run the reference line through probably the smallest 'restriction' in an otherwise large passage! I ran the new line (which was marked every 2 metres and had a knot every 5m) in a straight, zig-zag pattern across the chamber so as to maximize survey referencing, and when we reached the 30m point or thereabouts, where the line ducked under a smaller final restriction before heading back up into the main chamber which we had visited earlier, I cut the two lines and joined the new survey line to the end of the old reference line (to minimize silting through the restriction while we were surveying). I then tied the end of the old reference line to the reel-line, and Frank reeled the old line out of the cave while Andrew took photos and I slowly headed back, taking compass readings etc etc. as we exited. (Did you get all of that?... look, it's really quite simple ...see the sketch below!)



- 1 Divers run new Survey Line close to old Reference Line.
- 2 Both lines cut: Survey Line joined to old line at 'restriction' (silty); old line joined to reel-line.
- 3 Diver 'A' reels old line back out of cave, while
- 4 Diver 'B' surveys new fixed line.

This second dive was rather work-intensive as a lot of preliminary information was collected in the 20 minutes or so we could use. Lack of air forced us to abort the finer surveying of the passage, and using the standard 1/3rd rule for cave diving, we returned to the surface with 1/3rd of our air remaining. This rushed survey was therefore only of grade 3 standard with forward bearings only and line distances, but nowhere did the walls appear to be more than 10m away from the line anyway. An interesting low chamber was found near the roof, directly above the small oval "portal" mentioned earlier (that is, the one which I ran the line through last year), but this was not entered and needs more detailed surveying.

As we finally reached the surface, we quickly hauled everything out of the cave and found ourselves emerging into a chill, 25 knot wind which spat cold drops of rain on our wet wetsuit-clad bodies in the blackness which had now descended while we were underground. This ensured that we all quickly cooled off by the time we were ready to change back into normal clothes in preparation for our impending quick trip to "nearby" Blinman pub!! After celebrating later that night, we returned to Wilpena to find that my tent was awash in 5cm of water, so Yan and I slept in Grov's car. We broke camp the next morning and after tearful (?) goodbyes we began our respective trips home.

A few days later, while plotting up the survey, I was suddenly horrified to discover that I had actually swum the entire length of the Inner Sanctum about 4 years ago, when I first entered it from the "main chamber" flattener end! On that occasion, I ran in some 39m of line until I reached a roof depth of only 3m in an area of severe silting, and judging by the survey, I must have actually been somewhere at the top of the Stairwell and probably within easy access to the water surface, without even realising it!! God, I HATE it when things like that happen!

Peter HORNE

YORKE PENINSULA

3 - 4 June, 1989

Party: Jack HAYWOOD, Paul HARPER, Mac MacDONALD,
David & Deborah McINTYRE and Chris HALES

Purpose: To find a cave the local people know of around the foot of southern Yorke Peninsula and to check a couple of well shafts.

Saturday:

We began checking features that Mac had noticed west of Warooka but these didn't amount to anything. We then headed down Ilfracombe Road and this proved quite rewarding. There are small features along the length of this road. Some are small tubes into single chambers varying from 1 - 2m in depth and diameter, others are dolines. At the end of this road, near Formby Bay, we looked for the cave that locals had told us of but we couldn't find it. I am beginning to doubt the existence of this cave.

That evening after a BBQ we were shown the finer points of playing cards by Jack Haywood. Staying at Mac's shack at Port Turton on the cold winter nights was bliss; surely this must be what it's like to have a hut.

Sunday:

We looked along the Elephant Road, Warrenben Conservation Park, and again found many small single chambered features. This area is well worth a visit and could quite easily present you with a major find.

Chris HALES

Let the Membership Liaison Officer know your trip requirements

NARACOORTE

5 - 6 August, 1989

Party: Max METH, Mac & Julie MacDONALD, Nigel DOBSON, Ron LEE, Mike SMITH, Grant GARTRELL, David & Deborah McINTYRE, Paul HARPER, Kevin MOTT, Mark & Karin SEFTON, Peter KRAEHENBUEHL, Desiree, Di AMATO, David TREHEARNE

Caves visited: U1, U4, U15, U19, U22, U31, U58, U72

The weather forecast for this trip may well be considered less than ideal for a weekend's caving. Showers! So we opted for a modicum of creature comforts by booking a couple of cabins at Naracoorte caravan park. Those of us who were less hardy stayed at pubs or private residences.

