

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

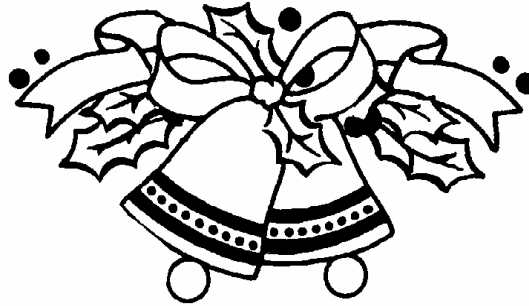
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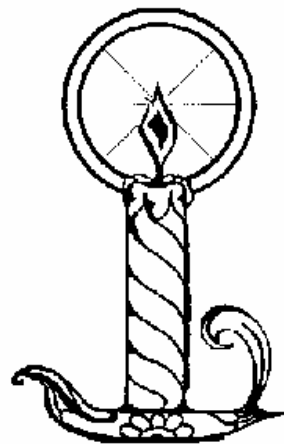
Volume 39 Number 3

November 1994

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Season's Greetings



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: Season's Greetings.

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The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 40 Number 1 must reach the Editor by Wednesday 25th January, 1995. 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

I have managed to miss a number of general meetings since the publication of the last Newsletter, for one reason or another, so this editorial has been written with the assistance of other members present at those meetings, my thanks to them.

Those attending the July meeting met the Senior Vice President of the ASF, Patrick Larkin, who was in Adelaide on business. Patrick gave the audience a progress report on the Sellicks Hill Quarry cave activities. Colin McRae was finally presented with his Occasional Award, Gate maker - Class Simplex. This award was to have been presented during the 1993 AGM. Congratulations Colin and thanks for your great work.

The South Australia Speleological Council held their Annual General Meeting back in July this year with Mac Macdonald (CEGSA) as the Chairman. The representatives for CEGSA are Graham Pilkinton and Eddie Rubessa. Alan Jevons has again been elected as the President. Keep up the good work guys.

CEGSA has recently agreed to nominate CAVEX for corporate membership to the ASF.

Clare Buswell has resigned as editor of the Australian Caver. I am sure that her efforts as editor will be missed. Thank you Clare for all your past work. Maybe now you can write articles for this newsletter?

Mark Sefton inspired those present at the August meeting with his discussion and slides of his recent caving trip to Thailand.

At the September meeting Grant Gartrell highlighted his recent work on Kangaroo Island with a video.

June MacLucas has accepted to show the art exhibition "Inside Earth - Caves Beneath the Nullarbor", seen earlier this year at the Prospect Gallery in South Australia, at the Fremantle Art Gallery in Western Australia later this year. June has also accepted to show the art exhibition at the Riddoch Art Gallery, Mount Gambier, South Australia next year. Well done June.

David McIntyre, our former Quartermaster, has resigned to pursue his career. I take this opportunity to thank David for all his work in the past and wish him and his family all the best in their new venture and to welcome Rob Dayman as the new Quartermaster.

An article recently printed in The Advertiser on Friday, September 23, 1994 summarised the withdrawal of the legal challenge to the State Government to overturn an order that would have placed the Sellicks Hill Quarry cave on the State Heritage Register

Gary Woodcock showed slides of his recent overseas trip at the October general meeting. This included caving in Malaysia, Spain and England just to name a few countries. One surprise on his trip may have been the size of the local insects found within the karst features of Malaysia, including spiders, scorpions and centipedes.

There will only be three editions to Volume 39 of the CEGSA Newsletter this year, this was most likely due to a lack of articles being submitted for publication, fortunately the CEGSA constitution allows for this shortfall. Maybe next years editor will be kept busy with the backlog of articles or maybe the quantity of material for publication will drop enough to warrant not having a newsletter!

Just a little reminder to all Committee members and Office Bearers that it will soon be time for the Annual General Meeting. So sharpen those pencils and get those reports written. See you at the AGM.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mark Thiselton

TRIP REPORTS

NULLARBOR

3rd to 20th July 1993

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

Features: 6N2, 6N3, 5N12, 5N14, 6N17, 5N18, 6N23, 6N36, 6N37, 6N39, 6N40, 6N41, 6N42, 6N47, 6N48, 6N49, 6N50, 6N53, 6N56, 5N61, 5N116, 6N132, 6N360.

Saturday 3rd

The party (excluding Clare and Heiko who joined us later) met up at Max's place in Ceduna. We rang Ross Allen to touch base.

Sunday 4th

Drove from Ceduna to Yalata Roadhouse and met Bill Mackenzie, who is responsible for land management of the Yalata Lands. He informed us of a well nearby to White Wells cave 5N14 and requested information about it.

After whale watching at the bight, we drove on the White Wells ruins. We located the well, which John then descended. It is lined with Ti tree logs and has a depth of about 40m. Sighted lots of webs and spider egg sacs, but no spiders. There is loose bark on the wood shoring, so no carbide or naked flame should be used.

The well appears safe as to its construction but should be fenced or covered to prevent people or animals falling in.

Monday 5th

Up early to wet and cold conditions. Broke camp and located White Wells cave 5N14, no where near its position on the map.

