

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

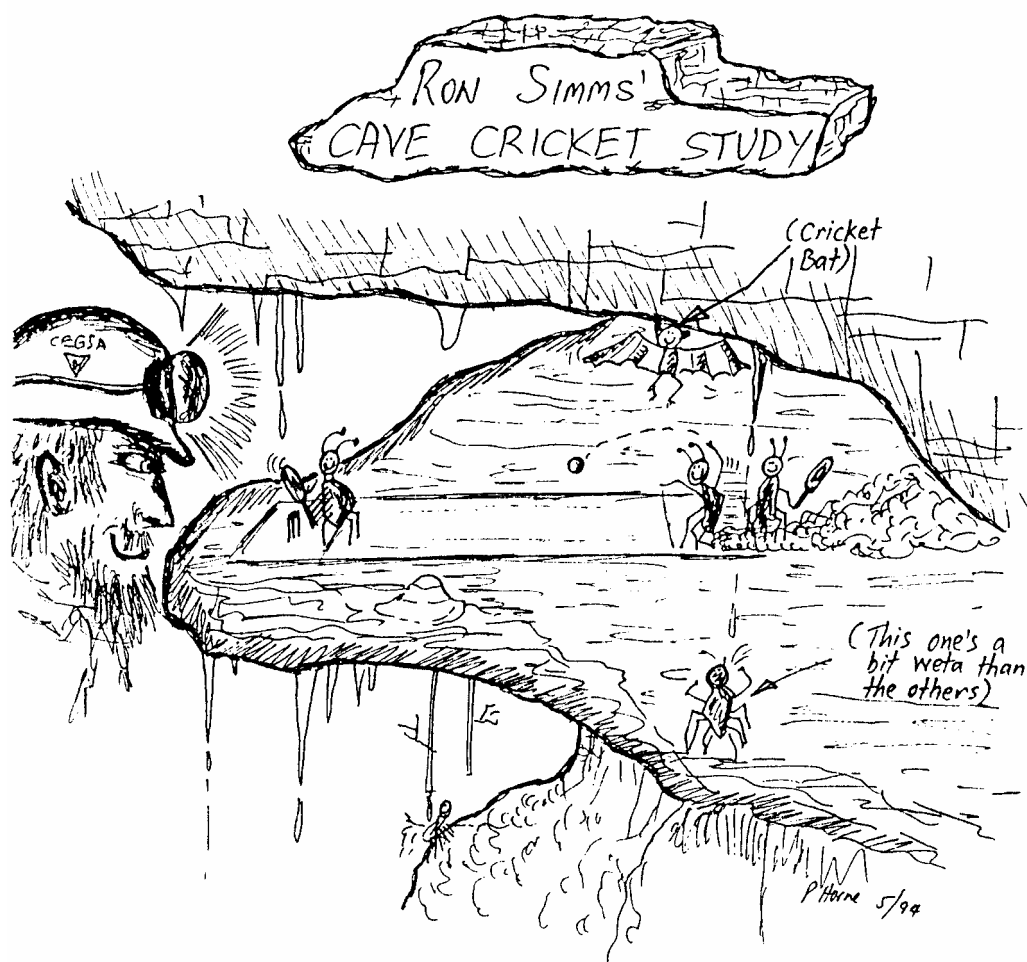
PO Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 5000



Volume 39 Number 2

July 1994

N E W S L E T T E R



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 of South Australia meeting room, Natural Science Building, South Australian Museum.

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Front Cover:

An artist's view of a Ron Simms' Cave Cricket Study.

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The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 39 Number 3 must reach the Editor by Wednesday 26th October, 1994. Material not meeting this deadline may be retained for possible use in a following issue.

The views 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

The February meeting saw the group spending money to frame four pictures of the late captain Thompson's Nullarbor Expedition to be shown in June MacLucas' Art Exhibition - Inside Earth. Two copies of Peter Horne's Lower South East Atlas were purchased for the CEGSA library. The Training Officer purchased four Cows-Tails, including Karabiners. Further money was spent on filing equipment for the groups Records and Library needs. Peter Horne was asked to investigate the gating of a cave in the Lower South East region. Alan Jevons discussed current issues within the ASF and the South Australian Speleological Council in relation to caving activities within South Australia. The owner of the property on which Quarry cave 5L23 is located, voiced his disapproval of people visiting the feature without his permission. He is more than happy for cavers to visit this feature if they would first contact him.

The large number of people present at the March general meeting were privileged to watch videos and slides on Cave Diving in Florida and Mexico by Greg Bulling and Ken Smith. This presentation was of very good quality. Thanks Greg and Ken. Nugget Chapman was finally presented with his Occasional Award, Gate maker, Class Complex for his outstanding contribution in repairing the gate at Mairs cave. Thanks Nugget. The Art Exhibition - Inside Earth was officially opened, with June MacLucas receiving approval from those who had taken the time to visit the Art Gallery. Good work June. Very little interest was shown in the clean up trip to Rendelsham's cave that Kevin Mott was organising as part of the clean up Australia day activities.

The April general meeting saw the President and Secretary both absent. Graham Pilkington acted as President, while Paul Harper acted as Secretary. Our group has been contacted by a German caving club "HHV LAICHINGEN" to swap newsletters and go caving with us when they visit Australia in the future. Athol Jackson showed a video on the late Captain Thompson's 1951/1952 Nullarbor Expedition along with a short video on a section of the Nullarbor cliffs. Thanks Athol.

At the May general meeting, Alan Jevons discussed his trip to the Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park for the official opening of Wet cave, formerly Stick and Tomato caves. He also mentioned visits to Victoria Fossil and Blanche caves as part of the formality. Some new members to the group were welcomed at this meeting, with some present on the night. It was good to see Fred Sanders (membership number 5501) at the May meeting. Fred is a Honorary Life Member and has been active in the early days of the group. An extract from the Adelaide review circulated during the May meeting. It included an article on the Art Exhibition - Inside Earth. Well done June MacLucas. George MacLucas has again asked for assistance with the group's Records and Library. He is hoping that some new blood will volunteer. It appears that the groups Quarter-Master will be moving and as a result we are looking for a replacement. If you have the storage space and a flair for this position, please contact the committee. Brian Rivett was presented with his Leather Medal "Crap Bag", after an unforgettable incident on a trip to the Nullarbor.

During the June general meeting, Mac thanked all those who had contributed in the raising of the \$40,000 dollars for the 5A20 Court case. A liability insurance for cavers, land owners, office bearers and the club, is being pursued by the ASF. The GM agreed to CEGSA joining the National scheme if it cost no more than the expected \$6 to \$10 capitation fee. The fee will be applicable to and cover ALL members, Full or Associate. Alan Jevons is the instigator of, and force behind, the ASF insurance proposal and should be thanked for his efforts. Eddie reminded cavers of the Library Circulation List. If people want their names added, please contact George MacLucas. Also a reminder that tardy hand-on will lead to removal from the list. Steve Milner gave a slide show and talk on caving in a large cave system in South Wales, UK. It was necessary to set up underground camps to make exploration feasible in the 7 degree muddy wet conditions. It takes fit young cavers about 6 hours to get to the exploration limits. The cave starts with a low wet 1.5km long grovel that is impassable when water flows!

I returned after an absence of some three months, with the Easter, Anzac, Adelaide Cup and Queens Birthday public holidays having elapsed, expecting to be snowed under by articles for this edition of the Newsletter. Unfortunately due to a lack of contributors, this edition has been held over from May. My thanks and apologies go to those contributors who provided articles by the published deadline.

Mark Thiselton

TRIP REPORTS

NULLARBOR

4th to 20th July 1993

Participants: Max Meth, Sue McCormick, Paul Harper, Fern Raintree, John Meikle, Suzanne and Ian Charlesworth, Clare Buswell and Heiko Maurer

Features: SA: Nullarbor National Park: 5N18 112 243 244 693 702-704 M26
Yalata Community land: White Well Shaft, 5N12 14 116 692 M27
WA: 6N2 3 17 24 35-37 39-42 47 48 50 53 54 56 68-70 91 132 160 191 359
360 523 567 568 574 590 600 601 691 694-701 705 706 NX28-NX38

Access to Caves in the SA Nullarbor National Park must be arranged with:
the Manager - Ross Allen
National Parks and Wildlife Service
PO BOX 569 (11 McKenzie St)
CEDUNA SA 5690

A total of 18 new features were located, described and numbered, and a further 13 (temporary numbers NX26 to NX38) new features were seen but not described. 41 previously numbered features were visited.