Saturday morning we drifted into the reserve. Two parties were to do surveying/photography in Fox Cave. The rest were to split up to look at Robertson, Wombat and Sand Funnel caves. When I arrived at the reserve, those already there had joined in on the Historical tour of Blanche Cave, led by Elery Hamilton-Smith. Having missed out on the first tour I volunteered to take in the second, much to the chagrin of the Fox cave party who were champing at the bit.

At Fox cave it was discovered that Mark and crew had stolen my lunch. Mac and Lance were selected to lead the advance into the cave as they had not had the privilege of dealing with the gate. Fifteen minutes and some colourful language later they were through. Krunchy continued with the photo-points he had previously commenced. My group started work on a couple of points on the way to the Madonna Chamber.

The non Fox Cave contingent went to Robertson Cave, exploring that and Hoods Cave as most had not seen them. Following this they went on to Wombat Cave so they could become familiar with this. There still being a few hours left in the day, a party dropped into Beekeepers Cave to continue Max's survey of the chamber opposite the sump. Later that evening after a meal at the pub, Alex Sherriff delighted us with a selection of his sketches from over the years. It certainly brought back memories of nights in the old Naracoorte hut.

On Sunday we once again visited Fox Cave with two parties to continue where we left off the day before. My camera gear was unfortunately left in another car so I was only able to do the survey component of that location. We thought that Krunchy would be able to back up with the photos, but you guessed it, he had run out of film. The previous night he had taken some photos for Jo so NPWS could have some piccies for sale and forgot to reload the camera. Two other parties visited Beekeepers Cave to continue Max's survey and Sand Funnel Cave for familiarisation so others may know where the current survey stops and what still needs to be surveyed.

I attended a seminar on Father Julian Edmund Tenison Woods held in the Catholic church at Naracoorte during the afternoon. We owe a lot of our early cave records to Father Woods who was an incredibly dynamic man and often ahead of his time in his thinking. The seminar was held to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of his death in Sydney.

Kevin MOTT

Planning a trip? Let the Membership Liaison Officer know.

LOWER SOUTH EAST

11 - 12 August, 1989

Party: Jack HAYWOOD, David & Deborah McINTYRE, Chris HALES

Caves visited: L31, L38, L79, L113, L183, L239 & unnumbered feature adj. L41

Arrived late Friday night and stayed at a cabin in a local caravan park.

On Saturday morning we drove past L136, Circuit Sinkhole, and into the Myora Forest looking for L183, a small hole covered by giant logs. This feature has eluded me on two previous trips but with the right data we located it this time. Jack crawled under the logs and entered the small cave but it did nothing at all. Later we moved to another part of the forest looking for Myora Sinkhole, L113 but were unable to find it.

That afternoon we met with the owners of L31, Collins Cave, and discussed rubbish removal and the possibility of gating this cave. The entrance is covered by large amounts of rubbish, and clearing this would be a large job. Fitting a gate would be possible further into the cave in a smaller crawlway. L31 is a larger cave well worth visiting and a survey of the cave needs to be completed.

We moved further away from Mt. Gambier later that afternoon to a small single chambered cave L239. This cave had a bad smell and two of us finished up with headaches after a short time in there.

Sunday:

We visited a small cave between L41 and the Sisters that a landowner had seen people at on a previous occasion. This was located and surveyed by Jack Haywood who was the only one small enough to go anywhere.

On our homeward journey we stopped for a look at the entrance to Crevice Cave, L79 and then continued on to Rendelsham Cave, L38. In between fighting off a pair of local magpies we soon located the various entrances and entered the cave for a brief look before making our way home.

Chris HALES

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to these new Associates

Ronald PARKER

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SEMAPHORE 5019
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David WRIGHT

31 Tuesner Drive
MORPHETTVALE 5162
(H) 382 7481 (W) 226 9214

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following motion is to be put to the General Meeting on Wednesday 25 October, 1989:

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

GEAR HIRE FEES

Members rate		Minimum charge
Ladders	\$0-50 /person/week	\$2-00 /trip
Belay ropes	\$1-00 /person/week	\$6-00 /trip
SRT ropes	\$1-50 /person/week	\$10-00 /trip
Caving kit	\$2-00 /person/week	\$10-00 /trip
Keys		\$12-00 /cave

The caving kit includes ascending/descending devices and four harnesses. It does not include ropes.

QUOTES

Max Meth during a recent survey trip in Beekeepers Cave.
"The thurvey wath a meth"

Max Meth - yet again
"A crowbar is just an extension of the eye."

