

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

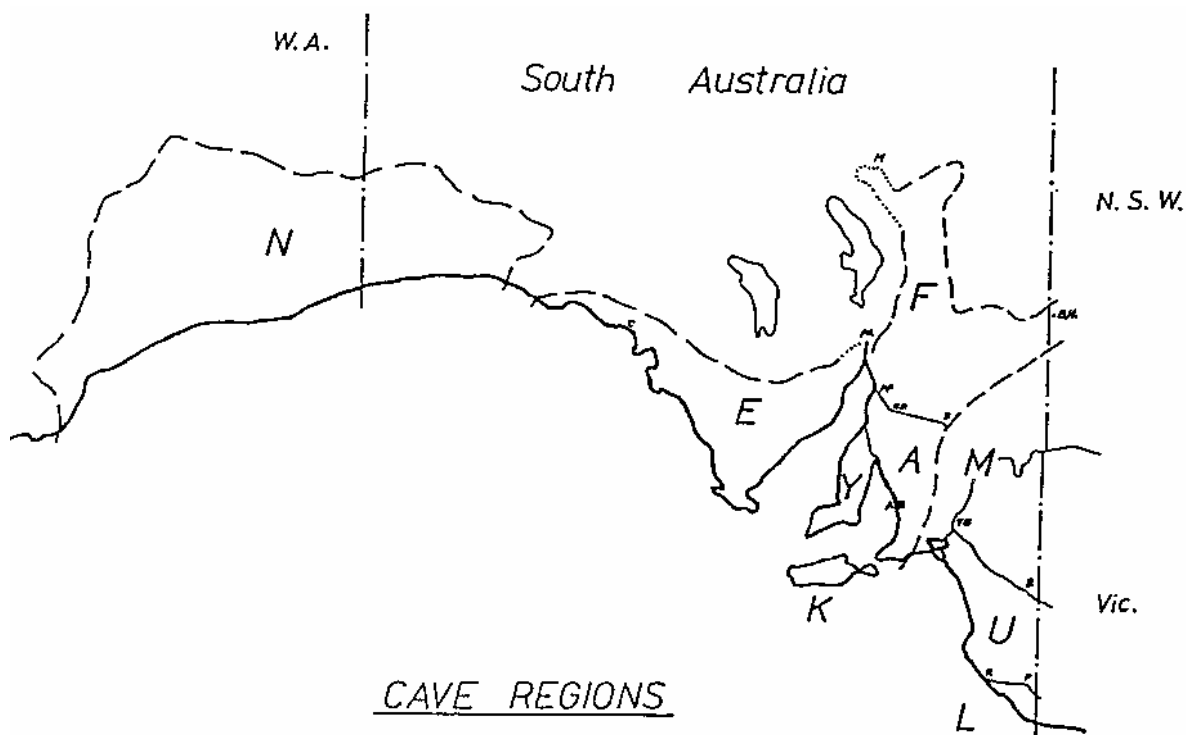
PO Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 5000



Volume 38 Number 1

March 1993

NEWSLETTER



CAVE REGIONS

- A - ADELAIDE HILLS
- E - EYRE PENINSULA
- F - FLINDERS RANGES
- K - KANGAROO ISLAND
- L - LOWER SOUTH EAST
- M - MURRAY PLAINS
- N - NULLARBOR PLAINS
- U - UPPER SOUTH EAST
- Y - YORK PENINSULA

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

Meetings held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December, at 7.30 pm in the Royal Society meeting room, South Australian Museum.

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FRONT COVER: South Australian Cave Regions Map.

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Deadline for articles for Volume 38 Number 2 is Wednesday 26th May, 1993.

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.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to yet another new year. I trust that everyone enjoyed the Christmas and New Year holiday period and are now settling down for the next twelve months, particularly those who have (or were) volunteered to be a Committee Member and/or Office Bearer for this year - Well Done!

This year brings yet more changes to the format of the Newsletter as I adopt a new word processor to edit the Newsletter, so please be patient as I learn new skills and improve your Newsletter's appearance. Please contact me if you should have any constructive comments to make about the presentation of the Newsletter, as I am more than willing to listen to those.

Congratulations to Kevin Mott, who at the ASF Conference was awarded a Special Award of merit for Services to Caving, in particular for Mapping and Documentation.

Those who attended the February General meeting were privileged to listen to the ongoing CEGSA Hut saga as well as many issues of interest from the recent "TASTROG 93" held in Launceston, Tasmania, thanks to those who attended the ASF Conference namely, Peter Kraehenbuehl, Paul Harper and Stan Flavel.

Membership Fees are due again, so to ensure that you receive your copy of this fine Newsletter please pay your membership fee or it will be your last.

The May and November General Meetings are to be held upstairs from the normal venue as the Royal Society Meeting Room is unavailable for those meetings.

As with other editions, I will take this opportunity to ask for any articles for publication and in particular, any photographs, drawings or sketches for the front cover of the Newsletter. If possible please supply any article on a floppy disc and I will return it to you ASAP. Thanks to those people who have contributed to this edition. What a good way to start the year!

Mark THISELTON

TRIP REPORTS

NULLARBOR

5th to 15th December .1992

Party: Max Meth, Ken Boland, Matt and Chris Dempsey

Features: SA: Nullarbor National Park: 5N7-9, N5317, 5N418-425, 5N534, 5N617-634.
WA: 6N4, 6N17, 6N19, 6N24, 6N44, 6N45, 6N137, 6N165, 6N166, 6N170, 6N175, 6N222, 6N314, 6N315, 6N328, 6N521, 6N522, 6N589, 6N590, 6N596, 6N597, 6N598, 6N604-616, 6NNx6.