Sunday 4th July

Having stopped to talk with Bill McKenzie at Yalata, we went to the Head of the Great Australian Bight hoping to view some Southern Right whales. There were quite a few near the cliff edge. Nearby are the two Fluted Blowholes 5N345. These spout water with each breaker and are therefore connected to the sea. In the cliff 2m above sea level is a cave. The entrance is a ledge 11x3.5m. Under this ledge the waves enter a passage that evidently leads to the two blowholes. We camped the night at White Well. John descended the well finding it to be 42m deep.

Monday 5th July

In the morning no-one else wanted to descend the well so we drove to White Well cave 5N14. This is a hole 3.6x2.7x6.5m @160 in a depression 38x30x2.1m @080. The existing cave map is not complete. Some time was spent investigating a previously unrecorded doline 5N692. This is marked as 'doline' by National Mapping. It is 166m east of the track to Biduna blowhole. The doline is 13x8m @090 and 0.7m deep. There is a low cliff line on the south side and a hole on the north side which has a strong breeze. Further north we stopped at 5N116 Biduna Blowhole, 9m north of the EW fence. It has a depression 7.5x6x0.5m @170 with a hole 1.8x1.1x6m @030 leading to a spacious entrance chamber. An obscure hole leads to a further chamber extending the cave about 35m to SW and dropping 21m deeper. We camped near unnamed cave 5N12 which is on Yalata Land. Very heavy rain overnight made driving on the track impossible so we decided to wait a day or so.

Tuesday 6th July

Light rain dampened activities all day. I managed a brief look at the cave 5N12 between rain squalls. The map in the Atlas has the cave reversed west to east

Wednesday 7th July

In the morning I explored 5N12 and with the rain clearing I went for a walk on the Nullarbor National Park. South west of our camp I found a very shallow doline NX26. Somewhere to the east of this is supposed to be a cave. This is one of two caves mentioned but not described in our records. I managed to find the second cave. It is 5N693 and is about 500m north of the shallow doline. Walking to an old chimney and adjacent doline 5N243, I went north and found the nearby doline 5N112. According to our records there should be 2 features. A blowhole is supposed to be within 500m. Next I saw doline 5N244 and further along I neared 5N18 just as the rest of the party had located it. After examining this we all retreated to camp hoping for no more rain.

Thursday 8th July

The morning dawned somewhat fine and because of the wet weather, we decided to omit the other caves in SA from our itinerary. We hoped for better weather in WA so we headed west to Weebubbie cave. On the drive south to the Eyre Highway I saw a very shallow doline NX27 east of the fence and approx 20x10m. At Weebubbie I had a look at 6N24 unnamed cave, removing a few seedling weeds from its doline.

Friday 9th July

In the morning there was a photo and swim trip to Weebubbie lake then we headed west. On the Old Coach Road we were unable to locate a 'deep blowhole' that has been reported by Elery Hamilton-Smith. But much to my amazement we found a new doline.

Pittosporum Doline 6N694 is south of the track and measures 48x42m @110 and is 2m deep. It has earth sides with no rock exposed. There is a 5m tall Pittosporum tree growing in it. Several wombat burrows were on the north side.

Next it was on to Chowilla Landslip 6N17 for a photo stop and then to Abrakurrie Cave 6N3. Here I looked at the blowhole type cave in the doline while the others toured the main cave. And then we set off for our camp site at Madura.

On the Old Coach road I noticed the small doline 6N591 5km west of Chowilla, then Tookana Rockhole 6N590 on the north of the track. At Wileura rockhole we turned south. After 3km there is a track to the east that is not shown on my map. I also noticed a possible rockhole NX28 and a shallow doline with a rockhole NX29 the latter being just after the major track bend to the west.

Soon our navigator pretended to be lost, somehow thinking that she had not turned south at Wileura.

However we arrived at Kuthala Pass exactly as planned. In a minor gully off Kuthala pass there are a few small cave openings visible NX30. We set up camp just north of the old Madura Pass then went in to the Motel for tea.

Here we met Denis Nash, manager of the Madura Downs Station. He told us that he had found Purple Goringe Cave 6N360 about 15 years ago in 1978. It was only about 5 years ago that cavers became aware of it. He also mentioned that the group of blowholes on the Loongana tracks extends considerably to the east (as I feared it would). So far that group consists of 6N661 to 669.

Saturday 10th July

Having not seen Madura Pass Cave 6N68 I got up early and went to investigate. This is not a blowhole, but a cave. The cave was dug into in the process of making the road cutting. A plaque proclaims "Blowhole 16 Nov 1941", presumably the day it was uncovered. It has 3 entrances that connect to a maze of low passages. I saw about 30m of them. It is very similar to the phreatic passages in Spider Sink 6N41. They both occur at about the same depth below plain level.

The morning had dawned quite cold. After breakfast we went to Moonera Tank cave 6N53. This is in a clay depression 115x60m @050 in the east end of a 500m long claypan that extends to the south west. The main collapse doline is 54x45m @060 and is 23.5m deep on the east edge. It has vertical to overhanging walls on the west north and east sides but walk in access on the south side where a streamway enters.

There is a second entrance measuring 9.5x9m only 3m from the east lip. This connects to the main doline via a 4m high 2m wide window. It also has a small cave of its own.

400m @225 on the north edge of the claypan is unnamed cave 6N54. This is a doline 10x8m @050 and 9m deep. There are small caves at the north and south ends.

We drove west to the boundary fence of Arubiddy and Moonera stations and thence to the Cocklebidy Motel. Next stop was Cocklebidy Cave 6N48 and we camped at Tommy Grahams cave 6N56.

Sunday 11th July

Norman Poulter of SRGWA had told me about a doline 6N691 about 500m north. This proved to be a small cave. We were running out of water, and with all the rain we had been having I felt sure we could get some from Moondadong Rockhole 6N567. This had plenty of water but it was discoloured green with algae.

In the morning we went for a drive, seeing 2 eagles at Moondadong. To the west there are dolines 6N705 and 6N706. Both are 1.3m deep. The first is 50x50m and 50m north of the track, the second is 60x60m and 10m north of the track.

On the junction with the track to Burnabbie is Balingnu Rockhole 6N600. This has a rock pavement area of 42x22m @070 in which there are 5 rockholes and a blowhole. The water here was crystal clear and we filled our containers.

We stopped at Bronchi Hole 6N523. This is a 3.5m deep doline with a 12.5m deep blowhole at the bottom. It leads to an interesting little cave. Air blows out of tiny holes in the rock walls at the bottom of the blowhole. Very eerie.

There were brief stops at Foxhole cave 6N91 and Pannikin Plain cave 6N49 then we went to Cocklebiddy Motel where we met Clare and Heiko. They had a GPS machine and we stopped at doline 6N574 to get a location fix on it as well as a fix for a few other locations.

Monday 12th July

We all drove to Capstan Cave 6N50. On the way we stopped at a doline I had seen the previous day. This is 6N695 and is 100m south of the track about 4km west of Moondadong. It is a 60x50m earth sided depression 1.2m deep with a mallee clump in its east end. About 50m west is another doline 50x50x1m. Capstan Cave is 2.5km north of the highway then 1.2km west.

Clare wanted to see Cocklebiddy Cave. On the way back we stopped at a rockhole 6N696 on the main track. It has a rock pavement area 55x45m and 3 small rockholes. There is a *Pittosporum* tree growing in it. Murra-el-elevyn cave 6N47 is in a depression 21.7x20m @093 0.9m deep. There is a collapse doline 16.6x9.5m @093 15.4m deep. It overhangs on all sides with the minimum pitch of 5.9m on the east side. 6N47 has an associated depression 22x22x0.3m 145m away @329, the track from the highway crosses it. To the east of 6N47 a claypan extends about 350m. On the south side of this at the base of a ridge is a rockhole 6N697. It has a rock pavement 12x10m @145. It is 290m @113 from 6N47.

Tuesday 13th July

We drove to Madura then north to Erosion Cave 6N36. On the way we passed a shallow doline 6N698 about 100m west of the track. It is 60x30m @000 and 0.5m deep and about 100m west of the track. Seeing the good condition of the track we continued on to Mullamullang cave 6N37.

On the EW track 3km before turning south there is a small depression NX31 right on the fence line. 1km before the turn east to N37 there appeared to be a depression NX32 100m east of the fence. And 500m before reaching N37 there is a small depression NX33 5m north of the track.