Entered the cave using ladders and belay. A marking tape is in position, which shows the way to further chambers with dormant decoration, terminating in a large chamber.

In the entrance chamber, we found piles of small bones, evidence of birds of prey in occupation, also swallows in occupation, one spider sighted. Some small active stalactites in entrance chamber.

Moved on to an unnamed blowhole beside the Biduna track, which Max numbered 5N692. The blowhole was blowing lightly, but became a strong blow after removing a number of rocks.

Drove on to Biduna Blowhole 5N116, again not in its mapped location. This is quite an extensive cave with potential for pushing. A hole in the rock pile leads to lower chambers.

Found black spiders in entrance, also mummified dingo, kangaroo and two birds of prey (hawks or falcons?).

Searched for Jimmies cave 5N23, without success. The tracks had become very slippery as it had rained most of the day.

Camped adjacent to unnamed cave 5N12.

Tuesday 6th

Heavy storm passed through about 5.30 am after drizzle all night. Slept in, as it was clear we would not move today. Spent the morning making camp more weather-proof, using tarpaulins strung horizontally between vehicles, as rain and wind breaks, creating a communal cooking and gathering area in the centre.

During the morning 5N12 was sucking air strongly, but air movement neutralised as the weather deteriorated further. Storms arrived at intervals all afternoon.

After dinner, we all squeezed into the Meikle van for popcorn and port.

Wednesday 7th

Only a little rain overnight and the track had dried a little, but still too wet to travel.

Pancakes for breakfast, then we went caving in 5N12. Found remains of many dead rabbits and other numerous bones, suggesting that the cave serves as a Dingo lair. Also sighted one adult male cave cricket, three spiders, black beetle and larva.

After lunch, decided to search for 5N18. After searching for some time, we located the 5N18 doline, which is marked by a lone, spindly tree. A feral cat was sighted in the doline. 5N18 consists of one large chamber with rock piles throughout. Sighted cave crickets.

The weather was fine enough for a fire after dinner, using wood collected pre-Nullarbor.

Thursday 8th

Occasional light rain during the night and the morning. We decided that the track was dry enough to leave, so broke camp and got underway late in the morning. Negotiated the 18 km back to the highway without incident, despite a slow leak from Paul's car tyre. Repaired the tyre, washed and drove to Eucla for a beer, then on to Weebubbie cave 6N2, arriving at dusk. At first sight, this doline is awesome. We set up camp here.

Friday 9th

Up early to tackle Weebubbie cave. The fixed ladders make this doline an easy climb. Paul and Sue swam out with torches, to illuminate the cave for photographs. Ian and Suzanne also took the opportunity for a dip, despite having forgotten their bathers.

Broke camp after an early lunch and headed for Abrakurrie cave 6N3, inspecting Chowilla Landslip 6N17 on the way. Inside Abrakurrie, the enormous scale of which can't fail to impress.

Moved on along a bush track slowly to Madura Hotel via Mundrabilla/Kuthala Pass. Had a drink and found Dennis Nash, manager of Madura Station, who said he has found many caves. Arranged to meet him in a few days to discuss further. Had dinner at the hotel restaurant. Drove back up the pass to the worst ever campsite - exposed, cold and with road-making equipment going all night.

Saturday 10th

We resupplied at the Madura Roadhouse, then set off for Moonera Tank cave 6N53, about 50 km away.

The doline is choked with deadly nightshade. Both the 6N53 doline and the cave itself are highly unstable and extreme caution is required. It is practically all rock hopping, down through the plughole and on down the rockpile to a lake at the bottom, in a muddy chamber. Sighted five male and four female cave crickets, a small spider and two black beetles. Swallows were nesting in the entrance.

Drove on to Cocklebidy cave 6N48. A lovely walk-in doline leads to a steep rockpile almost to the waters edge. A fixed ladder assists with the climb. The chamber is cool and refreshing.

Max found a promising hole near the top of the doline, but it only went about 4m before reaching a large rock.

We measured the path from Cocklebidy cave to Capstan cave 6N50 and took a GPS reading at Capstan cave to assist with future location. We did not enter Capstan cave.

Drove to Tommy Graham's cave 6N56, which is about half an hour from the highway. Arrived at the cave at nightfall and set up camp.

Sunday 11th

Slept in and had pancakes for brunch. Decided to collect water from Moondadong Rockhole for washing, but found it thick with algae.

Found Bronchi Hole 6N523. Paul, Ian, Max and Sue abseiled in. Pitch is about 8m, with little at the bottom. Self-lined out on a ladder.

Drove on to Fox Hole, which Max had a quick look at.

Drove on to inspect the doline of Pannikin Plain cave 6N49, to which access is still barred. Went back to the highway to Cocklebiddy Hotel and met up with Clare and Heiko, just arriving from Adelaide.

Monday 12th

Caved in Tommy Graham's cave. Quickly looked at the short end, then into the main cave. Warm, moist air was blowing out the entrance. Great sporty cave, a rock hop about 80m down to the lake. Sighted a number of cave crickets. A very enjoyable cave.

After lunch we drove back to Capstan cave. This cave is also a rock hop about 75m deep, unstable in parts. The map shows a 3m drop at one point, which we avoided by using a free climb nearby. Both drops have chock stones in them.