Access to Caves in the South Australian Nullarbor National Park must be arranged with:

NPWS, Ross Allen
PO BOX 569 (11 McKenzie St)
CEDUNA SA 5690

Sunday 6.12.92

Drove to rockhole 6N522 about 3 km ENE of 6N2 Weebubbie cave. It is in a circular depression 50 x 50 m, AND only 0.2m deep located on the north face of a ridge. There is a rock pavement area 45 x 25 m at 070 with 2 rockholes. One is a natural hole 1 x 0.85 x 0.3 m deep at 005 and has a silt floor. The other is 14m away and is excavated out of the solid rock pavement. It is 4.5 x 3.3 x 0.4 m deep at 045 and has a solid rock floor. Both were full of water.

We then continued east to the degraded doline 6N521.

On the Weebubbie road is the degraded doline 6N605 18m north of the track. It is an earth floored depression 18 x 16 x 0.4 m deep at 165 with a 5 x 5 x 0.2 m smaller depression closer to the road. There is a lone Pittosporum tree on the west edge of the main depression and Squeeze blowhole 6N166 which is 8m south of the track. After a look at Cairn Blowhole we drove back west to 6N19 Weebubbie Road Blowhole, then on to 6N598 unnamed rockhole. Then 1 km further west to Tyre Gate Rockhole 6N597.

South east of 6N2 in the same claypan, is the unnamed cave 6N24 (=6N169) and double Blowhole west 6N170. 6N24 is in a soil floored depression 19 x 19 x 0.6 m deep at 115 in which is a somewhat rectangular hole 6.5 x 2.7 x 0.9 m deep at 105. The hole has an earth floor but rock walls. At the east end of the hole a low cave extends to the east for 2m. The total depth is 2.2m. On the west edge of the depression is the smaller depression of 6N170 which is 2.7 x 2.3 x 0.75 m deep at 015. There is a blowhole 0.34 x 0.32 x 0.85 m deep at 115. This has a narrow fissure-like, unenterable passages heading at 100 and at 320. Between the 2 depressions is another blowhole with no separate depression around it. It is 0.35 x 0.3 x 0.6 m deep at 085.

6N604 unnamed rockhole located near 6N2 Weebubbie cave is almost precisely over the known end of the 'railway tunnel', a completely flooded side tunnel of Weebubbie Cave. It is 0.8 x 0.65 x 0.5 m deep in a rock pavement 6.2 x 3.3 m which is in a broad shallow depression 55 x 30 m at 040.

We then drove north to the Old Coach road and headed west. Here we saw unnamed rockhole 6N328. This has a depression around it 29 x 24 x 0.6 m deep at 030 and a streamway from the south into the central rockhole which is 4.8 x 3.5 x 0.3 m deep at 040. Then a large unnumbered (Nx6) degraded doline 200m north of the track about 10 km further. 2.4 km further we turned south (approx 8 km before Chowilla). After about 8 km there was a track leading NW, the junction being marked by a cairn. We continued south a further 2.6 km where we saw a rocky area 200m west of the track on the base of an east facing ridge. This is 6N606. It contains a blowhole and 5 rockholes. The blowhole is located in a rock pavement area with 4 of the rockholes. The other rockhole is in a separate rock pavement 30m to the west. The blowhole has no depression around it and is 0.6 x 0.45 x 0.75 m deep at 120 with a low passage at 310

We continued via rockhole 6N596 to Winbirra cave 6N45 where we camped. To the west of Winbirra cave is the unnamed blind valley 6N315 which is located on the east side of a very long N-S ridge. The result is that the depth of the valley is greater on the west side (6m), than on the east (3m). The east lip of 6N315 is 50m west of Winbirra cave doline and at this point is 150m wide, being the location of a major narrowing. It runs north south. Both north and south ends extend about 450m from this mid point. Both north and south ends are about 300m wide. The whole blind valley is open grassland, although it is bounded on the west and north by mallee. On the east and south sides is open grassland. There is very little rock exposed in the valley, apart from an 8 x 8 m rock pavement due west of Winbirra cave and much bedrock which is exposed near 6N607. The blowhole 6N607 is located 300m at 225 from Winbirra cave midway along the west edge of the south part of 6N315. There is a depression 2.5 x 2 x 0.3 m deep at 015 with a triangular hole 0.9 x 0.5 x 1.2 m deep at 175 with a fissure like cave extending north and south.

Monday 7.12.92

Drove north to Chowilla and turned west on the old coach road. Headed north on a track 2 km west and found degraded doline 6N608. This is 23 x 22 x 0.6 m deep at 125 on the west facing side of a ridge. There is a dead tree 60m at 230. The floor is soil and is covered in salt bush as is the surrounding country.

Returned to camp via 6N314. This is another blind valley and is situated about 250m west of the track between Kutowalla Doline and Winbirra Cave. It is 1000 m long, north to south, and is located in dense scrub. It is not visible from the track, except for the extreme south end which abuts a grass covered claypan which is on the west of the track. Both north and south ends have rocky slopes of exposed bedrock, though there are no vertical rock faces. The majority of the sides are earth and the whole valley is covered by the same dense scrub as the surrounding country. The exception is a grassy flat of 300 x 50 m adjacent to the south end. About 200m south of the north end is a pronounced narrowing and a central rock pavement 20 x 10 m with 4 shallow rockholes, all holding water. From this rock pavement a rocky stream bed runs 50m to the south before becoming lost in the wide flat floor of the valley. There are also 2 rockholes on the south west corner of the valley in a rock pavement 20 x 10 m. One is 0.3 x 0.25 x 0.4 m at 015 the other 0.6 x 0.3 x 0.2? m deep at 285 is 11m at 355 from the first. All 6 rockholes were holding water.

Tuesday 8.12.92

Looked at Winbirra cave 6N45. Six small passages with a total length of 31m were noted. The lake can be seen to end in all but one direction, and although quite small and deep, does appear to be safe to swim in.