I wanted to camp right next to the cave. Clare wanted to camp 2km away in a nice sheltered spot she knew of. In the end we camped in Paul's choice spot about 200m west. It proved to be surprisingly difficult for some of our party to find the cave from this distance. A good spot for carrying a cut lunch and a water bottle. Not to mention a compass. People have been known to wander away from camp at night and, losing their bearings, wander about for hours.

Wednesday 14th July

Soon after dawn Sue and Heiko left for a trip to the Dome area of Mullamullang cave.

The rest of us waited till nearer mid-day for a trip into Easter extension. I walked down the main passage to Franks Station as I did not want to see Easter Extension again. I intended to meet the others there. I waited at Franks Station, and waited.

You see I had made a couple of trips into side passages and I was not sure that the party had not slipped by me. And I could not be sure that the party had not decided to return the way they came, without completing the through trip. With each passing minute my doubts multiplied.

After waiting what I considered to be an adequate time I exited the cave, leaving notes of my movements at each major sign post. I had not been out long when the main group arrived.

I was amazed to learn that they had not found my notes nor left any of their own. All the more puzzling as Sue and Heiko would be passing by as well. Sue and Heiko appeared close to midnight.

Thursday 15th July

In the morning I used the GPS machine to locate 2 rockholes 6N699 north of our camp.

In the afternoon we went to Joes Cave. Paul and I explored the cave up to its known end. The only trouble was, I did not know where this point was. Eventually I crawled past an obstruction into a small cavity in rockpile. Someone had previously managed to squeeze into this cavity via a slot and Paul tried to get in this way as well. But could not quite fit. Alone I continued a short distance to a relatively spacious area with a few passages leading off. Small rock cairns indicated that I was by no means the first to see this area.

Friday 16th July

We set out north to Kestrel No 1 Cavern 6N40. Some people abseiled in. I went to Spider Sink 6N41 to continue examination of the phreatic passages in it. These form a network type cave very similar to Madura Pass cave 6N68 both of which have a very strong breeze.

Then there were brief stops at Kestrel No 2 cavern 6N42 and unnamed doline 6N69. 6N69 has a large erosion gully on the south side and 2 small caves, one on the east and one on the west of the main doline. We camped at Erosion Cave 6N36.

Saturday 17th July

With rain threatening (again), Clare, Heiko, Suzanne and Ian departed for home.

6N36 is a miniature of Kestrel No 2. There is a clay depression 65x60m @005 8m deep which has 2 streamways which join and flow south into a collapse doline. The collapse doline is 26x6m @095 and only 2m deeper than the clay depression. It has cliffs on the west south and east sides and on the south side they overhang. On the north side there is no rock exposed, only the eroding clay.

Under the overhang on the west side is a hole in rockpile about 1x1m from which issues a very strong breeze. The hole leads to a low passage that heads west through rockpile for about 10m. Here a small hole leads to the main cave.

The cave descends rapidly to about 70m below plain level. Its horizontal extent is no more than 70m ending in a flat clay floor that was covered in water on the far side. There appears to be little chance of extending the cave, which for the most part is quite cramped (compared with other 70m deep Nullarbor caves).

About 200m SE (133 mag) from 6N36 is Bobobogal doline 6N35. Midway between the two is a small depression. It lies close to the known end of Erosion Cave. It measures 4.3x3.3m @070 and is 1m deep. It is clay sided.

Bobobogal Doline is 100x85m @150 and 6.5m deep with several mulga trees growing in the north end. For the most part the rim consists of a rubble slope and the central area of 80x40m is a flat clay floor sloping gently down to the north. The doline is in a depression measuring 120x115m. At the north end of the doline there is a cliff up to 6m high curving around from the east to west side. A 3m long cave is located near the east end of this cliff with a strong breeze issuing from a hole within.

Sunday 18th July

We drove to the reported location of a deep cave. I am not sure of its name and have temporarily dubbed it "Cavern Cave". It was evidently found by the Plane Caving Group of WA but this remains to be confirmed. On the way there I noticed a doline NX34 and a rockhole NX35.

The 'new' cave is 6N700 and is located 700m east of the Madura Moonera Station boundary fence. It consists of a near vertical drop of 27m into a 60x40m chamber. Its doline is quite small and measures 8.2x5.9m @130 and is 5m deep. There is a solution hole offset slightly and the vertical drop of 18m actually starts 9m below ground level. The first 2m of the doline are clay sided with rocks embedded. Below this the walls are solid rock apart from the west side which has clay and rocks down to the 5m level. Due south is Dingo Donga cave 6N160 which took a little while to locate. There is a solution pipe entrance next to the main doline and several more solution pipes in the cave leading up, but not yet reaching the surface. It appears that these solution pipes play a role in creating the collapse dolines.

Another talk to Denis Nash. He mentioned a few caves and dolines that he has found over the years.

Monday 19th July

We headed east along the highway. There were 2 caves NX36 & NX37 visible in the scarp about 14km east of Madura. We drove to Mundrabilla Station then to Webbs cave 6N132. About 1.5km before Webbs cave I noticed a doline 6N701 on the east of the track. It is 38x23m @040 and 1.2m deep.

In this smooth claypan area the grass was just beginning to grow and the effect was like a giant bowling green with bushes dotted about on it.

We had met some cavers from FUSS at Webbs cave and we escorted them to Purple Goringe cave 6N360. I had time to look at cave 6N359 as well.

Our last night on the Nullarbor. We hadn't always had ideal weather, but at least the night was not windy.

Tuesday 20th July

In the morning the tents were drenched as usual, although I can't recall it raining. I think it was just the morning dew. Anyway this quickly dried and with the sun shining, the world looked better. But perhaps we should have spent just a little time the previous night looking for a more sheltered camp site.

We stopped to look at the sand hills of the Merdayerrah Sandpatch. In the cliffs overlooking the sand there are a few small rock shelter caves 5N702 to 704. I photographed the entrances. A shower of rain dampened proceedings again. Pity about the rain. Maybe there will be a little less next time.

Max Meth

NULLARBOR**27th December 1993 to 8th January 1994**

Participants: Max Meth, Richard Wynne, Dave Hall, Norman Poulter, Robert Poulter, Rauleigh Webb, Jim and Don WASG

Features: 50 existing features were visited: 6N35 to 39 69 79 130 133 137 149 165 193 201 206 208 220 292 295 312 326 327 410 426 to 429 482 518 530 576 612 613 640 to 647 649 699 707 714 727 729 730 731 760 (all in WA).

33 new features were located, described and numbered: 6N735 to 759 and 761 to 768

6 new features were seen but not described: NX55 to NX60

(Note: temporary numbers for Nullarbor features in the range M1 to M54 that have been used in past reports, have been changed to NX1 to NX54 in accordance with ASF numbering recommendations.)

68 features were tagged. Tags used are 5cm diameter yellow aluminium disc with a 3cm diameter aluminium disc glued on. The smaller disc has the feature number in 5mm high letters as eg "6N1234".

Monday 27th December

Max and Richard walked from Eucla to the scarp edge adjacent to the old Eucla Pass. There are three small caves in 3 adjacent gullies.

Closest to the pass is Cow Dung Cave 6N737. Named by Richard. It contains light friable deposits which resemble dried cow dung. The entrance is 2m long and 0.9m high in a low cliff near the top of the escarpment. The cave is 9m long. A second entrance is 1.4m wide and 0.8m high. No tag. Cave map. Less than 100m east is another gully with Waterfall Cave 6N736. Named by Richard because the excess water from the town desalination plant flows south and down this gully. The water flows over the cave entrance which is 1.5m wide by 0.7m high. The cave is only 3.5m long but the setting is quite idyllic. A short distance further down the gully, an old dam is now kept full by the overflow water. No tag. Cave map.

In the next gully east is 6N735 a rock shelter cave. The entrance is 5.8m wide and 1.7m high in a 2.5m high cliff. The cave extends in about 2 to 3m along its width, but a small passage on the West end extends in 5m. No tag. Cave map.

Dave Max and Richard then drove to Mundrabilla Station. Here Rauleigh Jim and Don were exploring Snake Pit cave 6N133.

Bob Eglington had told us about a cave south of Woolshed Dam that he had recently found. We located it about 500m south of the dam. 6N738 has a depression 8x8x0.8m @090 in which is a blowhole 1x0.9x2.8m @110 dropping into a chamber 5.5x3m. A low passage 4m long heads south. No tag. Surface and cave map.

