

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

P O Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide 5000

Volume 35 Number 2 June 1990



N E W S L E T T E R



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

MEETING PLACE: 4th Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7.30 p.m.
in the Royal Society SA meeting room at the SA Museum.

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT & LIBRARY	Mark Sefton	36 Norman Street St. MARYS 5042 (H) 277 9086 (W) 79 9681
VICE PRESIDENT & RECORDS	Stan Flavel	Murray Road INGLEWOOD 5133 (H) 380 5404
TREASURER	Max Meth	12 Cleve Street MANSFIELD PARK 5012 (H) 45 6744 (W) 230 9111
SECRETARY	Mac MacDonald	127 Seventh Avenue JOSLIN 5070 (H) 362 3911
PUBLICATIONS & ASF REP & NARACOORTE LIAISON	Kevin Mott	3 Harcourt Road PAYNEHAM 5070 (H) 362 2441 (W) 226 2146
EQUIPMENT OFFICER & SAFETY & TRAINING	Mark Thistelton	4 Alexandra Avenue MAGILL 5072 (H) 364 2123 (W) 275 4626
MEMBERSHIP & PUBLIC OFFICER	Graham Pilkington	66 Eyre Crescent VALLEY VIEW 5093 (H) 264 2598 (W) 274 7638

POSTAL ADDRESS: Cave Exploration Group (S.A.)
P.O. Box 144
Rundle Mall
ADELAIDE South Australia 5000

CONTENTS

Volume 35 No 2 June 1990

	Page
EDITORIAL	21
TRIP REPORTS	
Thailand (part 1)	Mark Smith 24
Lower South East	Kevin Mott 25
TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES	
Membership Report	27
Library Report	27
More bones from Corra Lynn	Neville Pledge 31
Gear Hire	31
Key Hire	31
Helmets	32
Committee Vacancy	32
PROGRAMME	33
COVER	
Top:	Gate repairs, Narrina Cave, Flinders Ranges
Bottom:	Exiting Narrina Cave. Flinders Ranges
	Photos by Kevin Mott

DEADLINE for articles for Vol 35 No 3 is Wednesday 22nd August, 1990

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.

Registered by Australia Post, Publication SBH 1658

EDITORIAL

This editorial was penned midst preparations for the June long weekend trip to Naracoorte. It is not every weekend that I am able to get away these days so I like to make the most of the trip when I do.

Permission was granted for most of the caves we applied for. A subsequent, more detailed submission for access to the cave initially refused, was successful. Conditions for access were very reasonable and it was not an onerous procedure. A selection of work that needs to be done in the cave accompanied the permit and invited CEGSA members to use their talents constructively to provide more information about the cave. Access to other restricted caves has been granted previously if members have been prepared to do some work in exchange.

Arranging access is not difficult and we need to maintain our presence and demonstrate our skills. Some of the more memorable trips with a spirit of camaraderie have been work-oriented trips. Members have a range of talents and must be prepared to use them. The same people cannot be expected to lead trips ad infinitum. Although we no longer have facilities for the families of members we need more members to be prepared to lead trips and use their talents. The days of unlimited access are over. One form of management is controlled access. If we can demonstrate that we are able to produce something tangible from our visits and are not there solely for fun we stand a better chance for putting forward a case for access.

Recreational caving will always be a part of CEGSA activities but it must be balanced with the need to make a contribution towards the understanding and management of the caves.

The door to caving at Naracoorte is being held open and the invitation to go caving is there. It is now up to Members to accept the invitation and continue the work at Naracoorte and go caving. If it is not taken up then we will lose the opportunity and have no one but ourselves to blame.

Let's go to it and start caving at Naracoorte again.

Kevin MOTT

TRIP REPORTS

THAILAND - part 1

Dear Editor of CEGSA Newsletter,

Thanks for publishing my last writing on my "after 10 years of retirement" trip to Mulu Caves in Sarawak, Malaysia. I was lucky enough to join John Dunkley and Neil Anderson on their recent trip to Thailand. I was not involved with their Northern Expedition to caves between Mae Hong Son and Chiang Mai but was translating for John and his hire car reconnaissance and preparation trip, and joined the main expedition on its 5 day boat trip around Si Sawat Reservoir near Kanchanaburi, a fantastic trip I thought.

Though I am an ex-member and pretty well retired from active caving, my sympathies still lie with CEGSA, my old Club, hence I will sit down and try to write an article for the old newsletter.