6N222 blowhole: recent rain has washed some clay into the fissure. It is still draughting strongly.

6N175 doline: this is a depression 60 x 40 x 2 m deep which abuts the track on the west side. It has soil floor with no rock outcropping. There is a central flat area of 40 x 16 m. There is 2 dead trees on the east slope and 3 live Pittosporum trees. The central flat area is 40 x 16 m.

6N44 Kutowalla Doline: on the north wall of the doline are 2 rock shelter caves. On the south wall are a few holes at least 2 of which have breezes and one of which leads into a low cave.

6N4 Abrakurrie: the usual quick visit.

6N17 Chowilla: all but one of our group climbed down into this huge doline. Only very small caves occur around the base of the overhanging walls.

Wednesday 9.12.92

6N590 Tookana rockhole is about 150m north of the Old Coach Road. It is a hole 2.6 x 2.2 x 1.2 m deep at 010 which narrows at a depth of 1.0m to 1.4 x 1.0 m. It held 0.2m of water. There is a second rockhole 6m at 060 which is 0.8 x 0.65 x 0.3 m deep at 145. Both in a rock pavement 140 x 60 m. In an adjacent rock pavement are 2 small rockholes 0.27 x 0.23 m and 0.22 x 0.20 m.

6N589 Wileura rockhole: 7 rockholes, none holding water. The track is E-W and the rock pavement 60 x 30 m at 090 abuts the track.

A: 2.3 x 2 x 0.45 m at 040 narrowing to 1.8 x 1.5 m with silt and rock floor.

A to B: 4.5m at 024: 0.65 x 0.6 x 0.5 m silt floor.

B to C: 4.5m at 062: 1.8 x 1.1 x 0.35 m at 025

C to D: 3.8m at 011: 2.7 x 2.5 x 0.6 m at 105 narrowing to 1.8 x 1.3 m

D to E: 6.5m at 010: 1 x 0.8 x 0.35 m at 012 narrowing to circular 0.8 x 0.8 m

E to F: 19.0m at 117: 0.35 x 0.3 x 0.65 m at 020

F to G: 9.7m at 050: 1.9 x 1.4 x 0.3 m at 035

6N165 Kelly Cave: depression 20 x 15 x 0.3 m deep with trench like hole 7 x 5 x 1 m deep at 130 and rectangular hole 0.8 x 0.6 x 1 m deep at 150 leading to cave. The entrance has overall depth of 2.3m. There is a separate depression 16 x 10 x 0.35 m deep at 170 located to the west.

Thursday 10.12.92

Matt and Ken into Thampanna Cave for photos. I went looking (without success) for Hurricane Hole 6N483. There are 2 small rockholes both holding water, on a low rise about 800m east of Thampanna cave. They are both south of the track and north of the fence. There are also 3 rockholes in the amphitheatre like entrance of Thampanna cave. One of these is undoubtedly 'Thampanna rockhole'. They are all rather shallow and were not holding any water. They are

A: 0.9 x 0.8 x 0.35 m at 055,

B: 0.9 x 0.6 x 0.3 m at 335, and

C: 0.7 x 0.35 x 0.45 m at 280.

From Thampanna cave they are A 4.4m at 015, B 2.95m at 320 and C 2.8m at 280.

Friday 11.12.92

We all went into Thampanna cave. Ken and Matt surveying in an area found by them on a previous trip.

There are 2 very small rockholes in a rock pavement 50 m east of Thampanna cave. Neither were holding water.

A: 0.55 x 0.4 x 0.5 m at 180 and

B: 0.4 x 0.35 x 0.4 m at 240.

Distance A to B is 11.5m at 070.

Saturday 12.12.92

Drove east to unnamed doline 6N137. In the south west corner there is a hole and low passage which heads to the west. Other rabbit burrow sized holes with strong breezes occur on the east side.

We looked without success for Yalganimirra rockhole. Then after a little trouble located a track heading north to the EW northern boundary fence. Here we turned west and after 2.2 km found unnamed blowhole 6N609. This has opened only this year between April and July 1992. 300m further east is unnamed rockhole 6N610. This is 10m south of the fence in a rock pavement 14 x 14 m with a lone Pittosporum growing in it. The rockhole is 0.6 x 0.5 x 0.3 m and held no water. We returned to camp finding no further karst features.

I went for a walk finding a few rockholes. Rockhole 6N611 is 2 km south of Thampanna camp site 5m south of an east-west track. The track crosses the north part of a 24 x 5 m at 150 rock pavement. The rockhole being 0.6 x 0.45 x 0.45 m at 120 with a silt floor. A smaller rockhole 10m at 170 is 0.25 x 0.25 x 0.15 m at 210. Neither held water.

Sunday 13.12.92

I walked to 2 rockholes on the ridge north of Thampanna cave.

6N612 is about 900m at 356. It is in a rock pavement 23 x 18 m at 090 on the crest of the main EW ridge and is 0.9 x 0.7 x 0.3 m at 090 and silt floored.

6N613 is about 600m at 010 on a low south trending spur off the main ridge. There is a clump of trees nearby. It is 0.6 x 0.6 m with a silt floor.

Then we drove to Mundrabilla Station. I stopped to look at Mundrabilla Gully cave 6N614. It is on the west side of the gully. The entrance is 2m wide and 0.5m high and consists of 2 passages about 4m long both heading north and a second very low entrance to the east. Passage height is mainly about 0.3m.

Bob Eglington told us about another hole that has recently appeared on the track west to Madura station. Then we headed east along the highway stopping to check 2 caves in the escarpment.

6N615 has an entrance 20m wide and extends back only 3m.