Camp the night at Webbs Cave camp site.

Tuesday 28th December

Looked at 6N410 doline 200m NE of camp. This has air issuing from 2 places. No tag.

Drove east to Number one Bore then north to Boondara rockhole 6N739. This is 120m West of the track. It was visited on 10 Aug 1885 by a Mr Turner during a survey of rockholes for the W A government. He estimated its capacity as 100 gallons. It is on a ridge top with views to N E and S. The rockhole is 1.35x1.1m @100 and is blocked with silt at a depth of 0.4m. It has a rock pavement area 17x14m @110. Tag and surface map.

1.7km north is Kardamindra rockhole 6N740. This was also visited by Turner on 10 Aug 1885 and was noted as being 'small'. It is 1.2m x0.45m @000 on a rock pavement 53x15m @065. Tag and surface map. We camped at Carlisle Cave 6N707. Tagged 6N707 & 730.

Wednesday 29th December

Explored and mapped the small cave 6N730

Rockhole 6N744 seen by Dave Hall 17km NE of Carlisle Cave. Has a dense clump of trees 50m away. On SW facing slope. Dave also saw rockhole 6N714. This is approx 1x1x0.2m

Surveying in Carlisle Cave by Rauleigh and party.

In the afternoon Max Norm and Robert walked to doline 6N130. Tag.

Thursday 30th December

Drove south to rockhole 6N741 on north face of a very prominent rise. It is 33m east of the track. It is 0.9x0.8x0.6m @070 on a rock pavement 20x15m @045. There is a single tree 200m away @045. Tag and surface map.

Unnamed doline 6N137 4km east of Thampanna cave. This has a hole near the SW corner 2.1x1.4x1.6m @070. It has a low passage with a breeze heading west. Tag on doline wall opposite hole.

After setting up camp at Thampanna cave 6N206 there was time for a walk, so Max headed North to the ridge visible from campsite. The claypan between this ridge and our camp site drains into Thampanna Cave. First found was a small doline 6N742. This is on the south face of the major ridge about 1km NW of Thampanna Cave. It is a soil sided depression 9x8.5x0.5m @050. No tag. Next was a large rockhole 6N612 on the ridge top at a bearing of 005 from Thampanna cave. The rockhole measures 0.9x0.8x0.5m @070 with silt floor in a rock pavement area 20x17 @100. Tag and surface map. There was a minor rockhole 6N613 about 400m closer to camp. This is basin shaped 0.88x0.6x0.3m with smooth rock floor. Tag.

Back at Thampanna cave, there is yet another rockhole 6N743. This is located 50m E of the east lip of the Thampanna doline. There are 2 rockholes in a rock pavement area that is largely covered by a thin layer of clay. The larger hole is 0.4x0.4x0.75m @010. Tag and surface map.

Friday 31st December

We drove NE from camp to Goat Cave 6N745 which is 260m S of the track and not visible from it. There is a doline 50x45x4m @120 with a cliff line along the south side. The other sides are gentle rubble slopes. The cave heads SW and descends about 30m and is at least 200m long. It contains much old guano. Tag, surface and cave map.

There is a small clay and rubble sided doline 6N731 within sight of Number 3 bore. Tag.

South along fence from Number 3 bore is Rockhole 6N746. This is 170m east of the fence on a north facing slope. The rockhole is 0.8x0.45 @170 in a pavement area 40x20m @040. Tag and surface map. Right on the fence about 200m further south is cave 6N482. Tag.

On the road from No 3 Bore to Jinnagoodra Bore a group of 3 features were tagged. On the west side of the track was Four Eyes cave 6N426 named because of the 4 blowhole entrances. Then 6N427 and 6N429 are on the east side of the track. On the road south of the bore we tagged Forbidden blowhole 6N644. This too has four blowholes leading into an 'entrance chamber' but all 4 holes are too small to permit entry.

Then west on the main track to Mundrabilla homestead we tagged Jinnagoodra cave 6N312 and a small doline 6N428.

We camped the night at Stegamite cave 6N149 and this too was tagged.

Saturday 1st January

Walked to 3 features SE of camp and tagged them. 6N646 is a small doline on the north edge of a clearing south of the fence. Dusty Cave 6N647 named because the breeze issuing from it blew dust in our eyes as we went through the entrance. This cave is 6m long. Cave map. Windy Hollow blowhole 6N645. This is not a true blowhole. Air issues from 2 holes in rubble. The larger hole is 0.9x0.9x0.7m @090.

After lunch we drove east past the 3 features seen in the morning. There is a possible rockhole NX55 700m east of fence that is 2km east of camp. Encompassing doline 6N327 is near the fence junction 8km east of camp. It contains a blowing hole in rubble 0.4x0.5m @130. Tag.

We tagged the 5 features 6N193 640 641 642 530 in the Witches cave complex. These are all infested with horehound weed. A death adder was seen in doline 6N642.

We drove north to the main Madura to Mundrabilla track and headed West to doline 6N749. This is 150m south of the track 1.5km west of Witches cave track. It consists of 3 separate shallow dolines in a NS alignment. The most northerly one has a hole 2x1.2x1.2m while the overall feature measures 30x10x1m @020.

Di cave, 6N750 and 751 is SE of Jinnagoodra cave. This was named by Bob Eglington after one of his relations. It is located 30m south of a track that heads west from the dam that is south of the main track east of Jinnagoodra Bore. It has 2 entrances in separate dolines that are 18m apart. The west doline measures 14x10x3m @070 and has a walk in cave entrance. The east doline measures 21x10x3m @060 and is more like a jumble of broken rock. Both entrances tagged and one surface map. A possible doline exists 1.2km west of Di cave NX56.

AMG NX55 378.6 6475.8
NX56 378.4 6479.3

Sunday 2nd January

Rockhole 6N752 is 360m west of Stegamite cave. This is 140m south of the EW fence on an old track that leads south to it.

According to Bob Eglington this track was the first in the area. There is a large rock pavement 55x45m with a mallee clump on the NE corner. There are 2 rockholes. The south one looks like a blowhole. It is 0.65x0.45x0.8m @350 with silt floor. The north one is basin shaped, 0.85x0.6x0.5m @125 with flat stone floor. Tag placed on the west side of the rock pavement. Surface map. A separate rock pavement 19x10m @020 is located 150m @240 from the main one. This has 2 shallow rock basins that are formed on cracks in the rock pavement.

Tagged unnamed cave 6N208 NW of Stegamite camp. There has an acacia tree growing in the cave and a Pittosporum tree on the west edge of the doline.

Drove west to Fern cave 6N747 which is 1km west of a dam SW of Jinnagoodra Bore. An overhanging irregular hole of 4x3.2x6.1m @030 occurs in a large bare rock area. Moss and ferns grow in the entrance. The cave extends about 100m both north and south of the entrance. Tag.

Cave 6N753 on the fence south of Jinnagoodra Bore about 200m south of the main EW track. This was not entered. A Passage can be seen heading @260. Tag.

Drove past Jinnagoodra bore NE toward Kelly bore. We stopped at a prominent ridge on the south of the track 2.5km NE of the bore. There is a large rock pavement area of 50x50m about 140m S of the track (which here heads NW). This is Jinnagoodra Rockhole 6N754. There are 2 rockholes in the rock pavement. The main one is shaped somewhat like an eye 2.5x2x0.5m @140 with water about 0.3m deep. The other one is a series of shallow rock basins in an area of 4x2m. Tag.

NOTE: In previous trip report, rockhole 6N643 had been named as Jinnagoodra Rockhole in error. It is located only 100m from Jinnagoodra bore. It will now be known as Windmill Rockhole.

Next we drove to Kelly cave 6N165, to find a rockhole there that Norm had been shown by Adrian Davey in 1981. Dave Hall, who was on his motorbike, could not get it started and was thus marooned at Jinnagoodra Rockhole. He walked in pursuit of us not knowing precisely how far he would have to go. We arrived at Kelly cave and assumed that Dave had stopped somewhere along the track. Kelly cave had been tagged on a previous trip so we walked south to search for the rockhole. In reasonably open scrubland we found rockhole 6N755 200m to the south but this was not the one that Norm remembered. This one was 1.7x1.2x0.5m @040 in a triangular rock pavement area 13x13m. Tag and surface map. We found Rockhole 6N756 100m further south. This was the one Norm remembered. It is 0.26x0.22x0.4m @170 with 0.2m deep water on a rock pavement 34x18.5m @010. Tag and surface map. We were walking back to our car when footsore Dave appeared. He had just walked 5 and a half km from his broken down bike. On this walk Dave found a blowhole near Kelly Bore. This is NX57 and was not investigated.