Drove to Murra El-Evelyn cave 6N47. Abseiled in then climbed down the steep rock pile to the main chamber. Sighted a bat colony in the main chamber which we took care not to disturb. Also sighted some calcite and helictite formations.

Paul persuaded Heiko and Sue to get wet. The three of us waded through three lakes to be rewarded with lovely decoration of flaky calcite sheets and gypsum crystals in phreatic tunnels. Drove back to Cocklebiddy Hotel for a beer (it seems impossible to go past), then back to camp.

Tuesday 13th

Broke camp and got away by about 10.00 am, a pretty good effort for us. It had started raining during the night and the track back to the highway was very slippery. Headed back to Madura Hotel for lunch and supplies.

Rang Ross Wood, manager of Moonera and Madura Stations, to check the conditions of the track out to Mullamullang cave 6N37. The track was slippery near Madura, but improved as we neared the cave. Arrived at dusk and selected a camp site.

Wednesday 14th

We formed two parties to explore Mullamullang cave.

Party one consisting of Heiko and Sue entered the cave by 8.30 am. Noted that beetles were very active at the base of the dune. Travel was comfortable to One Mile Cairn and a little harder to White Lake. Still fresh, so we decided to carry on to The Dome. After Camp One, the heat and the humidity start to take their toll. We had reached the base of The Dome by 4.30 pm, but as we you not allowed to enter The Dome, we rested for about an hour and had a quick look at Ezam Maze before heading out. We exited the cave about 10.15 pm, with the Southern Cross framed in the mouth of the cave as we climbed out. The roast dinner, beers and foot baths were just what we needed!

Party two consisting of Ian, Suzanne, Fern, John, Clare, Max and Paul entered the cave about 12.30 pm and headed for Easter Extension. Clare collected dead spiders and insects for a colleague. They entered Easter Extension via the first entrance and found that the Coffee and Cream section had been damaged in parts. Then on to Easter Lake. Had difficulty finding the path from the lake to the second entrance. Exited the cave via One Mile Cairn after a seven hour trip.

Thursday 15th

Fern, John, Heiko and Sue rested at camp and made curries while Clare, Paul, Max, Suzanne and Ian visited other caves in the area. Paul, Ian and Max entered Joes cave 6N39, a low, crawly phreatic development. It now extends through the rockpile for an unknown distance. Quite a big cave, but mostly hands and knees.

The camp enjoyed a communal curry night (dress restrictions applied) and the women revealed what real cavers wear under their overalls.

Friday 16th

We packed up camp and drove to Kestrel Number 1 cavern 6N40. We abseiled into this pretty doline, filled with moss and ferns. The cave itself is very small, but worth the effort for the abseil and the doline.

We inspected the entrances to Spider Sink 6N41, Kestrel Number 2 cavern 6N42 and an unnamed doline 6N69, but did not enter. Drove via Madura Pass to Erosion Blowhole, set up camp and went back to the roadhouse for showers and dinner. Surprisingly, it began to rain during the night.

Saturday 17th

Woke to a cold, wet and windy day. Heiko and Clare had to leave for home, so set off mid-morning with Ian and Suzanne providing an escort service back to the highway.

Paul, Max, John, Fern and Sue went into Erosion Blowhole. The entrance needed some digging out as mud had been washed in. This cave is quite vertical and unstable in parts, with a mud floor at the bottom. This feature should be renamed as "cave".

Ian and Suzanne sensibly succumbed to the miserable conditions and left camp for sunnier spots, late afternoon, leaving a complement of five. The night was cold but clearing.

Sunday 18th

Drove off to find 6N700, a cave found by cavers from WA. Sue couldn't face descending as her SRT gear had fallen into a bucket of water during the trip. Paul and John abseiled about 25m down through a roofhole into a large chamber into a large chamber approximately 60 x 40m. Around the edge of the chamber were a number of floor holes up to 20m deep. Very few people have been in this cave, but survey markers are in place.

Drove to Dingo cave 6N160. A very attractive doline with long grass and a copse of small trees. The cave consists of one chamber with roof holes.

Monday 19th

Packed up camp and reviewed our itinerary. had lunch at Madura Pass Hotel and set off for Mundrabilla Station. Spoke to Bob Eglington then drove to Webbs cave 6N132.

Fern, Paul and Sue went in. Quite a lot of dormant decoration and copious dry sand and guano dust.

Met some members of FUSS at the cave and later took them to Purple Goringe cave 6N360. This cave is heavily decorated with dormant features.

Drove to Eucla for dinner at the roadhouse. Took a track 7.9 km past Border Village and drove to the beach. Selected a campsite within earshot of the surf. The sky was clear when we went to bed, but fittingly for our last night, it rained.

Tuesday 20th

Woke to drizzle. Packed up camp, drove to the sand hills and walked about 1 km through dunes to the beach. Two hours of beachcombing yielded 4 cuttlefish and a replacement scrubby thing for Fern (someone obviously got their before us and grabbed all the good stuff).

We then headed back to Nullarbor, Ceduna and Adelaide.