6N616 is 60m to the east. The entrance is about 10m wide and 1m high. It has about 25m of passage, including a very roomy chamber 10 x 11 m.

Mundrabilla Motel had run out of fuel and appeared to be about to close permanently.

Next we drove to Wilson Bluff. First stop was unnamed doline 5N317 which is a depression 6 x 6 x 1.1 m deep immediately south of a track. Then we verified the location of 7 of 8 of the group of blowholes 5N418 to 5N425.

Monday 14.12.92

We located 5N425, the last blowhole known to exist in the area, and in the process located an additional blowhole, 5N617 which is 0.7 x 0.7 x 1.2 m deep at 030 in a depression 5 x 4.5 x 0.2 m at 330. It is now the most easterly of the group. East of 5N617 we climbed down a gully to the beach. In the gully are 2 rock shelter type caves, 5N618 and 619. Once on the beach we walked up to the start of the Delisser Sandhill west of Wilson Bluff. We saw several sea caves, 5N620 to 631. These are basically erosion of the base of the cliff by the sea, and are single 'chambers' open to the sea and with beach sand floors. At high tide it would not be possible to see them all. We climbed back up to the cliff top near Delissers Cairn east of which is a rockhole 5N632.

Near the 68 km post we looked for a blowhole 5N534 which we found. A mere 90m away we found another which we numbered 5N634. On the cliff edge nearby there is a large piece of the cliff fracturing off. It is about 100m long and up to 5m wide. A fissure up to 14m deep has formed. Eventually the piece will fall off. In the mean time this is 5N633.

We had one more stop. We hoped to locate Toms hole 5N10, north of Nullarbor Motel. This was going to involve a bit of a walk, and this day turned out like most of the other days of our trip, it rained. Not really very much, but heavy enough and right at the wrong time. We stopped for a brief look at 5N7, 8 and 9 Murrawijinie Caves Number 1, 2 and 3. It really was a bit rainy and so typical of the weather we had been having for most of our trip. A fitting way to end our trip.

Max METH

YORKE PENINSULA

26th to 27th September 1992

Party: John Meikle, Gary Woodcock, Ian Charlesworth, Jay Robinson, Neil Trotter, Jack Haywood and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5Y1.

We spent Saturday morning exploring the side passages and collecting bones near Bushwalkers. After lunch we explored the Crystal Maze.

That night we had a barbecue and slept in the shearing shed. Next morning Chris and Jack joined us and we went back to the Crystal Maze.

Paul HARPER

UPPER SOUTH EAST

28th and 29th November 1992

Party: Chris Hales, Ian Charlesworth, Eddie Rubessa, Gary Woodcock, and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5U20/42, 5U37, 5U47, 5U63, 5U71, 5U132?.

We spent most of Saturday exploring SOS cave 5U132?, while in the evening we visited Cave Park cave 5U37. Where we met the new owners and had a look at the entrance of Mosquito Creek cave 5U63 and 5U71 which are both on the same property.

On Sunday, Gary and Eddie left for Mount Gambier, while Ian, Chris and I visited S102 cave 5U47, where we found the water level to be up fairly high in the first lake by the entrance. We stripped off before crossing - just as well, as the water ended up being waist deep. {you should have taken you snorkel.....Ed!} We had a look around the cave and ended up entering the other two lakes to see what was at the other side. As it turned out one lake was sumped and the other had a few metres of dry passage at the far end with an impenetrable rockpile.

We then visited Smoke / Tortoise caves 5U20/42, where Ian then left Chris and myself locating the entrances of other nearby features.

Paul HARPER

YORKE PENINSULA

21st February 1993

Party: Graham Siona & Roger Pilkington, Sue McCormick.

Feature: 5Y1.

The intention of the trip was to replace the damaged toilet shed and fix the seat, but we arrived late and the "weekenders" couldn't wait to help us and went caving as soon as we arrived. John Meikle lent us his muscles for a while when we discovered that the wooden seat that had been exposed to the weather for the last year had perished, and needed full removal from its' concrete bed.

After removal of the concrete we found that we needed more materials to make a solid base on top of the drop hole. That ended the toilet idea.

We did recover the collapsed cover from the dig site and replaced it. The dig is now only 2.5m deep but most of the fill came from wash down the sides rather than from an expansion of the surface doline which is still less than 3 m diameter. However, it has made walking near the lip more suicidal as it could easily collapse.

To complete the day we spent four hours touring the Ramshorns-Bushwalkers-Octopus Run.

Graham PILKINGTON

HISTORY OF SELECTED NULLARBOR CAVES

6N37 Mullamullang Cave:

Found by Sandalwood wood cutters about 1917.

Visited by John Carlisle in 1937 (he has photos)

Known as Gabbie Kunbennah meaning "water good" and referring to a small pool of water found beneath a drip in the north doline.

First trip by 'cavers' on 9 January 1964 on SUSS expedition.

The refrigerator blow hole named on Easter 66 trip when it was used as a refrigerator for butter etc. It is described as "the second blow hole on the right in the doline." (I wonder where the first one is?).

6N47 Murra el elevyn cave:

Found 1929/30. Tommy Graham took John Carlisle there a few years later.

6N48 Cocklebidy Cave

Found 1932 by Clarie and Harold Carlisle.

6N49 Pannikin Plain Cave

Found about 1932. One of the Grahams lost his pannikin when out on horseback. Found the cave the next day when looking for it.

First visit by John Carlisle in 1937. Had bats in it.

6N50 Capstan Cave

Found prior to 1938 by Harry Wheeler, a rabbitier. He thought he was the first to see it, but he found a 'Capstan' brand cigarette packet in it.

6N53 Moonera Tank Cave

First visit by John Carlisle in 1931

6N55 Haig Cave

Found by John Carlisle after an American pilot (Eileen Fletcher?) flew over it in 1937.