Due to the large amount of information we collected I will try to be brief, all the information and maps will be published subsequently in the Australian Caver, Nargun and in a book by John Dunkley. Ken Boland will write for V.S.A. and Neil Anderson is supposed to be doing something for the A.S.F. Newsletter.

I would also like to indicate just how easy this sort of thing is to organise; and present the readers with a view of caving in a different country, Thailand, and possibly entice some more enthusiastic members to venture forth on subsequent overseas caving expeditions with this. I have a bad habit of being far too long-winded about things, and becoming distracted from the true path of the caving story. Edit away, and I will try to keep this one more direct..... unfortunately can't do much (sic) about the spelling. Many thanks.

Mark Smith

KRAM

Editor's note:

Both parts of the letter from Kram add up to a total of 35 pages. This tome would flood several editions of CEGSA Newsletters. Extracts will be published in following editions of the Newsletter.

If anyone wishes to read the full text of the letters please contact me and I will make them available.

LOWER SOUTH EAST

13 – 16 April, 1990

Party: Kevin, Julie, Adrian & Nicole MOTT; Gordon (Nimble) & Ian NINNES; Eddie, Corrine & Isobel RUBESSA; Fred & Jan ASLIN; Richard COOMBE & family.

Caves visited: L5, L21, L23, L25, U146

In an attempt to avoid the onslaught madmen on the roads at Easter, the Adelaide contingent opted to travel on the Friday morning; a ploy not altogether successful but we all arrived safely, even if some of us were a little late. The lateness was not caused by Mott tardiness but the need to acquire sustenance at the Reserve on the way and the desire to confirm and check out the accommodation at Bool Lagoon. We had trouble obtaining accommodation in the area but eventually located a house at Bool Lagoon which we were able to hire.

The balance of Friday was spent surveying in Monbulla Cave. The cave is considerably more extensive than the current map suggests. The survey was attempting to find a northern limit to the cave. This was hindered because Ian kept disappearing up small holes only to reappear some time later behind us. That damned kid is a cross between a worm and a ferret. We also came across members of CAVEX who were caving in the area.

Fred was unable to join us on Saturday so we decided to check out some old reports that Fred had in the area. After tracking down the owner (and discovering that his wife is somehow related to Nimble) we set out to locate them. We found some depression features but were not entirely convinced they were what we were looking for. Subsequent discussions with Fred confirmed that they were not the right features. On the way back to the main road we opted for a shorter route. Part of the track was covered with water, which seemed recent so should still be navigable. Not so. Halfway through we lost traction and despite the efforts of Eddie and Nimble we could make no progress forward or backward. The owner fortunately had come back to this part of the property and noticed our slight predicament. He brought the tractor over and towed us out, then showed us a new feature for our troubles. This was a series of small blocked and probably interconnected entrances. During our discussions with the owner he also told us of a cave near Ingemar which he used to visit as a kid.

We eventually found a likely looking site. Eddie's enthusiasm for discovering a virgin cave got the better of him and he was off, leaping fences and rocks in his quest. As we tried to recall him lest he leap into full view of the house there was an almighty scream and Eddie came hurtling back covering what was previously ten steps in one. Apparently he saw a little 1m long snake. Tch tch, such over-reaction. After lunch we fronted up to the house to try and gain access. The owners don't encourage caving and prefer to keep the cave quiet, but we were welcome to look at it. As he expressed concern about liability we presented him with a CEGSA indemnity which we signed. When Eddie had his encounter with the snake he must have just about been at the cave.

The cave has a collapse window entrance which drops 1.5m to cave which appears to be joint oriented on the north western side. With the removal of a dead sheep, Eddie was able to enter the south east end. A slight modification to the shape of the rocks and I was able to follow and complete the mapping. This end of the cave is more phreatic in development and contrasts starkly with the other end.

Eddie had trouble adjusting to the concept of leaving a house unlocked and consequently made sure every door and window was securely fastened. This was fine till the guides at Bool Lagoon heard the call of nature. They normally use the facilities in the house as the public loo is about 500m up the track. Eddie will never forget the dressing down he received.

Back to Monbulla Cave on Sunday and more surveying. This time we decided to survey the bat chamber area and tidy up one section of the new map. This section was also bigger. While we were there we tied the exploratory well and new access track into the cave survey. We were due to meet the owner of L23 here but due to being confused with CAVEX on the first attempt and underground on the second, we missed him.