Sue McCormick

TOWN WELL CAVE

26 March 1994

Participants: CEGSA - June and George MacLucas, Mac, Christopher and Tristan Macdonald, Lance Hoey and Karen McDonald.
SES - Craig Stephens (Tea Tree Gully Controller), Morrie Keogh, Colin Doherty.

Feature: Town Well cave 5Y2.

We all met at the Curramulka Bowling Green around 11 am on the Saturday morning. I had just returned from Minlaton where I picked up the key for the entrance. Prior arrangements had been made with the Town Clerk.

It was a fine day (no rain this time) and seven of us abseiled into the cave, thanks to Mac, Christopher and Tristan Macdonald for remaining at the entrance to look after things for us.

I soon found out that these SES members are not necessarily keen cavers as they did not like tight passages. Vertical rescues are more their forte, particularly the rescue of Karen under the guidance of Craig. Morrie demonstrated how to prussick out of the cave without mechanical devices (over 30m).

An enjoyable day was had by all before we ventured on to Point Turton. Here we made the most of an excellent beach front accommodation (you mean you went scuba diving? ... Ed.) and spent the evening being entertained by card sharp Colin Doherty.

Lance Hoey

CURRAMULKA CAVE

27 March 1994

Participants: CEGSA - Mac, Christopher and Tristan Macdonald, Lance Hoey and Karen McDonald and Ruth Lawrence along with nine students and friends from Adelaide University.
SES - Craig Stephens (Tea Tree Gully Controller), Morrie Keogh, Colin Doherty.

Feature: Corra Lynn cave 5Y1.

This was just an easy horizontal cave tourist trip for new cavers. We also met a group from Cavex on a similar trip.

A small incident occurred when one of our group became claustrophobic in a tight passage, fortunately all ended well, but this was certainly a different experience.

Another incident occurred, when Karl from Ruth's group decided to take on the bee's near the entrance of the cave, he was stung twice on the nose.

Lance Hoey

RIVER MURRAY**11 June 1994**

Participants: George and Aaron MacLucas, Ray and Terry Gibbons, Frank Hankinson, Bill Binks and Lance Hoey.

Features: Punyelroo cave 5M1 and River Road cave 5M18

This being only a day trip, we decided to have a fairly early start and were at River Road cave 5M18 at around 10:30 am.

The first part of the cave was hard and dry, so I began to think that we would remain relatively clean (how wrong I was). The further into the cave we went the muddier it became. Frank went for a dive (fully clothed) into a lake which blocked one passage, saying that next time he would come prepared with the right gear.

A number of spiders were discovered within the cave, of which we took one as a sample for identification, along with a very anaemic yabby. (refer to the article titled "A New Cave Spider" within the Technical and Other Articles section of this newsletter...Ed.).

A swim in the near freezing Murray river was a must for most of us after we existed the cave. Fortunately I had forewarned everyone and told them to bring two pairs of overalls.

During the afternoon we performed a tourist trip into Punyelroo cave 5M1. The water in the lake was the highest that I have seen and we could not get into this chamber.

I am sure that an enjoyable day was had by all.

Lance Hoey

SELICKS HILL CAVE**10 July 1994**

Participants: June and George MacLucas, Frank Hankinson, Sue McCormick and Lance Hoey.

Feature: Sellicks Hill cave 5A5

A Sunday day trip to Sellicks Hill cave 5A5 was hard going but most enjoyable.

We used a fifty metre rope as an aid, as the floor was very wet and slippery in places, along with two wire ladders.

Once again we all exited the cave very dirty.

Lance Hoey.

WAILOTUA CAVES, FIJI

August 1994

Participants: Stan Flavel (exiled CEGSA Records Officer) and many others.

Feature: Wailotua caves, Fiji.

I have been back to Wailotua caves twice, the most recent to take a party of people on a tour. The local men have built a 10 metre bamboo ladder up to the high level passage, this allows access somewhat precariously on a slippery bat guano covered slope to a considerable upwardly sloping passage.

I am planning to return to Wailotua caves soon with another caver who I have recently met from the United States. He will be in Fiji for the rest of the year.

The nearby village is very hospitable and I am treated as chief guest and can sleep in the hut near the cave entrance (sounds a bit like Bagalowie Homestead?.....Ed.).

I have found 3 entrances (efflux's) at the lower level of the cave with considerable water flowing forth. The limestone cliff which is obscured by vine and vegetation has holes and entrances every where. The system is a very complex one with what seems like 4 levels and horizontal development. It could keep me going for years.

I am receiving more feedback of caves in the area but each report will take some time and kava drinking to fully quantify.

Stan Flavel

FLINDERS RANGES

1st to 3rd October 1994

Participants: Ray and Terry Gibbons, Stephen, Toula, Michael and Stephanie Malone, Bill Binks, Tom Szabo, Corinne, Isabella, Isaac and Eddie Rubessa.

Feature: 5F8, 5F13, 5F15, 5F33, 5F59, 5F60.

Our journey started at noon on Friday and we arrived in Hawker around 6.30 pm to say hello to Eric, Susan and Anton Dahl. Eric provided me with some information about specific features that we intended to visit.