About 1.5km further south is Abalone cave 6N748. It is reached by a track that starts near No 1 Corner Tank. The name was suggested by the shape of the entrance chamber. It has a rock pavement area 9.5x7m @030 with 2 blowholes in it and another hole with a Pittosporum tree growing in it. All three holes open into the cave. The main blowhole is 0.85x0.65x2.8m @060. Tag. A small hole in dirt and rubble occurs 9m @125. This is 2.7x1.6x0.4m @030.

On the way back to camp we stopped by Dave's bike and determined that repairs were needed but the tools were back in camp.

Monday 3rd January

First job was to drive back to Dave's bike and repair it. On the way we tagged Windmill rockhole 6N643. With the bike mobile again we drove west along the main track that leads to Madura Station. On this track we stopped at quite a few features.

The first was cave 6N326, which is 2km west of Jinnagoodra bore. Tag. Doline 6N757 3km further west is immediately north of the track. It is a soil depression 20x14.5x1.8m @025 with its south edge touching the track. There is a low cliff-line 6.5m long on the west side. Tag and surface map. 3km west is cave 6N758 located 96m south of the track. This was most likely the first time this cave has been seen. We had stopped to walk 200m south to a rocky area on a ridge where we supposed there could be a rockhole. There proved to be no rockhole, but Norm found a small doline 8.5x7x1.7m @130. This was not visible from more than 10m away. It contained a blowhole 0.8x0.6x5.8m @075. The climb in is awkward as the tube narrows tightly. At least 100m of passage seen. Tag. Surface and cave map.

4.5km west is rockhole 6N759 located 40m south of the track. This is a triangular rockhole 2.6x2.5x0.6m @130 in a rock pavement 35x18m @095. Tag and surface map.

Further west are 2 more rockholes that had been numbered on a previous trip. They were both tagged on this trip. Due to a mix up (SO THAT'S WHY WE NEED TAGS!) it has been necessary to renumber them.

6N649 is now 6N760

6N650 is now 6N649

6N650 is now an unallocated number

Description of 6N760:- located 4.9km west of 6N759 and 42m north of the track. The rockhole is 0.35x0.3x0.4m @005 undercut for 0.3m on the south side and is in a rock pavement area 15x7m @145. Tag and surface map.

Description of 6N649:- located 1.7km west of 6N760 and 32m north of the track. The rockhole is 1.7x1.5x0.8m @040. Tag and surface map.

We crossed into Madura station and while Norm had a lunch break, Max and Dave detoured to caves 6N79 and 6N292 which are located about 1km south of the main track. This pair of caves is located in a common depression about 200m in diameter at the base of south facing slope of a very prominent ridge that extends EW. To the south is a grassy claypan, and to the north are mulga and mallee trees on the slope of the ridge. No tags.

About 1km further Max noticed a depression and we stopped to investigate. This proved to be a cave 6N761. It is 70m south of the track. A depression 18x18x1.5m @055 occurs in grassland. A lone tree is growing on the north edge of the depression. Two openings lead west and north but we did not investigate further. Tag and surface map.

Next we stopped at a pair of shallow dolines 6N762. These have no rock exposed in them. One is 16m north of the track and measures 55x55x0.9m @130. The other is 5m south of the track and measures 70x70x0.6m @120 and has 2 large Mulga trees growing in it. In 2 relatively large dolines there was not a trace of rock exposed. This suggests that there must be a considerable depth of clay covering the underlying limestone. No tag.

Further west we tagged 4 existing features, doline 6N295, blowhole 6N729, Dead Horse Cave 6N220 and Chiller Cave 6N727 before reaching our campsite at Erosion Cave 6N36.

Tuesday 4th January

Erosion Cave 6N36 and Bobobogal doline 6N35 were tagged. About 100m SE of 6N36 is a small soil depression 6N763 which measures 3x3x1.5m which has a breeze issuing from fissures in rock. Tag. Using his motorbike, Dave located doline 6N518, doline 6N201, Firestick cave 6N70 and Walpet cave 6N38. He also found Cargolee rockhole NX58 which is about 1.3km ESE of Firestick cave and he reported that it is a doline with an enterable cave, and not a rockhole. He did not investigate the cave.

On the way to Mullamullang cave we tagged unnamed doline 6N69. Next was Jirina Rockhole 6N764. This was visited by Turner in Aug 1885. He described it as 14x8 links and 7 links deep, with 4 links depth of water and its capacity as 600 gallons. Turner used a chain (a metal chain of 100 links of overall length 1 chain or 22 yards. Each link is therefore 0.22 yards long or 7.92 inches or roughly 20cm) So Turner's dimensions translate to 2.8x1.6m and 1.4m deep with 0.8m of water. My measurement of Jirina Rockhole is: 3.2x1.4m and 0.5m deep with silt floor. Apart from depth the size agrees quite well. It appears that rockholes silt up very rapidly, this implies that either the Aborigines kept them cleaned out or erosion has increased rapidly because of rabbits, sheep etc. It has a rock pavement 11.2x10.5m @140 in saltbush country on a very gentle slope that faces west. Tag.

We camped the night at Mullamullang cave 6N37.

Wednesday 5th January

About 100m north of camp was rockhole 6N699. The rockhole measures 4x1.7x0.6m @040 and it is developed along at crack @040 in a rock pavement 13x11 @040.

Richard and Max went exploring in the Refrigerator, in Mullamullang cave. We saw about 70m of passages but did not fully explore the area. The passages trend to the north. We found a note left by John Dobbin and Mel Dalley of WAIT Outside Club on 11 Jul 1982. Like them we were unable to find a way out of the rockpile area.

Thursday 6th January

We investigated 6N201. This is a very gentle sided doline. It measures 400x210m but is only 4m deep. There is a rock pavement area midway along the east side and there is a small rockhole in it. The tag is near the rockhole.

200m west of the Walpet cave track there is a shallow doline NX59 50m south of the track. Walpet cave 6N38 is 900m north of the main EW track. The collapse doline measures 110x55x15m @175 with the deepest point at the south end. A depression extends 30m further around all sides of the collapse. Much of the depression is bare rock. 2 gullies enter the doline; the main one at the south end is a 60m long dropping 13m into the doline; a smaller gully is midway along the east side. A recent collapse at the south end of the doline shows up as a white area on an otherwise grey/orange cliff. A tag was placed 24m west of the point where the south gully enters the doline.

Joes Cave 6N39 is 3km SE from Walpet Cave. A 100m long erosion gully enters the south side of the doline. To the west of where this gully joins the doline is a hole 6N765 which measures 2x1.5x4m @000. Both 6N39 and 6N765 were tagged.

Back to camp at Mullamullang cave.

Friday 7th January

On the NS fence south of the Mullamullang turn off is rockhole 6N766. 3 small rockholes lie about 10m west of the fence. Tag Walpet cave 6N38. There is an overhang cave at the south end with a small hole in fallen boulders leading to a small cave. We followed this for about 70m starting out west but gradually changing to north. The cave follows along the line of the doline wall.

7km west of Walpet cave is Walpet tank and bore. About 200m north of the bore is a 10m diameter clay depression NX60.

Dennis Nash had told me of a doline that we did not know about. We searched for a short time before finding it. Doline 6N767 is little more than a dam. Dry cracked clay in the bottom indicates that it holds water after rain. The doline is 45x37x2m with a rubbly EW cliffline on the north side. Tag and surface map.

Where our track met the main Madura to Loongana road is rockhole 6N768. This lies at the base of the very major NS ridge that extends for about 20km north of Madura. A rock pavement 46x22m @000 has a rockhole 0.42x0.35x0.3m @135 5m from its east edge. The rock pavement is inclined with the west edge being 0.9m higher than the east. Tag

On the way back to Perth we called in to Cocklebidy rockhole 6N576. This was almost full of water and had a picturesque dead crow floating in it. The water depth was about 1m.