6N56 Tommy Grahams Cave

First 'caver' visit by D C Lowry in early 1966? D C Lowry, Western Caver 6/3 June 1966 p3.

Tommy Graham was born at Burnabbie, which is 25 km east of Cocklebidy. Tommy Grahams Cave is 14 km west of Burnabbie. He died during World War 2 and is buried at Norseman.

Found by Tommy Graham in 1934

Named by John Carlisle

6N84 Decoration Cave

Found by John Carlisle in 1937 after a dingo took shelter in it after being trapped.

Named by David Lowry

3 other caves located to the east.

6N160 Dingo Donga Cave:

Named by Charles Barrett circa 1935. Missed by Jennings and Lowry in 1963 in their examination of air photos.

First located by cavers in August 1967 after "an aged journalist (who explored) a cave reported to him by rabbit trappers who found it earlier this year." D C Lowry 29/10/67 - private correspondence

The meaning of the word 'donga'.

(1) South African word: Ravine or watercourse with STEEP sides. (It appears to be this meaning that Barrett was using when he named Dingo Donga).

(2) Australian meaning: Similar to oasis, an isolated thicket of trees usually in a shallow depression, in an area otherwise devoid of trees.

Max METH

YORKE PENINSULA

9th and 10th October 1992

Party: Gary Woodcock, Fern Raintree, John Meikle and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5Y1.

Gary and I spent Saturday exploring Bushwalkers Maze while on Sunday Fern and John joined us on a trip to Dreamland.

Paul HARPER

FLINDERS RANGES

14th and 15th November 1992

Party: Suzanne and Ian Charlesworth, Jay Robinson, Chris Hales, and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5F3, 5F4, 5F5, 5F7.

We drove up on the Friday night and met at Bagalowie homestead, where we stayed for the weekend.

On the Saturday we drove through the back blocks to visit Mount Sims cave 5F7. We spent a while looking for Good Friday cave 5F6, but we could not find it so we spent the afternoon exploring Mount Sims cave. That evening we visited Arcoota Creek cave 5F5.

Sunday saw Jay and Suzanne learning to abseil by practicing on a small cliff. We then abseiled into Mairs cave 5F3, making good use of the new fixed ladder in the entrance on the way out. We then visited Clara St. Dora cave 5F4 and finally headed home.

Paul HARPER

TASMANIA

December 1992 and January 1993.

After what almost seemed like a series of omens (GT Stripes on the feet, Boil on the Bum, Car that refused to operate the night before we left, etc.) {sounds like a typical trip! Ed}, We finally arrived in Tasmania in Paul's car for the start of three weeks caving. We had managed to squirm our way in with the FUSS group and hence had arranged to meet them at various times and places throughout the trip. During the trip, I slowly met the different members of FUSS who were in Tasmania, and with our lot, made up such a mob, including the following:

"E" Clare (The Masseur) Busewell, Heiko (Duck Defender) Maurer, Mark (Lentil) Green, Kevin "Pot" Dickson, Tania (Noisy) Wilson, Dave and Di (Superwoman) Brinsley, John (JR) Callison, Matt (Punjab, The Story Teller) Merrick, Peter "Krunchy" (Head Grommet) Kraehenbuehl, Janine "R" Tamblyn, Paul (Massa) Harper, Chris (Kaffir) Hales and Karen Richard.

I guess numerous trip reports about the individual caves will be written, so I'd rather give you a general view of how we found the caving, the cave area's and the people associated with caving. We spent ten days at Mole Creek, the campsite great, with a stream right alongside, Gas Barbecue and cheap fees. Most of the caves we visited in this area are within 30 minutes drive. Finding the caves without a guide or having been there before would be difficult. Many of them are in rain forest or scrub and unless you fell into them, you could quite easily miss them. The scenes around the entrances of these are fantastic. Towering trees, large tree ferns and usually a stream is entering or leaving the entrance.

The air temperature in the caves is cold and the water freezing. The locals wear thermals, top and bottom and generally overalls (tough buggers),. We found plastic waterproofs over the thermals worked well for us. I wouldn't consider taking my wet suit next time and rubber boots are aids to drowning in deep water. The caves are extremely well decorated or sporty and sometimes both. If you don't mind the cold and wet you are bound to have a good time.

The Northern Caverneers and Mole Creek Cave Club organised our time here and we had a ball. We visited:

- Maracoopa 1 and 2 cave
- Honeycomb 1 and 2 cave (this is there training cave - excellent)
- Wet cave (best decoration that I've seen)
- Lynds cave (great water falls)
- Koh'e'nor (maze puzzle, wonderful last sump)
- Diamond cave
- Genghas Khan (excellent decoration)
- Glowworm cave
- Cyclops cave

From here we moved north and meet up with the Savage River Cave Club, who took us to Gunns Plains area and showed us Heka cave and Great Western cave (a good stream cave with great decoration).

We shifted to the Ida Bay area for five days. This gave Paul, John and Di the opportunity to do Big Tree Pot cave, a 196 m deep vertical cave. The amount of work required to do this type of cave is startling. it begins with obtaining a map of the location and reading previous trail notes. If you are lucky you can find someone who has been there.

Next you begin collecting enough rope length to cover the pitches, and packing it in bags in the order you require it to rig the pitches. A final meeting of the people entering the cave decides time frames, who enters first etc., what to wear, what to take as personal gear and how to get the gear to the cave. When all of this was organised we then decided to actually locate the cave entrance. Permission to enter the area was obtained, and then after driving as close as possible to the cave entrance, we set out on foot following track markers. It took us about two hours to locate the cave entrance and fifty five minutes to return to the car.

The walk through the rain forest was excellent, but when you have a rope bag and water and food, etc. on your back it becomes a physical downer. Large logs mean bags have to be passed over, balance is essential walking along logs, mud, leeches and exhaustion all slow you down.