CONGRATULATIONS



Corrine and Eddie Rubessa have swollen our ranks with the birth of their daughter, Isabelle Rhea on 19 August, 1989. Congratulations to you both. It wasn't too hard now, was it.

RIGGING DETAILS: OWL POT - JF 221

We were sitting at the bottom of the fourth and final waterfall pitch of Owl Pot when I said to Peter "thanks for letting me rig it". His reply was "that's OK, you'll have to do a rigging report now". So here goes.

Pitch One. (how do you spell 'Uggh'?)

A 25m hand line down a mud slope. We clipped on to a flimsy outstretched tree and backed it up to a large rock.

Pitch Two.

Tied back to rock protrusion just before the 8mm bolt (hanger required). After clipping this and traversing out over a drop, sit your botty on a comfy ledge and place a 3m trace around the spike to rebelay the drop. Make sure your knot is down low to prevent a rub point. A rope protector is required 2/3 of the way down (unless you're Peter who always points out a redirection after you've searched high and low for one!).

Pitch Three. Bowling Alley.

We used a 3m trace around a large boulder backed up with a 5m tape around a chockstone. A couple of FRP's won't go astray on the large rock just below the chock. We extended this pitch to the length of 35-45m; after 20m or so the rope was used as a handline.

Pitch Four. Waterfall.

I used a ha ha (Petzl clown hanger) on the first bolt and a Petzl 'twisted bolt hanger' on the second. This formed a traverse line to the waterfall edge. I then set a rebelay at a rock spike with yet another 3m trace. This worked well with just the occasional dunking under the waterfall!

That's it kids! You're at the bottom.

Now all you've got to do is prussik out and derig.

Darren CRAWFORD

CARBIDE vs ELECTRICS - SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

(NOTE: This article was NOT written just to ensure that "Rivett's Reward" will not lie idle on the shelf this year!)

"TO pollute or NOT to pollute... that is my question!"

Yes, boys and girls, that age-old argument / discussion regarding the benefits and disadvantages of carbide lamps versus electric lighting systems has raised its great woolly head yet again!

Since nobody responded to my extremely controversial little number regarding the idiotic terms used in climbing etc., and since some members of the caving fraternity still insist that carbide lamps have a place somewhere, I thought that it was time someone grabbed his pants by the belt and jumped in, fins flapping, so that a bit of constructive discussion could be initiated.

Now there is no denying that carbide lamps HAVE paid a very important role in the past. There may even be times today when they are preferable to electrics, BUT their "negative" effects deliberately "covered up" or left unacknowledged by their avid supporters, far outweigh their "pretty effects" value.

A brief summary of the pros and cons of each system:

CARBIDE LAMPS

Provide a "warm" gas flame in cold environments.

Provides a better all-round view of caverns and rockpiles etc.

Easy to use if not leaking and can utilize bodily fluids if necessary.

Bulky, can clog up with gunk, can catch fire, can burn through ropes and gear, produce a dangerous and headache-inducing gas, contaminate the cave atmosphere (affecting life-forms), etc.

ELECTRICS (VARIOUS)

Only provide warmth when 100W or more (and who uses these?)

Generally designed as spots but some can be opened up more (although rarely as good as carbides).

Need batteries at all times

Sometimes bulky, can suffer flat batteries, other failing points, some may short out / explode and thus contaminate caves/bodies (but very rare), very versatile, cannot burn fingers/noses/gear etc.

In large caves with adequate ventilation and minimal usage, carbides may well be ideal lighting sources. However, the point is that most of South Australia's caves (concentrated in the south-east) are relatively small, poorly ventilated systems with delicate life-forms, so surely the disadvantages of carbide (especially the foul stench of acetylene and its probable toxicity to troglobitic life-forms) far outweigh the advantages.

One can't help but wonder why on earth the Australian Speleological Federation outlaws cigarette smoking in caves (ref. to "Code of Ethics", as of course you already knew!?), but allows the continued use of another poisonous gas? Acetylene does NOT invoke nostalgic thoughts in all of us, and the sooner cavers switch to tried and proved electrics, the better for fellow cavers and cave life-forms? So there!

(FOOTNOTE: - No disrespect to more experienced cavers intended, but I believe that nobody is ever "TOO EXPERIENCED" to discuss ideas and to learn).

Peter HORNE

VERTICAL DUST IN THE FLINDERS

or 'HOW TO VISIT WOOLTANA CAVE WITH THE MINIMUM OF FUSS!'