Max Meth

BLANCHE CAVE WEDDING**9th and 10th July 1994**

Participants: Janine (Tamblyn) Kraehenbuehl, Peter Kraehenbuehl, Alan Jevons. Darren Crawford, David Trehearne, Peter Horne, Michael Woodward, Graeme Elsby, Davis Ellis, Jo Bauer, Kevin and Julie Mott, Ian Lewis, Heiko Maurer, Clare Buswell, Mark Thiselton, Lynne Allan, along with many relatives and friends of the bride and groom.

Features: 5U4,5,6. and 5L159,160,161.

The purpose of this trip was to witness the marriage of Janine Tamblyn to Peter Kraehenbuehl in Blanche cave 5U4-6, Naracoorte Cave Conservation Park, on Saturday the 9th July 1994.

Approximately eighty family members and friends of the bride and groom were present at Janine and Peter's wedding. I have listed some of those cavers that I remember recognising on the day.

The reception was later held at the Hermitage Restaurant, Coonawarra. Where I believe a number of the guest later sampled some of the local produce - hic! hic!.

Coincidentally, this was also Peter's birthday. I guess that he will have no excuse for forgetting their anniversary.

Peter Horne was seen running around with a video camera in his hands during the day, how unusual Peter.

It was originally planned that those guests with water skills would join the newly weds in a scuba dive at Ewens Ponds on the Sunday. However, as the plans of mice and men generally go, these plans were cancelled and as usual I was the last to find out. As Lynne and I had carted our dive gear with us from Adelaide, we continued with the original plan, and enjoyed a most refreshing dive.

Janine and Peter are honey-mooning in New Zealand, where they intend to go skiing amongst many other activities.

I'm sure everyone who knows Janine and Peter will wish them both all the best for their future together.

Mark Thiselton

NULLARBOR**23rd January 1994**

Participants: Max Meth, Dave Hall

Features: 1 existing feature was visited: 6N712, 11 features were tagged, 14 new features were located, described and numbered: 6N769 to 783 (all in WA)

This trip was arranged as a stopover for Max on a trip from Perth to Ceduna. Dave lives at Balladonia on the Eyre Highway.

We headed east and at 14 km there is a blowhole 6N712. Dave had found this blowhole on 13 Jun 93. It is north of the highway 28m south of the fence. In a depression 2x2x0.3m @130 is a blowhole 0.35x0.27x2.7m deep @130. The shaft opens out to 1.2x1.1m below 0.3m depth. Tag attached.

We continued east and 95km from Balladonia we turned SE on a track that leads to an underground tank known as William Tell Tank (WTT). 6.3km from the highway we stopped where a pile of rubble is visible in open grassland about 40m west of the track. A pile of rubble (evidently the work of a bulldozer) about 0.5m high is on the north side of a rocky depression 6N769 which is 6x3.5x0.8m deep @090. A breeze issues from cracks in the rock. Tag attached.

50m east of the track and 100m @070 from 6N769 is another rubble pile. A rubble mound 0.5m high surrounds a solid rock walled doline 6N770, 4x4x4m deep. It is located in grassland on an east facing slope. The doline shows signs of having been excavated as if to dig a well. At a depth of 3m it narrows to 1.7x1.2m @160. A breathing low passage blocked by silt extends 2+m to the north. There is a small rock pavement area 4x3m located 10m @040 from the doline. Tag attached.

300m further SE along and 50m east of the track there is a blowhole 6N771. In a shallow depression of 9x6x0.2m @040 in a rock pavement is a blowhole 0.68x0.46x3.1m deep @090. This opens out to 1x0.9m at 0.5m then constricts to 0.4x0.25m at 1.8m and has a small chamber 3x1.5m @010. Located on NE facing slope in grassland. Tag attached.

300m further and 6m east of the track is another blowhole 6N772 on a south facing grassy slope. A clay sided depression 8x4.5x1.6m deep @ 010 narrows to 1.3x1m at 0.9m where some rock begins to outcrop. At a further 0.7m depth is the top of a blowhole 0.7x0.6x1.3m deep. At 1.5m depth is an alcove on the west side in which the tag was placed. A strong breeze issues from the base of the blowhole which is partly blocked by clay. A cavity of sorts can be seen extending to the west.

2.2km further and still 500m short of WTT is a doline 6N773, 10m west of the track. There are surface rock slab areas to the south. The doline is a hole in rock 3.5x2m @090 and 0.8m deep with a small blowing hole on the west edge. A surface clay depression extends 4m to the east. Tag attached.

We arrived at WTT, which has an iron roof. A matter of concern was that we had not seen 6N216 which supposedly lies on the track we had just driven along. The Atlas description is very scant: "On west of track, 0.3m diam x 6.1m deep blowhole." We must have missed it. But I do wonder how the person who found 6N216 could have missed seeing the 5 features we had seen. William Tell Tank was completely full of water. Four tracks meet at the tank, leaving it at angles 110 360 290(ours) and 230.

120m @045 from WTT is doline 6N776 2.5x2.5m @150 and 0.45m deep. An area of broken rock extends to the south. There is a dead tree 30m @205 from the doline. Tag placed on west edge of doline.

About 200m further at 340m @053 from WTT is blowhole 6N774. It is approx 200m south of the (north) track and 300m north of the track that heads east from the tank. In a depression 2.5x2.5x0.5m deep @150 is a blowhole 0.3x0.24x1.1m deep @065 with a breeze. A second smaller hole, had been covered with a stone. The small blowhole is about 3m deep. Tag attached.

The track that heads at 110 from WTT eventually swings to the south and goes to the coast near Toolinna Cove. We followed this track for 270m where 10m south is blowhole 6N777. This was seen on 16 Dec 1955 by Harry Wheeler and numbered by him as QW78. His description is: Depression in soil, 3 feet to rock ledge. A choked blowhole of 2.5 feet top diameter. Three smaller openings connected with it at top. My description: Depression 5x4m @000 0.6m deep. 4 blowholes with breezes.

A	0.8x0.75x1.1 @170		
B	0.3x0.25x0.4 @250	A-B	0.55m @170
C	0.3x0.3x0.8 @170	B-C	0.75m @250
D	0.75x0.4x0.6 @060	B-D	0.55m @160

C divides into 2 holes at 0.3m depth. Tag attached in C.

D has a narrow bridge of rock at ground level dividing it into two halves.

300m further along and 18m north of the track is blowhole 6N775. Bearing to WTT is 274. The blowhole is 0.7x0.38m @150, depth not recorded. Tag attached 0.3m below lip.

3.3km east of WTT 27m north of the Toolinna track is blowhole 6N778. Located on a minor rise where the track bears 120. There are 2 trees south of the track. The closer one @172 and is dead. The other @162 and is alive. In a depression 5x4.5x1m @220 is a blowhole 0.95x0.75x3.1m @040. Tag attached 0.3m below lip.

9.4km from WTT is blowhole 6N779 located 100m north of the track in a grassy area near a dense patch of Pittosporum trees. The blowhole is almost entirely choked with soil to ground level, but the round shape of the top of the 'blowhole' is visible. It is 0.5x0.5x0.3m deep and, being choked with soil it does not breathe.

At a junction 8.5km further we turned north on a track that heads to the Culver Microwave Repeater Tower (MRT) which is on the north side of the Eyre Highway.

After 2km there is a doline 22m east of the track on a south facing slope. I believe this is QW290, visited by Harry Wheeler on 9 Apr 1973. His description is: "sink in clay soil is cylindrical and 8 feet in diameter with practically vertical sides 5 feet high. This possibly indicates a recent breakthrough. The blowhole is 12"x9" and 11.5 feet deep. Blowing slightly." It would appear that the blowhole is now covered with clay. There is no rock exposed at all. The doline is 6x4m @150 and 1.5m deep.

A km further where the track bears 045 is small cave 6N781. This is QW291. It is 15m north of the track on west facing slope covered in scrub. A clay depression 11x7x0.5m @010 has a blowhole 0.7x0.64x5.5m deep @130. Three short passages which all trend NS have total length of 6m. The lowest one has a breeze and takes most of the surface runoff but gets too low to follow.

6km further is cave 6N782 16m west of the track which here heads due north to the Culver MRT. A white rock area is visible from the track. There is a depression 6x5x0.4m @040 with a blowhole 0.7x0.5x3.8m deep @020. A tunnel starts N then heads E for at least 10m. On the surface there is a separate rock pavement area 15m SSE in an otherwise grassy plain.

The last feature seen was 0.5km further north 15m east of the track. Located in grassland on a gently sloping south facing slope. There are 2 blowholes 0.45x0.35x1.5m @150 and 0.29x0.24x3m @005.