After some genial discourse we made our way onto our campsite at Youconna, where we met the Malone family on route and found Ray and Terry stoking a warm fire, with tents up and most of the party asleep. A couple of us stayed up to view a lucid firmament.

Bill and Tom failed to arrive so on Saturday morning we visited Oraparinna cave 5F8, which was easy to find (yes that is right Nicki!). One shaft and two natural entrances provided ingress to a network of higher and lower dusty passages. Some areas have minor decoration with a little active growth. There is a good possibility for more cave depending on how ambitious you are. A scorpion of about 3mm length was sighted under number one shaft entrance, an interesting area.

After lunch we drove to Eyrie cave 5F15. This was an accomplishment for a Ford station wagon and a Holden Camira. Stephen's Camira almost made it, if it wasn't for fuel injection problems. We arrived within a 1000m of the cave entrance thanks to someone dutifully erecting a cairn to assist in locating the cave ridge. A energetic climb to the entrance and inside we went.

It is well decorated with old dusty decorations. Some of which shows signs of recent damage. The way in which the rock at the entrance has been worn smooth would suggest that this cave receives a fair amount of traffic. The four people traversing the cave caused quite an amount of dust to be raised. We took some photos inside the cave before climbing up to the top of the ridge to witness some impressive views.

It was an enjoyable day with Isaac celebrating his first birthday in Oraparinna cave. On our return to camp, we found that Tom and Bill had arrived. Tom had problems with his car not being repaired in time. After recounting the days events they were looking rather forlorn and subjected me to various forms of cajoling, including intimidation and vituperation, finally they succumbed to exasperation, but I just didn't have the energy to take them caving.

Stephen, Ray, Terry and I all decided to go for a quick wash down near the creek. We were lucky it was quick as a Toyota Landcruiser with the word "Police" written on the side arrived on the scene and the occupants would have sprung four naked men. Fortunately it was Eric and a mate who had come down for a visit, so we all headed back for dinner and drinks.

On Sunday morning we set off to locate Bunyeroo Gorge cave 5F13. It was marvellous to see Brachina Gorge after not having driven through it for a few years. A quick hello to the landowner whose land we must travel on to reach the cave. and off we went down Bunyeroo creek on the wrong track. We didn't get far as Stephen's car got bogged in the sand. As we were digging the car out we unearthed a fifty millimetre long scorpion. After removing Stephen's car from the sand, Ray's car also became bogged. This was fun! Who cares about caving.

We finally made it along the track and found the cave entrance. The cave is approximately 30m long, 4m wide with a roof height of 1.7m and opens out at the end. There is an upper section that rejoins towards the entrance. This cave is active in places and care should be exercised when traversing it. Modestly decorated, the decoration at the end of the cave is the jewel of the cave (pun intentional).

On our way back to camp we tried to locate Thunderdrum cave 5F29. This was supposed to be a simple task. It turned out that we couldn't find it. Dejectedly we left for our evening repast.

On Monday morning we visited Enorama cave 5F59. This is a crevice about 8-10m in length by about 0.75m wide with a 30° dip. It is situated halfway up a hill. We found a solitary bat roosting within the cave.

The next feature that we visited was Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby cave 5F33, which turned out to be only a few hundred metres away. Stephen was a bit hesitant in attempting what he thought was a tight squeeze, being a larger build, this was understandable. He got through in the end.

Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby cave is slightly similar to Oraparinna cave in development with parallel passages to the side, above and below. At the end there is a crawly extension leading to a small chamber this was dug out by Stan Flavel and colleagues. While I was negotiating this extension I noticed a strong flow of air movement, having determined the best lead, I committed it to memory for a future digging trip. I expect at least a dozen volunteers when I return. It is not very often that you find more passage within known features and this has promising characteristics.

After that excursion I decided that we try and reconnoitre Mount Scott cave 5F60, having found it we realised that it was not far from another unnamed feature. A pot hole about 3m deep. No number has been allocated to it (Is this being lackadaisical Stan?).

I must hurry and finish this report as the editor wants it for the newsletter and I am getting sleepy.

Mount Scott cave turned out to be a grunt/groan rip the daks off you crevice which I'll never go to again, also because there is a huge arachnid in residence and I had no room to manoeuvre out quick enough.

We were travelling over the next ridge when Ray spotted a large outcrop of limestone blocks which Stan had earlier reported. We had a good look around and considered the area to be very interesting. Ray and I started to work some rocks free and soon found myself dropping down a slot 3m deep and 4m wide. It actually opened out underneath. Ray joined me and again we were digging another lead which opened out into a chamber about 8m long, 2.5m wide and 1.8m high. Small but it was great. The floor consisted of damp clay soil unlike the other features that we have been grovelling in which resembled the inside of a vacuum cleaner.

There was more to look at but we were running out of time. So watch out for the continuing adventures of the cave rat and his band of agoraphobic wombats (Eddie, you do realise that you are committing yourself to another trip report. Ed.).

Eddie Rubessa

TALES OF A FLINDERS TRIP

October Long Weekend 1994

Participants: David Trehearne (Mr Treefern), Alan Jevons (El Presidente), Pam Alvaro (Princess Avalon), Janine Kraehenbuehl (KII), John Callison (John of the Realm), John and Frank (flash monkeys) and the FUSSI Summit Team.