The Speleovision Field Notes (CEGSA Occasional Paper No. 6) quotes for Wooltana Cave; "...70m ladder or SRT" under the rigging details, so I spoke to the critics, and here's what they said...

- "It's horrific!" - Kevin Mott.
- "I laddered out of Town Well, that was enough for me!" - Darren Crawford.
- "Ladders suck!" - Paul Harper.

So to actively discourage the use of ladders in Wooltana Cave the following map and rigging details were developed.

General Details

Wooltana Cave was mined for Bat Guano in the 1930's as were many of the caves in the Flinders Ranges. It occurs in the Gammon Ranges National Park and is interesting for its' mining relics and for mummified specimens of the locally extinct Ghost Bat, both of which should be left undisturbed. The cave has a vertical drop of 63m from the entrance to the bottom chamber and is one of the few good vertical drops in the State. The temperature of the cave is 20+ degrees and smells strongly of ammonia when you first enter the upper chamber.

Rigging

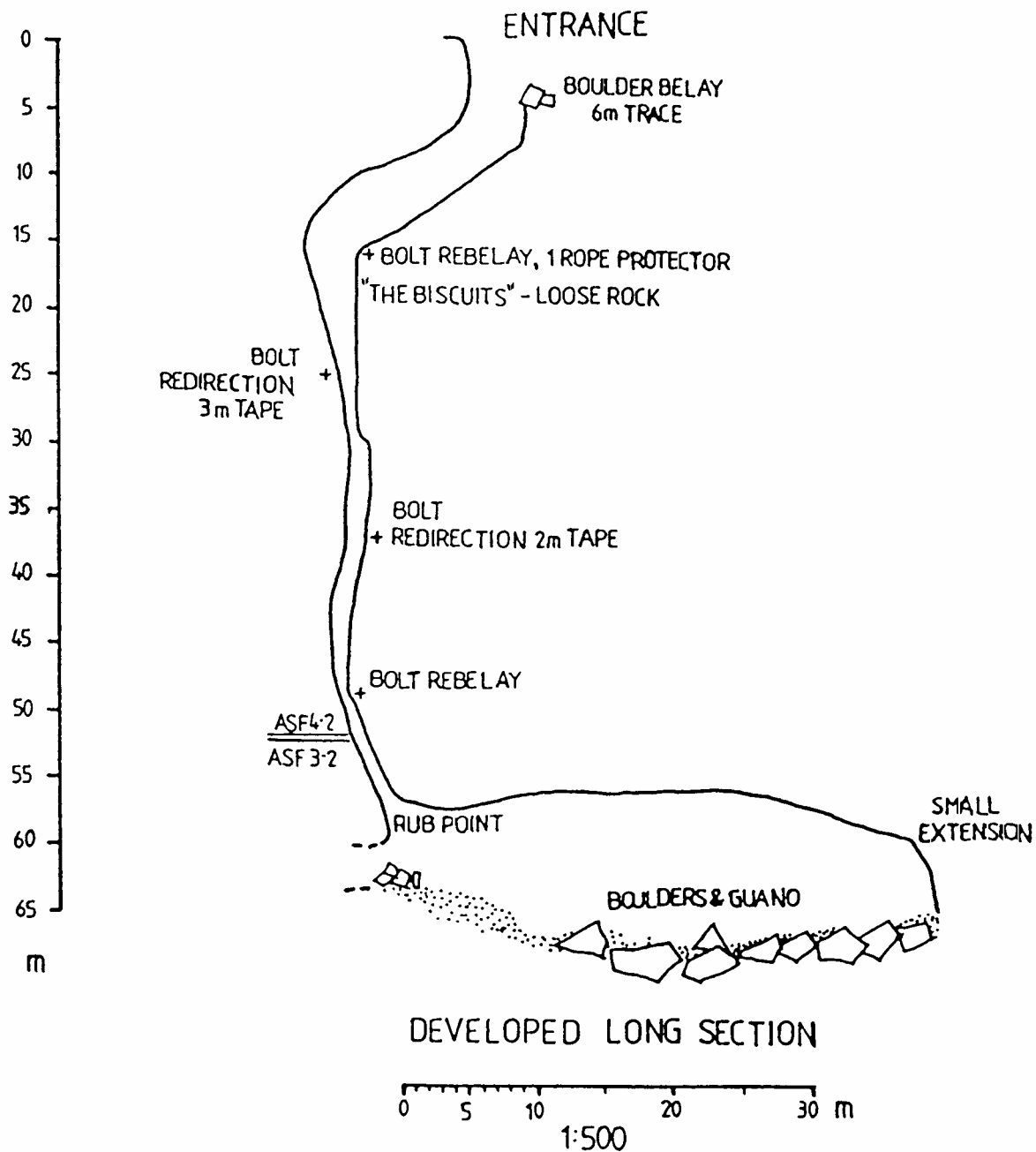
A 6m trace around a large boulder at the lower side of the entrance provides a good belay for a 25m rope to reach the first bolt. A No. 4 friend on the opposite wall can provide an anchor for a traverse line on and off the rope at the top.