The Eyre Highway was reached after a further 7.5km opposite the emergency phone and track north to the Culver MRT.

Max Meth

LOWER SOUTH EAST

12th and 13th February 1994.

Participants: (at various times) Peter Horne (group leader/organiser), Graham Pilkington, Jack Haywood, Peter Girdler, Andrew Cox, Frank Homewood, Tony Hambling, Grant and Lynne Pearce, Chris Murphy, Jan Teague, Gary Barclay, Linda Claridge, Selena Layden, Brian Medhurst and locals Malcolm Kilsby, Scott Wallace, David Sheather and overseas visitor friend of David's, Niklas Kjallstrom.

Features: 5L9, 5L40, 5L100, 5L101, 5L132, 5L144, 5L179, 5L276, 5L316.

This trip was organised by myself to enable the South Australian Underwater Speleological Society (SAUSS) Inc. to hold its Annual General Meeting in a place which would allow South Australian and Victorian members to meet and have some fun for a change!

On Saturday 12th, the party met at Caveton Park and proceeded onto the property to visit 5L179. The land was fairly heavily covered with bracken fern and other plants, and it took a few minutes of driving around (aided by a quick hop onto my Subaru's very thin roof) before we found the shallow depression in which the entrance tube was concealed.

The logs and tree stumps were soon removed, and after a ladder had been tied to my car's roo bar, the party (excluding Peter Girdler, who had forgotten his caving gear but was very active around the surface with his video-camera!) carefully entered the cave.

The party headed down the main north-western passage, carefully negotiating "The Block" squeeze and other crawly bits, and within 15 minutes we had all reached the small lake chamber which I had found with Andrew Cox and others in January 1984 (and which I had awkwardly dived for a distance of 20 metres on 22nd July of that year). Nobody seemed to want to take the chance of falling into the lake by crawling around the wall to visit the 100m passage which continued if the sandy, crumbly wall ledge chose to give way - a wise choice, I think - and the cave divers in the party lamented seeing such beautifully clear, blue water just out of touch in the fissure below!

We headed back to the entrance room and I decided to have a rest while the others went off to look for the south-eastern passage, which was a lot lower and more difficult to find. During the next 10 minutes or so, while Graham was "enjoying" himself grovelling about in another area of the cave, the others kept looking for the start of the passage before conceding defeat and asking me to show them the way. There had been a few minor wash-ins and the floor did look a bit different, but a quick grovel down a 30 cm high squeeze and a couple of metres along a low crawly silt-covered slab quickly led to a small hole in the upper right hand side of a vertical block, and I knew that the rest of the cave appeared to be intact from this point on.

I then directed a couple of folks to this location and duly headed out to give them more room, and while the party was out of earshot for the next 10-15 minutes I attempted to take some "natural-gloom" photos around the entrance (and of a beautiful little lizard which we found there and which was "rescued" via a trip up the tube in my Dolphin torch!).

The party had a good time in this part of the cave and Graham reported that he had observed a breeze at the "end" of the passage.

We then exited the cave, replaced the stumps etc and drove back across the paddock, checking out a recently-found tube which was full of sheep bones as well as stopping briefly to look at newly-numbered feature 5L316 (which had filled with sand from around the entrance collapse, completely blocking access to the small room which I had mapped with Kevin Mott in February 1993). Right down the bottom of this sand-slope, in the shade and behind a boulder, was a very "ripe" lamb carcass whose delicate aromas turned even the strongest of stomachs in the party!! Ah, how this brought back those special memories of caving days gone by!...

After this experience, we headed out of the property, with some folks going their own ways to look at Hells Hole 5L40 etc while I showed some of the others where Max's Hole 5L100 (2.6km past Caveton), Mushroom Cave 5L132 and Earl's Cave 5L101 were located. We also had a quick look at 5L276, to see whether the feature was more open now than when last observed, but as the water level had dropped we found that it consisted of merely a very narrow fissure heading roughly north-west and hardly worthy of a formal CEGSA number. The "doline" in which the fissure was located appeared to be a cutting of some kind, about 1.5m deep and around 10 x 15m across (memory of pacing only, and with the longer axis roughly NW-SE). We then moved on to Port MacDonnell and Allendale East before having our get-together that night back at the Pine Country Caravan Park (a really nice location, I might add)!

On Sunday 13th, we met at Little Blue Lake 5L9 and drove in to meet Dene, Lorna, Malcolm and Karen Kilsby at Glendene Park. They had very kindly agreed to let me take a party through their beautiful moon-milk-walled fissure cave which Andrew Cox and I had dug out and explored back in February 1984 (1984 was a very productive year!), and with Malcolm's valued assistance the party broke into several smaller groups which had a good time checking the place out.

In the afternoon, we headed out to the airport about 10km north of the Mount on Penola Road, and then drove into the pines to visit 5L144 - "Sheathers Cave" - with a relative of the previous landowner, David Sheather, and two friends joining us. We found that the entrance gate had been bolted down rather than padlocked, but it only took a few minutes with multi-grips to gain access once again (this was reported back to Woods and Forests after the trip, so that a lock could be put back).

While Peter Girdler again ran amuck with his video-camera on the surface, our wet-suited party carefully entered the cave and slid into the cool, clear water (which was noted to be a couple of centimetres higher than on the last visit; the first time in more than 10 years that a rise in the level had been noted by myself). "Uh oh", I thought ... "the 'sumps' might cause some unforeseen problems for the non-caving types in our party!"

Graham had bravely elected to run around the pine forest, looking for surface features with his eagle-eyes while we ventured underground, and for the next 2 hours or so we were oblivious to mere surface issues while squeezing through body-bending restrictions and grovelling through sloppy, stinking mud ... and, loving it!

The "sump" area was indeed a bit messier than previously - one of the two small passages with a safety line was completely submerged - but the "main drag" was still an open airspace although one area required us to duck under the wall for perhaps half a metre due to its shape.

Everyone had a great time doing this, and I was impressed to see them all handling the sump and the rather difficult restrictions so well. After visiting the "Quicksand Passage" (also, perhaps more appropriately, known as the "Diarrhoea Passage"!), the party again broke up with some folks leaving the cave while I and others continued to do some pushing and careful digging in the very muddy south-eastern passage (thanks to Tony Hambling and his hand-shovel). This resulted in the discovery of about another 10 metres of passage all up, but lack of time and drained energy levels caused me to call it a day.

The SE end seems to be breaking into low phreatic sponge work rather than simply cutting across into a big horizontal passage which I had hoped existed there ... but it is still "early days" yet. Also, further work at the end of the main entrance passage could still lead to a breakthrough here, and a dig at the NW end of the NW doline at the end of the NW passage (got all that?) might also result in the discovery of more passage (at the NW end, of course)!

So, that was basically it for this trip. I really appreciated the support we received from the involved landowners, and I am very glad that the party had a good time.

Maybe something similar can be arranged next year!?...

Peter Horne.

UPPER SOUTH EAST CAVE CRICKET TRIP**16th to 19th APRIL, 1994**

Participants: Ron Simms, Peter Horne, Dr Ruth Lawrence and, 32 Adelaide University students and supervisors.

Features: 5U1, 5U4,5 &6, 5U7, 5U8&9, 5U44, 5U.

On Saturday, 16th April, at the request of Dr Ruth Lawrence, a fellow CEGSA-ite and cave person, I found myself sitting at the front of a large hire bus (with driver) in which some 32 Adelaide Uni Geography students (of all geological ages) and their beloved supervisor/s etc. were sitting as we hurtled at a breathtaking 90 kph along the South Eastern Freeway. This was a 4-day training and cave cricket research project with Ron Simms, and we reached our destination, the Naracoorte Caves camping area, "shortly" after lunch.

After a fun-filled hour or so of videotaping all of these people struggling to put up a vast managerie of tents (while some nice person put up the pretty pink-topped one-man tent which was lent to me), we were broken into four groups (A to D) and commenced various tasks. During the course of the next three days, the group (most of them, that is) visited Appledore Cave 5U7, Blackberry Cave 5U8&9, Little Victoria Cave 5U44, Cable Cave 5U, Blanche Cave 5U4,5 &6 and Victoria Fossil Cave 5U1 (the latter 2 with cave guides ... the Vic Fossil tour was REALLY an EXPERIENCE!!!). Cable Cave and Blackberry Cave were subjected to atmospheric tests in the form of a weird gizmo which recorded humidity and temperature constantly, and Cable Cave was also visited for a 24-hour period by 4 different 6-hour shifts of students (and some 12-hour shifts by us 'supervisors'!) so that cave cricket behaviour could be observed for a whole day, and to help the students to learn a bit about cave mapping. We also got to see Bool Lagoon in its totally dry state, which was a bit interesting too.