Features: Mount Remarkable Blowhole 5F1 and Mairs Cave 5F3

In a desperate attempt to get away from Adelaide for the long weekend in October, David, Alan, Pam and Janine decided at the September CEGSA Meeting that the Flinders were the go.

We already knew that FUSSI would be at Bagalowie Homestead, so we did the good Speleo Council thing to do and formed a merger (we invited ourselves along).

Work commitments saw us arriving at 1.30 am Sunday morning at Bagalowie after an exciting performance of the SPV (Special Persons Vehicle) On Mud.

In the standard Flinders manner, we awoke with sunlight piercing through the tent fly and to the melodious fark fark faaark of the resident crow population. The CEGSA contingent were eager to go caving with FUSSI, however to our dismay, they all opted for a summit attempt on St. Mary's Peak despite the gale force winds and beating rain.

Before the FUSSI summit team headed off, we were introduced to two of their team members who preferred to go caving and so, asked to join us. We discovered that Frank and John were new to caving and both very keen. A little later we realised that these FUSSI two were actually new CEGSA members who had desperately sought out another club that met their needs on this weekend.

We were surprised when the SASC El Presidente, Alan (the man who always turns up to CEGSA meetings in a suit) pulled on a pair of pristine overalls complete with matching Gucci tie and Pierre Cardin ropebag!!! We were further surprised when he informed us that despite 15 years of caving he had never visited Mairs and Clara St. Dora. Even Pam had visited them and she's not a CEGSA member (yet!).

We headed off to Mairs Cave 5F3 and David rigged the cave in severe gale force winds. Pam had borrowed an SRT rig from a friend?! an extremely close friend, closer than most, in fact we're waiting for the date. One of the day's quotable quotes was heard on a decent "I'm going to whip Darren when I get home for not telling me that this SRT stuff is easier than rock climbing."

This typical two hour trip turned into a small epic when Kraehenbuehl II (KII) decided to take the camera out of its case. Yep, we thought, she's definitely his wife! We stopped at the block before the Christmas Trees to admire the view. We were disappointed to see a trogged path through the centre of them, when according to the map, the end of the chamber is within sight. It seemed pointless to go beyond the rock and trog over such beautiful coral not common in SA arid karst systems.

David harassed the party to have an intimate experience with the 8 1/4 inch squeeze. Eager to show how easy it can be done, David grimaced that the squeeze had definitely got smaller. Alan in his low friction Gucci overalls peevd us all as he said "No, I don't like this." and then he slipped through like a rat in an aqueduct. Pam, keen to conquer her fear of a previous attempt was in fine voice when she became wedged (and so did her overalls). As time progressed, ever the comedienne, she remembered "What's the difference between cholesterol and fat ?" "You can't have half a cholesterol".

Five hours later, with only one solitary role of exposed film, we exited.

We left Clara St. Dora for another day.

Monday morning we all packed and said goodbye to John, Frank and the FUSSI crew. In closing conversation, John Callison, FUSSI, told of a tale that the "BOLT FAIRIES" had waved their pneumatic wands and had left presents for the cavers in a deep hole, high on a hill. The believers amongst us threw our krabs on the ground, they told us to head south toward 'A Place Near Melrose'.

John joined the Fellowship of the Bolt and so we five brave souls went in search of the one bolt to rule them all. Our quest led us to Mount Remarkable Blowhole 5F1. The brave of the brave, Mr Treefern, lowered into the bowels of the cave. Excited shrieks echoed up the chamber confirming the Tale.

One by one bar one (Princess Avalon), the Fellowship of the Bolt descended in admiration of the Bolt Fairies handiwork. In the depths, John of the Realm discovered two bewitched Princes (frogs). KII remarked "we should upgrade the old map of this cave and tell future questers of the new path down". Yep, she's most definitely his wife.

We arose in awe of "The Truly Remarkable Pot". As the shadows lengthened, we danced a jig around the smouldering remains of the once used six rope protectors as an offering of thanks to the blessed Bolt Fairies.

Rigging Details as follows:

- Equipment required: 1 x 20m rope, 1 x 50m rope, assorted karabiners and tapes.
- Utilising the nearby tree, anchor the 20m rope and lower into the entrance.
- Using a 6m tape around the rock bridge just inside the entrance anchor the 50m rope (Primary Anchor).
- Traverse on to the first bolt and use an alpine butterfly and krab into the bolt ensuring that there is no slack from the primary anchor and the descent rope when loaded, will pull evenly on the bolt and the primary anchor. Also tie in the 20m rope to this bolt thereby providing a rebelay.
- Change over and descend down the fissure approximately 8m to another bolt placed to provide a redirection. Use a small 100 mm tape or 2-3 karabiners together to form the redirection.
- Continue descent, past the redirection into the pot, approximately 15m to a ledge where in the left wall are two bolts. Rig both the bolts using an equalising tape sling, to again provide an even distribution of load on each bolt.
- Descend to the bottom of the Pot (approx. 4m diam). There is a short down climb to another level where a pit leading to a soak which is reported to often contain water.