Rigging and entering the cave was someone else's story. I wasn't physically or mentally prepared to attempt it. Instead Dave, Matt and I sat and waited and waited and waited. Just before dark we collected wood and started a small fire. This helped keep the mosquitoes and flies away. After nine hours of waiting, we finally had contact. Everyone was okay, just cold and tired. In another two hours they were all out, but had left the cave rigged. After a night's sleep we walked back again so the cave could be derigged, all the gear carried back out and then the wonderful job of cleaning the ropes and SRT gear began.

The complete exercise took almost four days. A lot of work for one cave. I know you will find this hard to believe, but after the gear was cleaned, we lazed around for four whole hours and ate and talked and dozed (right lazy sods), until more bloody FUSS people turned up (sometimes you just hate people don't you). They wanted to abseil into Midnight Hole cave (5 pitches) and walk out Mystery Creek cave, "are we going?". Paul agreed (he's always been easily influenced), Matt said "Yeah, Yeah.....Yeah" in the usual way only he can say it and mean not really, "Chris and I have been reading all about the urgent need for a Glowworm census and our time would be much better spent on this, just at Mystery Creek cave". This procedure is highly technical, and requires laying on your back for long periods (definitely not for the inexperienced).

When Midnight Hole / Mystery Creek cave had spat out these intruders (FUSS and a couple of CEGSA rejects) at around 11 pm, they started walking back to the cars. Then it happened!, one lazy, attention seeking, CEGSA water rat put on the "Lame Duck Routine". He sat in the mud, refused to budge, reckoned his leg hurt, demanded to be called "Massa" and insisted, "his holiday had only just begun". Kaffir get my socks, my feet are cold. Well he might have thought he was "Massa" but with two extra wooden legs he wasn't going caving so we just had to continue without him.

On a more serious note, when accidents occur, it sure helps to have a good crew that all put in that extra effort when necessary. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Over the next week, the trip slowly came to an end. We had met cavers from all over, including; VSA, SSS, UTS, Macquarie University and countless more. They all helped us to enjoy the three weeks, whether in the cave or around the fire, but the special people, the ones who looked after us, guided us, welcomed us as if we were their own members, were the various Tasmanian club members. Without them our trip would have been ordinary.

Chris HALES

YORKE PENINSULA

31st January 1993

Party: Graham & Roger Pilkington, Sue McCormick, Mac & Tristan MacDonald, Grant and Lynne Pearce.

Feature: 5Y1.

A good fun trip.

The morning trip was to the Octopus Chamber via several detours. The party reached the Bushwalkers Run from two directions; some via the Rope Crevasse and some via the fissure/flatteners that are to the south of it. We then did the tour off into the Crystal Maze via the Crystal Chamber to the Big Stalagmite and back through and over to the ramp that returns down into the Bushwalkers Run.

By the time we had reached the Octopus, the troops mutinied. They professed being too tired to continue. After the leisurely travelling this seems hard to believe. I wonder what they had been up to Saturday night?

It may have just been the weather. After a week of near 40C a general lethargy sets in. Lunch was had in the cave just inside the entrance. All our food and drink had been left there to keep cool. Besides, in the heat the bee hive nestling over the entrance was a swarm of activity and the only egress - the steps that lead out of the doline - was the hive's flight path.

Mac and Tristan braved the elements and returned to their shack on the coast. It's lucky for us the bees are very placid. If the hive is left alone and movement is slow and easy, the bees ignore us except to deviate their flight. However, some cavers have been stung. Andrew Slater intends to persuade the hive to move house to prevent curiosity getting the better of someone.

For the afternoon, a trip around Grand Central was conducted. After a bit of training in fissure climbing we exited.

Graham PILKINGTON

YORKE PENINSULA

31st October and 1st November 1992

Party: Gary Woodcock, Ralph, John Meikle Chris, Mac and Ryan Hales, Chris Fiolic, Troy Bill and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5Y1.

Gary, Ralph, John and I spent Saturday exploring around Bushwalkers and Crystal Maze.

On Sunday, the others joined us and we went for a tour of the old section of then cave and ended up exploring the far reaches of Crystal Maze.

Paul HARPER

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations on transfer to Full Member:

Sue McCormick 9104

Welcome to our new Full Member:

Peter Girdler 9303
380-5205

Welcome to our new Associates:

Janine Tamblyn 9301
087-344-284

Graeme Elsby 9302
(W) 337-3505

SEARCH and RESCUE EXERCISE

A Search and Rescue training exercise has been organised by Kevin Mott, which will involve NPWS, SES, CFS, St. John, Police and Star Force personnel. This training exercise is to take place over the weekend of 3/4 April 1993. Support from about twenty Adelaide cavers is required - please let Paul Harper Know if you are interested in participating.

APPOINTMENT OF ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

June MacLucas has been appointed as the Group's Artist in Residence in recognition of her acceptance by the Prospect Gallery for an Exhibition early next year of art work, drawings and photographs of the Nullarbor Plains and its caves.

She will be visiting the Nullarbor in April/May this year on an expedition with support from Max Meth, Graham Pilkington and George MacLucas. There will be several follow up trips later on.