When packing up on Monday I forgot that Adrian's sleeping bag was airing on the clothes line near the back door. I went to empty the coffee grounds out of the billy and oops!!! Nice pattern on your sleeping bag Adrian.

On Monday we finally located the features that we tried to find on Saturday and visited L23 to photograph the synclinal features in the cave before heading back to Adelaide. Despite the appearance of Easter bunny it was an enjoyable trip which achieved a reasonable amount of work and the accommodation was ideal for families. Thanks Brian!

Kevin MOTT

Watch for future trip reports

- Flinders Ranges
- Kangaroo Island
- Naracoorte

If you want to

- go on a trip
- are planning a trip
- would like to learn specific skills
- want to use your talents or skills

Then LET the Membership Liaison Officer KNOW

TECHNICAL & OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to the following new Full Member

Clare BUSWELL

P.O. Box 131, NAIRNE 5252

(H) 388 6371

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

LIBRARY REPORT

NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS - Jan-April, 1990

Books and Monographs

Cave Photography - A Practical Guide, by Chris Howes

This is an excellent and informative guide to the practical side of cave photography, covering equipment and preparation, and emphasizing the different ways you can place one or several flashguns to obtain different effects. Many of the points made are illustrated with some very fine photographs. This is by far the most useful guide to cave photography I have come across.

Jenolan: The Golden Ages of Caving, by Basil Ralston

This is an account of the history of the exploration of the Jenolan Caves from 1838 up to 1964. Should be of great interest to those who thrive on the exploits of cave explorers past and present.

Journals and Newsletters**The Western Caver. 1989. Vol. 29**

This is an annual journal of over sixty pages. including numerous trip reports and many surveys of caves, particularly of the Cape Range and Kimberly regions. Of particular interest are an article listing newly discovered features in Yanchep National Park and the relocation of some old ones, and a statistical analysis of trips to the Dome Chamber in Mulla-mullang over the past 20 years (based on the visitors book) with a discussion on vandalism and littering in the cave. For the speleobiologist, there is an article on the cave-dwelling *Ursus fallus* (drop bear). Those currently embroiled in speleopolitics, NPWS style, will be interested in the proposed implementation of the permit system for the Leeuwin-Naturalist National Park. There is an expedition report for the Eastern Kimberlies with cave subscriptions and surveys to complete a well-produced and informative journal. I was curious to note that the club copy of this journal has been censored! Names have been deleted from two of the trip reports with a black felt-tip pen!

S.U.S.S. Bulletin. 1990. Vol. 29 No. 5

Another bumper issue containing numerous trip reports and surveys of caves in the Jenolan and Wombeyan areas. including a detailed article on Mammoth Cave, illustrated with appropriate maps. There is also an article on how to be involved in making submissions to the management of Tasmania's world heritage area.

Nargun, 1990. Vol. 22. Nos. 7-10

- #7. This features an editorial espousing a philosophy which has long been my own (and of many others I know), long article on the pioneers of Limestone Creek, a trip to Warrnambool with surface and underground maps, a trip report to M-175 in Buchan (with survey), a trip to Bungonia, and an account of V.S.A. participation in a cave rescue.
- #8. Mainly local news and trip program, plus a report on the 34th A.S.F. Council Meeting in January, and some statistics on wild cave usage in the Buchan area.
- #9. Contains the program for April-July, plus local news.
- #10. The editorial expresses the view that keeping cave locations secret is an effective form of cave conservation - a view with which I heartily concur. There is a summary of a talk given by Lloyd Robinson on "Post War Memories of Caving and Expeditioning in Australia", local news, an article on a cheap and easy way to make a caving light, and several trip reports with a survey of Gravel Pit Cave in the Buchan area.

Speleospiegel Nos. 255-7

- #255 Contains several trip reports and a survey of Judds Cavern, length 3733m.
- #256 Features several trip reports, including a trip to the New Guinea Highlands, and a survey of Capricorn Cave.
- #257 Gives the new TCC Committee, an account of the 16th International Congress of Speleology, cave diving in Hungary and the usual trip reports.

The Cavers Chronicle - (S.R.G.W.A. Newsletter). 1990. Vol 17.No. 1

Contains trip reports for local caving areas, plus an account of the recent S.R.G.W.A. Nullarbor expedition. More junk was pulled out of Weebubbie, several other caves were visited and a rare spider colony was found.

MUCC-Raker. Vol. 1

This journal was formerly published as "Quaver", by the Macquarie University Caving Group. A bumper issue, mainly devoted to trip reports and club news.