Apart from causing "butterfly-hunter" Ron to have a heart-attack when I accidentally pushed a young gumling over a bit too far, and the strange respiratory distress a few of us felt after inhaling the suspended dust in Cable Cave, I think the weekend went really well and all involved learnt some valuable lessons (including Craig, who was always whittling away with his Boy Scout knife and nearly whittled away his whittle (actually, middle) finger - necessitating a dash to the Naracoorte hospital (which naturally didn't have an on-site doctor on weekends)! Doctors. Rod Wells and Kevin Moriarty entertained us at the kiosk with information about the Vic Fossil Cave's World Heritage nomination (when Rod also referred to our own beloved Grant Gartrell as being probably this State's most active speleologist!), and our group of intrepid cavers also had a great time one night playing "Chinese Whispers" or some such name, when people whispered a message from person to person around a circle - funny that the message always got extremely scrambled after it had passed the only Chinese member of our party!

I got about 3 hours of entertaining and interesting video from the trip for Ruth, and I'm now the (sad) owner of a truly world-worn video camera ... the little Sony CCD F340E survived a trip to Vietnam and the rigours of the new areas of Kelly Hill, Punyelroo, Hunters and Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave, but it barely survived its dusty stint in Cable Cave and is now too unreliable to use for weddings! At least, CEGSA's "Leather Medal" concept was passed on to those students who survived the weekend (although the one I received, for allegedly discussing some disgusting sexual habits with wet-suited cave crickets, was entirely unwarranted in my opinion)!

As for studying the little beasties (cave crickets, that is, not the students) - well, Ron, I'll leave it all up to you!

Peter Horne

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Transfers to Full Membership;

☐

Nicki TRENORDEN 9203 PO Box 173, SUMMERTOWN, SA 5141

Graham NATHAN 9205 21 Wolseley Road, BLACKWOOD, SA 5051

Jaz PACKER 9213 166 Greenglade Drive, CAMPBELLTOWN, SA 5074

☐

☐ New Associates Membership;

☐

☐ Ian NINNES 9401 7 St Georges Avenue, GLANDORE, SA 5037

Peter GLASBY 9402 Simms Road, MT BARKER, SA 5251

Ray GIBBONS 9403 9 Cuthbert Avenue, SALISBURY EAST, SA 5109

Frank HAWKENSON 9404 7 St Helens Court, WOODCROFT, SA 5162

Simon HAWKES 9405 3 Karoonda Road, BOWHILL SA 5238 (H) 085-70-4208

Terry GIBBONS 9406 9 Cuthbert Avenue, SALISBURY EAST SA 5109 (H) 258-9847

Wendy EARL 9407 PO Box 645, BRIGHTON SA 5048 (H) 242-0066

Marie CHOI 9408 75 Capella Drive, HALLETT COVE SA 5158 (H) 322-0895

Jack JACKSON 9409 26 Barbara Avenue, MORPHETT VALE SA 5162 (H) 326-0971

Fiona LANE 9410 22 Berri Road, HOPE VALLEY SA 5090 (H) 264-9582

Ganelle BETTISON 9411 8 Kooline Crescent, GILLES PLAINS SA 5086 (H) 261-6290

Change of Phone Number;

Clare BUSWELL 9002 PO Box 131, NAIRNE, SA 5252 (H) 388-9516

TRAINING

A beginners day was held on March 5th, 1994 at Corra Lyn cave 5Y1. It was here that we taught some basic caving skills while introducing beginners to the joys of endless crawling.

A training day was held on March 13th, 1994. The venue was the Woodhouse Scout Camp Ground. Here members were able to safely learn and practice Basic Vertical Skills for caving.

A vertical training day was held at the training tower located on the Woodhouse Scout Camp Ground on June 4th. Fifteen people attended, experiencing activities ranging from ladder climbing to prusiking.

ASF 20th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The ASF 20th Biennial Conference "Vulcon 1995" is to be held at Hamilton, Victoria between the 2nd and 6th January 1995. There will be activities before and after the conference. Maybe you can be of assistance? Ask a committee member for advice. This is a great opportunity to get involved as it is close to Adelaide.

OBITUARY - SHECK EXLEY.

Cavers and cave divers around the world will be saddened to learn of the tragic death of veteran American underwater cave explorer, Irby Sheck Exley, during an exceptionally deep 'mixed-gas' cave dive in Mexico on Wednesday, 6th April 1994.

Details were still sketchy as this advice went to press; all that was known with reasonable certainty was that Sheck's body was found at considerable depth (perhaps around the 100-150 metre mark) several days after he failed to surface during an attempted very deep dive to around the 300 metre mark. Rumour has it that he exceeded a depth of 900 feet (270 metres) but apparently experienced problems with his gas supply during his long ascent.

Those of you who never had the privilege of knowing Sheck missed out on meeting one of the most experienced, safety-conscious and responsible cave diving pioneers the world has ever known. Sheck became interested in cave diving during the mid-1960s and after serving as the founding Chairman of the CDAA's "sister" body, the NSS-CDS in 1973, he achieved many spectacular "firsts" for which he became very well known. However, he was far more than just another talented record-breaker ... he was also an extremely modest, kind and likeable Floridian who never failed to make friends wherever he went, and he always looked after his friends and overseas visitors every way he could.

In 1992, thanks mainly to the efforts of Melbourne-based cave diver, Tony Davis, we in Australia were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to play host to Sheck while he experienced his life-long ambition to dive in Mount Gambier's famous water filled caves during his well-received (and often very humorous) lecture tour around the country. Despite his obsession with hi-tech cave diving and his "living legend" status as perceived by his peers in the cave diving community, Sheck always had a polite word or funny story to tell anyone who said "g'day" to him, and he provided a great deal of technical and safety advice.

As a true cave diving pioneer, Sheck lived for the satisfaction of introducing newer and safer cave diving practices and equipment, and his adventurous spirit led him to push underwater speleology's knowledge, equipment and human physiology to the limit. Cave divers who knew Sheck personally had a good understanding of how close to "the edge" he was prepared to push himself, and we were always fearful that perhaps one day, Sheck might pay the ultimate price for courting the poorly-understood dangers which this brave man faced so many times in his life.

To Sheck's family and close friends, the Australian cave diving and caving community extends our sincere condolences and best wishes during this extremely difficult time; we hope that Sheck's astounding achievements and foundation teachings will be remembered forever.

Peter Horne

LOWER SOUTH EAST CAVE ATLAS

A new cave atlas has just been published by Peter Horne, it covers all the caves in the Mount Gambier area (Lower South East). This is a very informative book, which has taken a very long time to produce.

There is a description of each cave on one page, often including a section on the caves history, with the facing page containing a map of the cave. The maps are all Peter's work, either having been originally surveyed and drawn by Peter or re-drawn from CEGSA maps in an effort to ensure that there is a consistency in the presentation of the maps throughout the book. Most of the cave descriptions are accompanied by a photograph(s) of the entrance to the cave, to make identification easier.

This is definitely a must have book for the active and the arm chair caver. It is available in either a soft or hard cover for \$68.00 and \$75.00 respectively, plus \$10.00 for postage within Australia by certified mail. Contact Peter Horne at 3/9 Muriel Ave, Somerton Park, SA. or phone (08) 295 6031 for your copy. Please note that there might be a slight delay as the books are printed on demand.

PROGRAMME

July

30+31

August

6+7

Corra Lyn cave, 5Y1

Simon Kendrik

13+14

21+21

24

GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm

TBA

28+28

September

3+4

Corra Lyn cave, 5Y1

Simon Kendrik

10+11

17+18

24+25

28

GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm

TBA

October

1-3 LWE

8+9

15+16

Corra Lyn cave, 5Y1 (if crop risk minimal)

Simon Kendrik

22+23

26

GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm

TBA

29+31

November

5+6

12+13

19+20

23

GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm

TBA

26+27

January 1995

2-6

VULCON 1995 - ASF 20th Biennial Conference
Hamilton, Victoria

Aug/Sept

Sellicks Hill cave

Lance Hoey

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