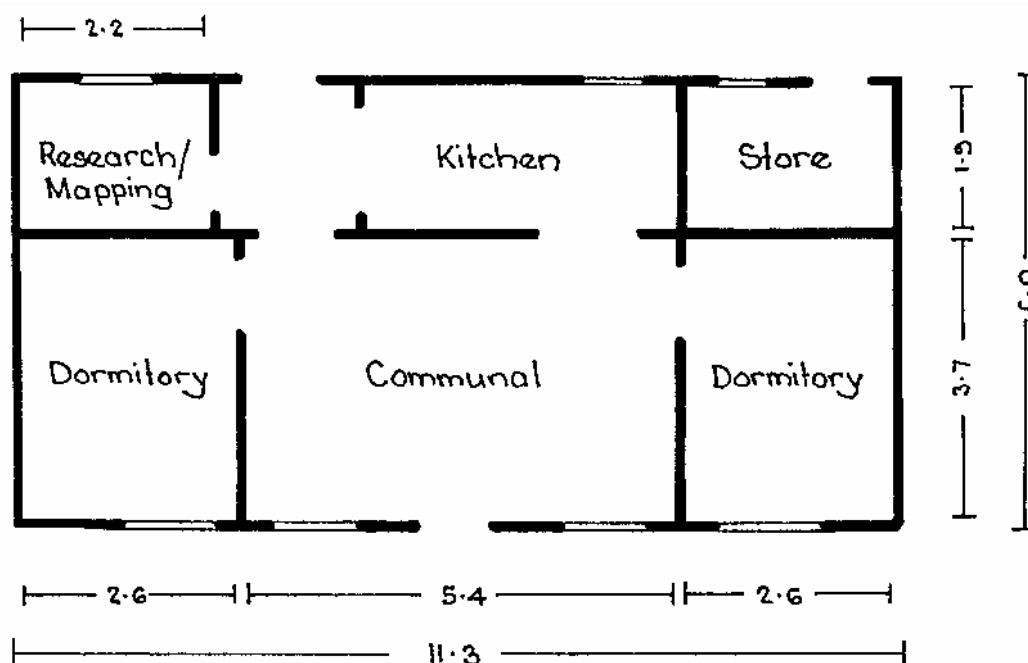
We wish June every success in this venture.

CEGSA HUT

A large number of the current membership of CEGSA would have no recollection of the former hut located at the Naracoorte reserve. The hut had variously been used for accommodation for Tourist Bureau staff and a caving hut/research centre for CEGSA.

I am not sure when the hut was placed on the reserve but the first recorded use I can find was in 1956. It was initially set up as a research centre for the study of caves and bats. Control was vested in the SA Museum, Adelaide University and CEGSA. Over the years the other organisations reduced their input and the hut was left in the control of CEGSA. As research reduced, the hut was mainly used for accommodation and a communal centre for those who were brave enough to tent it.

The original hut (see plan) consisted of three rooms; a central living area and two dormitories. A kitchen, store room and research/mapping room were later added in about 1965.



CEGSA HUT

Floor coverings, furnishings, paint and maintenance materials were often donated to the hut as required. Unfortunately toward the end of its life, maintenance to the exterior of the hut was restricted by NPWS. The condition of the exterior of the hut was one of the excuses used when the hut was bulldozed in December 1980. The fire shed and tank now stand where the hut was located.

A useful feature of the hut was the party location board in the hut. This gave the names, location and ETA of caving parties. The board was visible from outside the hut so was useful in emergencies. Current systems rely on the fact that people only go caving from 9.00am to 5.00pm; office hours!

Log books were maintained in the hut and these give an insight to the camaraderie that existed between hut users. Details of events that occurred were often only recorded here, not in newsletters. The hut provided a focus for cavers and it is quite noticeable that the number of trips is less with no hut. The sad part is that the amount of work being done is consequently down.

In 1976 and 1977 CEGSA was involved in pine tree removal for NPWS and surveying and excavating a pilot tunnel for the new exit to Victoria Fossil Cave. Money received for these projects was used to buy equipment needed at the time with the balance placed in a high interest account. This account was to be used for the maintenance and or replacement of the hut.

What of the future? During the last year several options for a hut have arisen. Do the members want a hut in the Naracoorte area to provide a focus for caving and a place where the non caving members of a trip (i.e. family) could gather, particularly in wet weather?

If a hut is needed then following criteria may need to be considered:

- * freehold or long term tenure are the most desirable, but reservation under the Crown Lands Act should not be ruled out. For security of tenure and compatibility with conservation guidelines it would be best located off a caving reserve.
- * it should have a communal area. Accommodation could follow if required.
- * heating and cooking could be gas.
- * lighting could be 12v with solar recharge. Caving batteries could be recharged off this or by generator.
- * a 10 x 20 m shed with a concrete floor and verandah would probably suffice. Interior lining could be progressively done.
- * a chemical or similar toilet system could possibly be utilised with kitchen/washing sullage going to a soakage pit.

It is now time for the group to consider whether or not it wants a hut in the Naracoorte area as it is still an area that provides diversity of caving reasonably close to Adelaide. To do this we are conducting a poll of all members through the newsletter to determine if CEGSA should have a hut in the Naracoorte area.

If the majority of respondents want a hut then a sub committee should be formed to consider what alternatives are available and what the cost options are likely to be.

If a hut is not wanted by the majority of respondents then the money set aside for the hut should then be reallocated to specific purposes. This would also apply if the sub committee found it unviable to have a hut.

Please fill in the questionnaire in this Newsletter and return it to a member of the Committee, or post it to CEGSA, P.O. Box 144, Rundle Mall, Adelaide, S.A., 5000 on or before the 28th April 1993.

Kevin MOTT

FEES FOR 1993

Fees were due on the first of January 1993. For those who have not yet paid the fees are:

Full Member	\$33 (includes ASF levy)
Full Member country	\$29 (includes ASF levy)
Associate	\$18
Long Term Associate	\$25
ASF levy	\$8
Family	\$18 additional

Our Constitution and Rules gave you until the end of February to pay for 1993 to maintain membership. As of now, unless you can convince the Committee otherwise, you will need to re-apply for membership. At least it will give us a chance to update our membership records!