Oolite (Journal of the Blue Mountains Speleo Club) Vol. 19 No. 12

Contains description and maps of several caves in the Blue Mountains, plus trip reports.

Journal of the Sydney Speleo Society, Vol. 33 No. 12 and Vol. 34 Nos. 1-4

These issues are mainly devoted to trip reports to local areas and club news.

Vol. 33 No. 12 includes a map showing the location of limestone bluff at Ravine.

Vol. 34 No. 1 has an account of a 1986 Chillagoe Expedition by Bro. Nicholas Sullivan.

Vol. 34 No. 2 has a report of an expedition down the Denison River, S.W. Tasmania, with maps and photos.

Volume 34. No. 3 features an article on early cave photographers.

Helictite:1988.Vol.26 No.2:and 1989.Vol 27 Nos.1 and 2

Vol. 26. No. 2 has articles on the geomorphology of the Jenolan Caves area, the route of the Brand Arch streamway in Jenolan, and histoplasmosis in the Chillagoe Caves area.

Vol. 27. No. 1 is mainly devoted to a report on the seventy caves in the Lukwi Valley in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, with surface and cave maps and cave descriptions. There is also an article on drainage evolution in a Tasmanian Glaciokarst.

Vol. 27 No. 2 featuring articles on cave spiders in Undara, Queensland and Cape Range, W.A.; drought damage in a Tasmanian Forest on limestone, data handling techniques for cave survey processing; and karst features in Pleistocene dunes at Bat Ridges.

F.U.S.S.I. Vol. 1. Nos. 1& 2. Vol.2 No. 1 (This is the new F.U.S.S. Newsletter)

Vol. 1 No. 1 has a Nullarbor trip report, and an analysis of the FX2 lamp.

Vol. 1 No. 2 trip reports for Naracoorte and the Flinders, an article on histoplasmosis, and on the use of the Sticht plate.

Vol. 2. No. 1 more trip reports to Naracoorte and Yarangobilly and a good review of the A.S.F. Meeting in January.

We also have a copy of the new F.U.S.S. Constitution

Trog (newsletter of the Kempsey Speleo Society)

Vol. 25 Nos 4-8. These are mainly devoted to local news and trip reports

Vol. 25 No. 5 contains an article on ticks.

Newsletter of the Hills Speleo Club: Vol. 5 No. 4 and Vol. 6 No. 1

Both are devoted to local news and trip reports. Vol. 5 No 4 has a complete membership list.

N.S.S. News Oct. 1989 - March 1990

This is the journal of the National Speleological Society, the American equivalent of the A.S.F. Issues are packed with interesting articles and local and international news. Only a selection are listed below.

Oct 1989: Speleology in the Dominican Republic, use of red light to reduce human impact during bat surveys.

Nov 1989: A report on the international speleo conference in Hungary and an article on the development of show caves.

Dec 1989: Caves and Karst of Batuan in the Philippines. Further exploration in the magnificent Lechuguilla Cave. Part 2 has a full list of American caving accidents for 1989.

Jan 1990 An expedition to Belize and Guatemala.

Feb 1990 A report of Tunichol Muknal Cave in Belize with its' underground Maya burial ground, an expedition to Czechoslovakia and a list of the longest caves in China.

Australian Caver 123 You should all have your own!

Quidelines: (Cave Divers Association of Australia Newsletter Nos. 34 and 35

Mainly local news and projects. There is a list of access requirements in both issues, while No 35 contains an account of the Pannikin Plain expedition.

The library has also acquired several non-caving newsletters etc. These are:

Tandanya (produced by the Adelaide Bushwalkers) Vol. 19 No. 4

The Wilderness Society Newsletter. Wilderness News, Vol. 7 No. 5 (June 1986!)

Two (2) YHA Hostellery magazines. Dec. 1989 and March 1990. and

The South Australian Naturalist which has an article on the distribution and management of the Koala in South Australia.

All the above items are available for loan for a period of not more than one month, i.e from one general meeting to the next. Give me a call (277-9086) if you want to borrow anything and I'll bring it into the next meeting.

Mark SEFTON

Librarian

MORE CORRA LYNN BONES

Max Meth has provided more bones from the ponded area of Bushwalkers Extension, collected earlier this year. As before, they are of no great age, one jaw fragment still bearing some trace of tissue. The species comprise a bird (part of skull, shoulder - coracoid) identity not yet determined, a bettong (*Bettongia lesueur*), a hare wallaby (*Lagorchestes* sp.) and possibly a small thylacine!