David Trehearne

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

MEMBERSHIP

Transfer to Full Membership;

Janine Kraehenbuehl (nee Tamblyn)	9301	Western Lodge, Belair National Park c/o PO BELAIR SA 5052	(H) 278 4531
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New Associate Members;

Bill BINKS	9412	29 Hyland Terrace, ROSSLYN PARK SA 5072	(H) 331 4490
Dave LOWE	9413	172 Seacombe Road, SEAVIEW DOWNS SA 5049	(H) 377 0884
Stephen McRAE	9414	3 Kerrin Avenue, MORPHETT VALE SA 5162	(H) 382 7905
Chris FIDDYMENT	9415	12 Mockridge Court, PARALOWIE SA 5108	(H) 281 8173
John THORP	9416	5 Wayne Court, HACKHAM WEST SA 5163	(H) 326 1530
Troy KNIGHT	9417	162 Elizabeth Road, MORPHETT VALE SA 5162	(H) 384 1433
Dave EGEL	9418	53 Elizabeth Road, CHRISTIE DOWNS SA 5164	(H) 326 2697
Anne-Marie HUBYCZ	9419	9 Nepal Street, HILLCREST, SA 5086	(H) 266 0512

Change of Address;

Gordon NINNES	7102	8 Sampson Road, MITCHELL PARK SA 5043	(H) 374 3552
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Change of Number;

Terry REARDON	7605	(W) 207 7460
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1995 MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership fees for next year have increased by \$7.00 to all categories of membership. This increase is due to the introduction of an insurance cover by the ASF for all members. The fees for 1995 are as follows;

Full	\$42.00
Country Full	\$37.00
Associate	\$27.00
Long Term Associate	\$37.00

VULCON 1995

The 20th Biennial ASF 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? This is a great opportunity to get involved as it is close to Adelaide. Those members who have offered to assist on the post conference trips, 7th and 8th January 1995, please remember to help out. For more information contact Peter Kraehenbuehl or Kevin Mott.

WHICH WAY NORTH - WHICH WAY CEGSA

If one looks beyond the present and casts one's gaze back into the life of CEGSA it can be seen that CEGSA was a prolific map producer and gatherer of data. The maps came in a variety of shapes and forms: Cadbury chocolate wrappers to standard map sheets. In fact CEGSA was one of the first clubs to use standard map sheets. Some of the maps you would swear were drawn under a mud waterfall. All the same they were maps and people made the effort to go out and produce them.

Why did we bother? Besides something to do on a rainy day or a severe disruption to the sacred Goon show the maps that resulted did and still do serve a useful purpose. Many of the current members are only too happy to take a copy of the map or the location with them to make their life easier if not duller. I know of many landowners who take pride in exhibiting their cave map to their guests. Some of them have no intention of going down the cave but the map gives them an idea of what it is like, especially when the surveyor takes time to tell the landowner about the features of the cave. Maps can be used to show the structure of the cave and are a tool in comparing caves of similar types. Many a dedicated digger uses maps to determine the most likely place for extensions. They can also be used to expedite the placement of monitoring equipment or cameras.

Another use is, heaven forbid, a road map. Yes! You can actually use a cave map to navigate your way around the cave. Some of you who have been foolish enough to use a cave map may have even noticed that some maps are incomplete or even in error (wash my mouth out with carbide!). That is another use of a map. No cave is ever fully mapped. The map can be used to determine what work is required to be done.

To use a map, assuming you know how to, a scale and north point are necessary to attain a sense of size and direction. Without a north point you are liable to end up disappearing up the proverbial fundamental orifice. Just as we need a compass and north point to orient ourselves to the cave map so CEGSA needs to follow the north point if it wants to continue to forge ahead. We should be careful we follow the right map and make sure we have the north point drawn in the correct orientation and that in fact the north point is on our map.

CEGSA has achieved the position it held through its aims and ideals for caving and cave conservation, cooperation with management bodies and its willingness to get out and go caving. This also included being prepared to show others how to cave safely. Having done the groundwork there is no point in sitting and saying been there, done that, we are good. We still need to be out there at the fore front expanding our knowledge of the caves, teaching potential cavers all about caving and educating the general public about the value of caves. There is no point in admiring the stalactite while the straws are being broken. All caves have a value; some are just not as pretty as others. If we are only here to see the biggest and the best then we do not deserve to be here.

New members want to learn about caves and caving in a friendly and social environment. It is becoming increasingly difficult for non members of clubs to go caving so we must learn to adjust to cater for all needs. If potential members come in to an environment where the same old political rhetoric is regurgitated by the same people all the time they will soon leave. Let us discard the mantle of gesticulation and grandiloquence and get back to the basics of caving. Experience has shown that the brightest light casts the greatest shadow and you can not depend on those around when it comes to the crunch. We have a strong history to build upon and unless we get out there we could easily slide into oblivion.

The members must be prepared to get their hands dirty and lead trips to cater for the needs of all types of members. There is enough experience buried in the group for variety in trips to include general exploration, caving techniques, surveying, photography, location work, flora and fauna surveys and still have fun. There needs to be greater involvement in management of the group by members to share the workload around. Conversely the executive need to keep the members informed without bogging them down with excessive details and formalities. Perhaps regular, but concise, briefings of special projects and Speleo Council meetings, more social events may be part of the answer.