For discussion only, I am going to suggest the CEGSA introduce both a joining fee and a late fee. The joining fee would finance a "Beginners handout" to be given to all new members and will include such things as the Constitution; Library holdings list; Search & Rescue procedures; suggested equipment purchases; pamphlets on caving techniques; and even CEGSA stickers.

Anyone having comments or ideas on any of the above can raise them at a General Meeting or send them to the Committee (Paul Harper being in charge of the Beginners Manual project) or to myself.

Graham PILKINGTON

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Full Members of CEGSA can receive a membership card each year after becoming financial. The card is useful when discussing cave access with land owners to give some indication of caver competency as well as proving membership of CEGSA. Each year I hand out a slip of paper for Full Members to sign and return. From this paper I make up a plastic sealed membership card and return it to you. The scrap of paper by itself is no proof of membership. For those that I have posted out to, the 1993 slip was sent with a Newsletter. Please sign above "Member" and return for your card.

Associates are not issued with cards so that land owners who do not know the skills required to be a Full Member will not confuse the two forms of membership.

Graham PILKINGTON

INDEX TO VOLUME 37

Volume 37 contained the following issues;

37 (1)	March 1992
37 (2)	May 1992
37 (3)	August 1992
37 (4)	November 1992

This index is divided into the following categories;

Caving Activity by Region
Technical and Other Articles

Caving Activity

Caving Activities are listed by Trip Report title, Newsletter Reference and Author.

Adelaide Hills

Adelaide Hills	37 (3) p 44	Paul Harper
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Eyre Peninsula

Port Lincoln	37 (1) p4	Gorden Ninnes
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Flinders Ranges

Flinders Ranges	37 (4) p65	Paul Harper
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Kangaroo Island

No Trips Reported

Lower South East

Lower South East	37 (3) p41	Kevin Mott
Lower South East	37 (3) p44	Paul Harper
Lower South East	37 (4) p57	Peter Horne
Lower South East	37 (4) p61	Eddie Rubessa
Lower South East	37 (4) p70	Paul Harper
McKays Shaft	37 (4) p67	Mark Thiselton
Mount Gambier, the Flinders Ranges and other interesting places visited in 1991	37 (1) p6	Peter Horne
Some Underwater Tips about Underwater Pits!	37 (2) p18	Peter Horne
The Shaft	37 (3)p42	Mark Thiselton
Wet Caving in the Lower South East	37 (2) p22	Mark Thiselton

Murray Plains

Murray Plains	37 (1) p9	Lance Hoey
Murray Plains, Punyelroo cave	37 (2) p23	Mark Thiselton
Murray Plains, Western Flat and Overland Corner	37 (2) p24	George MacLucas

Nullarbor Plains

Nullarbor Plains	37 (3) p33	Max Meth
Nullarbor Plains (TR Maurice 1897 Trip)	37 (3) p37	Max Meth
Wet Caving on the Nullarbor Plains	37 (2) p24	Mark Thiselton

Upper South East

Naracoorte	37 (4) p55	Chris Hales
Naracoorte	37 (4) p62	Kevin Mott
Upper South East	37 (1) p9	Eddie Rubessa

Yorke Peninsula

Corra Lynn	37 (3) p46	Graham Pilkington
Corra Lynn	37 (3) p47	Graham Pilkington
Town Well	37 (1) p10	Steve Milner
Yorke Peninsula	37 (2) p21	Paul Harper
Yorke Peninsula	37 (3) p44	Paul Harper
Yorke Peninsula	37 (4) p56	Paul Harper
Yorke Peninsula	37 (4) p60	Paul Harper
Yorke Peninsula	37 (4) p66	Paul Harper
Yorke Peninsula, Corra Lynn cave	37 (2) p23	Paul Harper
Yorke Peninsula, Corra Lynn cave	37 (2) p23	Mark Thiselton

Interstate

Mount Eccles, Victoria	37 (4) p59	Chris Hales
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Technical and Other Articles

Technical and Other Articles are listed by the title of the article, Newsletter Reference and Author.

Cave Cricket Research	37 (3) p48	Ron Simms
Cave Cricket Identification	37 (3) p48	Ron Simms
Farewell Ken Lynn	37 (1) p13	Elery Hamilton-Smith
Ganason Thank You Letter	37 (3) p50	Ganason Nadason
Index to Volume 36	37 (2) p27	Mark Thiselton
Library Holdings - Books and Monographs	37 (1) p12	Mark Sefton
South Australian Speleological Council	37 (2) p26	Graham Pilkington
Surveying	37 (4) p72	Kevin Mott

PROGRAMME

April

3/4	Naracoorte - Search and Rescue Exercise	Kevin Mott (see Paul Harper)
9-12	LWE South East - Kingston Flinders Ranges - Bagalowie area	Stan Flavel Mac Macdonald
9-14	Naracoorte, Cricket Monitoring	
17/18		
21/4 - 12/5	Nullarbor Plains - Drawings and Photography	June and George MacLucas with Max Meth and Graham Pilkington.
24-26	LWE	
28	GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm Caving in South East Asia	Mark Sefton

May

1/2		
8/9		
15-17	LWE Kangaroo Island	Kevin Mott (see Peter Horne)
22/23		
26	GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm DNA Dating	***** UPSTAIRS ***** Terry Reardon
29/30		

June

5/6		
12-13	LWE	
19/20		
23	GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm Tall Tales and Ripping Yarns	Chris Hales
26/27		

July

1-22	Nullarbor Plains	Paul Harper
3/4		
10/11		
17/18		
24/25		
28	GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm Cave Surveying Exercise	Stan Flavel
31/		
Sept./Oct.	Old Homestead	Graham Pilkington
January 1994	Tasmania	Chris Hales
TBA	Combined Clubs Trip	Chris Hales

Check with the Trip Liaison Officer for any additions or alterations.