Graham Pilkington made another collection of fossil bones from the Graveyard. These included vertebrae of the giant python *Wonambi*, a fragment of a large bird bone, a tooth, claw and other bones of *Palorchestes* (a quadrupedal marsupial rather like a small tapir), teeth of a wombat, two large species of kangaroos and a small wallaby, and numerous bones of as yet unidentified marsupials.

These will add greatly to the material now being described, but I am still waiting for the upper molars of the giant koala and giant ringtail which so far are represented only by lower jaws. Come on, Graham.

Neville PLEDGE

GEAR HIRE

Have you ever considered hiring gear for a trip? Have you ever considered these points?

- Don't be disappointed - book in advance
- Remember that a deposit is required for each key borrowed (see following article)
- If you have any novice caver/s on your trip, check that they have the necessary gear (ie a helmet) and book this with the rest of the trip gear. It is easier to sort one order for a trip.
- Confirm and pick up the gear before the trip - not the night before
- Return the gear promptly after the trip
- When returning the gear ensure that it is in as good a condition as it was when borrowed.

KEY HIRE FEES

Due to the need for increased security of cave access, the Committee has seen fit to recommend the introduction of a high security padlock system. As a result of the cost of such a system, the Committee has increased the hire fee for such keys to \$2-50 each for members and included an additional deposit of \$20 per key, refundable on return of the key.

The following fees are effective as of this Newsletter:

Key Type	Members	Non Members	Deposit
Security	\$2-50	\$5-00	\$20-00
Standard	\$1-00	\$2-00	\$5-00

The following caves are secured by the new padlock system:

Corra Lynn 5Y-1

Narrina 5F-11

Town Well 5Y-2

It is intended to further secure other caves in the future with this new padlock system.

Mark THISELTON
Quartermaster

HELMETS

The recently published A.S.F. "Cave Safety Guidelines" suggest that the old faithful construction type helmet is not satisfactory for general caving if it has an elastic chin strap. These guidelines go on to suggest that for vertical S.R.T. work, a helmet should incorporate a chinstrap with four points of attachment.

It should be remembered that these guidelines are just that.

I agree with the guidelines suggestion that an approved helmet should be used for vertical S.R.T. work. (It makes sense considering the increased risks taken). However, for general caving in South Australia, a construction helmet with a modified rigid chin strap would suffice.

Even the good old construction helmet has a finite life of around two years in industrial use. (How old is yours?)

The Committee of Flinders University Speleological Society (F.U.S.S.) has approached the Committee of C.E.G.S.A. with the idea of considering purchasing new approved helmets in bulk at a reduced price (sounds good). The C.E.G.S.A. Committee has decided not to purchase any new approved helmets for the Group's use, but suggested that members may be interested in purchasing their own. The new approved helmets will range in price from \$35 to \$80 depending on model and features. There may be a restriction of choices of model or style depending on how and with whom the order is placed. It is intended that the bulk order will be placed in mid July.

For more information or placing orders, members can contact myself or other Committee members. It would be beneficial for those members considering purchasing a helmet to visit some of the equipment shops to get a better idea of styles, sizes etc.

Mark THISELTON
Safety and Training

COMMITTEE VACANCY

Due to other commitments Darren Crawford has resigned from the Committee. A vacancy therefore exists.

This is an ideal opportunity for any Member who is contemplating joining the Committee to come along and see how it operates.

Nominations are requested from Members to fill this vacancy. If more than one nomination an election will be held in the July general meeting.

PROGRAMME

JULY

1	Punyelroo Cave	Mark Sefton
7	Corra Lynn Cave	Graham Pilkington
11	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	3 Harcourt Road, Payneham
14 - 15	Naracoorte	Mark Sefton
21 - 22		
25	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Caves of South Africa - Mark Sefton
28 - 29	Flinders Ranges	Mark Thiselton

AUGUST

4	Corra Lynn Cave	Graham Pilkington
8	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	127 Seventh Avenue, Joslin
11 - 12		
18 - 19		
22	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Black Holes Exp - Mexico Steve Milner
25 - 26		

SEPTEMBER

1 - 2		
8 - 9	Naracoorte / Penola	Kevin Mott
12	COMMITTEE MEETING 7-30 pm	4 Alexandra Avenue, Magill
15 - 16		
22 - 23		
26	GENERAL MEETING 7-30 pm	Caves of Kangaroo Island
29 - 30		

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