We are not a political lobby group but a caving group that wants to foster speleology but also enjoy caving. Lets go out and do some caving together. Lets follow our north point.

Kevin Mott

A NEW CAVE SPIDER

Last June, during a trip to some of the caves along the River Murray, Lance Hoey collected a small spider in River Road cave 5M18. He passed it in to me and in turn I gave it to the South Australian Museum's arachnologist (spider expert) David Hirst. His report is as follows:

"Thanks - The spider is of interest.

It is not blind but the front eyes are considerably reduced with one being represented by pigment only. Together with the pale colour, indications are that it is cave adapted. Other members of the family (Desidae) are often grey, brown or black (one relative is the black house spider).

Also as far as I am aware it will be the only one we have in collection. Unfortunately it is an immature female."

It would therefore be useful if future visitors to the cave watch out for more spiders and any other organisms that might be living there. More specimens will allow the spider to be properly identified. It may even be a new species.

Neville Pledge.

A CAVE DEATH

The death of a young man (about 21 years old) from Perth occurred early this June in Big Bell Cave (Bell Cave?) at Cape Range, in the north-west of Western Australia. The man had been visiting the area, caving with two friends from Perth and Exmouth and was attempting to exit up an 18m pitch via a 1 inch diameter rope with knots every 30 cm which they had rigged previously. All had descended successfully. The first had exited but the second man got nearly to the lip before panicking, slipping 6 meters, and, unable to hold on, fell 10 metres onto rocks. He died some 30 minutes after the fall before any rescue party could arrive. The body was recovered by the local SES group.

Information through Rauleigh Webb, WASG members and the Australian cavers e-mail.

EQUIPMENT

There appears to be some equipment missing from CEGSA. If you know of the whereabouts of any of this equipment please contact the Quartermaster as soon as possible. The missing items at the time of printing are as follows;

- 2 Spelean Adjustable Sit Harnesses
- 1 Stubai Large Steel Offset "D"
- 1 Rappel Rack
- 3 Geo-seismic Equipment
- Chains
- assorted Harness Rings
- length of 6 mm Rope

INSIDE EARTH - CAVES BENEATH THE NULLARBOR

It is with pleasure that I inform you that the art exhibition "Inside Earth - Caves Beneath the Nullarbor", seen earlier this year at the Prospect Gallery, Nailsworth, South Australia, has been accepted to show at the Fremantle Art Gallery, 1 Finnerty Street, Fremantle, Western Australia. This exhibition will open at 6.30 pm on the 9th December 1994 until the 8th January 1995.

This will mean that the exhibition will be open over the school holidays, enabling more people to view the work and therefor the Nullarbor Caves, showing the involvement of caving groups like CEGSA.

The Western Australian Museum has agreed to take part and will display artefacts, fossils, insects of the Nullarbor.

This is quite an achievement as the Fremantle Art Gallery is a large gallery of some significance in Western Australia. I have been informed by the Director of the gallery, Mr. John Kean, that the media are waiting, eager to help in promoting the exhibition. I will be travelling over to help hang the exhibition and attend the opening on behalf of all of us.

If you know anyone in Western Australia who would be interested in attending the opening, please do not hesitate to call me on (08) 261 4180 and I will be pleased to place them on the invitation list forwarded to the gallery.

The art exhibition "Inside Earth - Caves Beneath the Nullarbor" has also recently been accepted to show at the Riddoch Art Gallery, Commercial St. (East), Mount Gambier, South Australia. This exhibition will be open from the 6th June 1995 through to the 2nd July 1995.

June MacLucas

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The 1994 CEGSA Christmas Dinner will be held from 3 pm on Saturday 3rd December 1994 at the home of Chris Hales and family at 4 Barossa Court, Lyndoch, (Ph). 085 244 796. This will be a bring your own (BYO) affair, so please come along well prepared. Chris has offered to allow guests to stay overnight if they so desire.

Chris is also planning a Training session from 10 am in the morning at the Gawler Bridge. Please let Chris know of your intentions

1994 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1994 CEGSA Annual General Meeting will be held from 7 pm on Saturday 4th February 1995 at the home of Mark Sefton and family at 36 Norman Street, St. Marys, (Ph) 277 9086.

Mark and family have offered to hold a barbecue from 3 pm on the afternoon of the AGM. This will be a bring your own (BYO) affair , so please come along well prepared.

PROGRAMME

November

26+27

December

3

Christmas Party (BYO BBQ from 3 pm)
4 Barossa Court, Lyndoch

Chris Hales' House

3+4

10+11

17+18

24+25

31

January 1995

1

2-6

VULCON 1995 - 20th Biennial ASF Conference
Hamilton, Victoria

7+8

Post Conference Trip Leaders required

Peter Kraehenbuehl

14+15

21+22

25

GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm

28+29

February

4

Annual General Meeting at 7 pm (BYO BBQ from 3 pm)
36 Norman Street, Saint Marys

Mark Sefton's House

4+5

11+12

18+19

22

GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 pm

25+26

Easter 95

Old Homestead cave

Mark Sefton &
Graham Pilkington

anytime

Sellicks Hill

Grant Gartrell

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