At the bolt rebelay, tie in a 50m rope; a rope protector is needed at the lip. Some care is needed for the loose rock just below the rebelay. Two further bolts are used for redirections before a rebelay where the shaft narrows to prevent a large rub point. You may have to swing out to clip onto the second redirection hanger which is on a wall beneath an overhang.

Just before the floor there is a rub point on the rock, a rope protector is useful here.

The cave lacks natural belay points and the fixed rigging provides a quick and efficient trip to the bottom. All bolts are 10mm Terrier anchors with fixed bolts and hangers. A bit of care in this cave is worth while because of the remoteness of its' location.

Peter KRAEHNBUHL



WOOLTANA CAVE 5F9 - CEG 119

SURVEYED BY	PETER KRAHENBUEHL / DAVID TREHEARNE		02/07/89
DRAWN	PBK 05/07/89	PRISMATIC COMPASS / F.G. TAPE &	
SIMPLE CLINOMETER		ASF GRADE 4.2 - 3.2	

CAVE LEEUWIN

18th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation Inc.

When: 30 December, 1990 - 5 January, 1991

Where: Margaret River. WA

The south west of Western Australia has everything for those who like the outdoors:

- caves
- forests
- surfing
- fishing
- bushwalking

Start planning now for a trip to the conference. CEGSA has been very poorly represented at the last couple of conferences. Conferences are an excellent way to visit other cave systems and meet brother cavers from interstate. You also get to see the Nullarbor on the way across, and that surely is a good enough excuse to go.

BE THERE !!!

CAVING FIND A WORD

BASINS
BLOW HOLES
CAVERN
CHANNELS
CHEDDAR
COVES
CREUX
DEPOSITS
DEPRESSIONS

DOMES
EROSION
FISSURES
FORMATION
GALLERIES
GEAS
GIANT'S KETTLE
GORGE
GROTTOES

HOLLOWS
INCRUSTATION
LEDGES
LIMESTONE
MENDIPS
MOUTHS
PASSAGES
PEAK DISTRICT
PILLARS

POT-HOLING
PYRENEES
SEA CAVES
SINK HOLES
SPELAEOLGY
STALACTITES
STALAGMITES
SUBTERRANEAN
WATERCOURSE

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F T S P D C S S Z E S R U O C R E T A W
L U W I E E H U H S E G A S S A P L A R
B Y O L P Z U E B T E D S L N X B F X X
N H L L R H P B D T U L Z P A R O I S M
X S L A E A S E V D E O O Q I R E N R F
Z T O R S R E A A S A R M H M D I V N Z
P I H S S S V O F K P R R A K S N O A G
O S E S I T A B I L D E T A A N I E A C
T O N E O A C L G I F I L B N T I L M H
H P O E N L A O E R O I S A A E L S E A
O E T N S A E W R N O N S T E E A I G N
L D S E E C S H O S X T S S R O C N R N
I A E R V T Y O S I E U T I U I L N O E
N Y M Y O I U L I P R M E O A R C O G L
G E I P C T I E O C G S O R E G E T G S
H M L I O E R S N E R M Y D C S T S S Y
J R U M T S G I A S E T I M G A L A T S
B E L T T E K S T N A I G S E G O E L M

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PROGRAMME

OCTOBER

7 – 9

11	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	26 Burford Rd. Elizabeth Downs
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15	Ladder Training - Morialta	
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21 - 22

25	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Bruce Leaver, Director NPWS
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28 – 29	Naracoorte	Chris Hales
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NOVEMBER

4 – 5

8	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	127 Seventh Ave, Joslin
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11	River Murray	Kevin Mott
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18 - 19

22	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	
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25 - 26

DECEMBER

2 - 3

9 - 10

13	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	12 Cleve St. Mansfield Park
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16 – 17

23 - 25

30 – 1 / 90

JANUARY 1990

New South Wales

Peter Kraehenbuehl

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