

CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

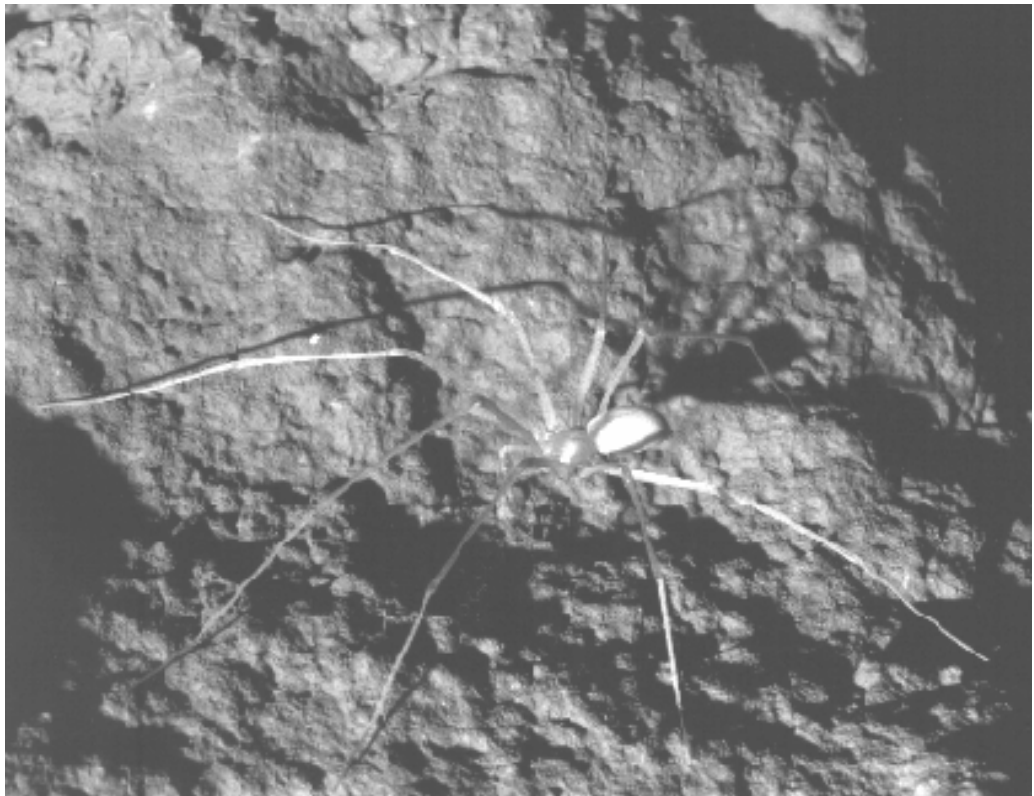
PO Box 144 Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 5000



Volume 40 Number 4

November 1995

N E W S L E T T E R



CAVE EXPLORATION GROUP SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc.

PO Box 144, Rundle Mall, Adelaide , South Australia, 5000.

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

The White Lady *Tartartus Thampannensis* photographed by June MacLucas during a trip to the Nullarbor in 1995.

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The deadline for copy or background material for Volume 41 Number 1 must reach the Editor by Wednesday 24th January, 1996. 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

Volume 40 Number 3 of the CEGSA Newsletter was distributed to members during the August meeting. A number of future trips (more than ten) were advertised during the August meeting. Typically these just missed being published in the August Newsletter. Maybe we should remove the Programme page from the Newsletter in the future?

Terry Reardon mentioned that the 5th Australian Bat Conference will be held at the Naracoorte Cave Conservation Park around Easter 1996. Sounds very interesting Terry.

The entertainment at the August meeting was provided by Grant Gartrell. Grant's discussion about the cave potential on the Fleurieu Peninsula was very informative. From the information presented by Grant it is surprising that more interest hasn't been shown in this area. Maybe there will be more enthusiasm after this? Grant made use of a few phrases during his presentation, such as "Caves are where you find them! - And no where else!". Thanks Grant for a most informative presentation.

Narrina cave remains closed at the request of the land owner.

The 21st Biennial ASF Conference is scheduled to be held in South Australia.

The Art Exhibit, Inside Earth - Caves Beneath the Nullarbor, was recently displayed at the St. Francis' Pastoral Centre, Melbourne by June MacLucas. This exhibit went very well. Congratulations June.

It was revealed at the September General meeting that Old Homestead cave was no longer the longest cave in Australia. Graham Pilkington urged anyone interested to contact him to assist in continuing the survey.

George MacLucas, our Records Officer, at the September General meeting requested assistance with the work being carried out with the groups records. If you can spare some time please contact George.

It has been suggested that some articles printed in the Newsletter are too long. All future authors should consider supplying a summary report for inclusion in the Newsletter and a full report for Records. It would be better if the author modified their own article rather than have the editor come along and perform wholesale slaughter of their work losing the original intention.

Kevin Mott discussed the cleanup project that he is involved with at Rendelsham cave. Any volunteers please contact Kevin or Peter Kraehenbuehl.

The entertainment at the October general meeting was provided by Athol Jackson. Athol presented a video of the 1966 expeditions to Mullamullang cave 6N37, which he had recently converted from the original expedition film.

Eddie Rubessa while discussing details of a recent cave trip referred to "some god damn cave just out of Ashford". Which cave was that Eddie? Was it worth visiting?

This edition of the Newsletter sees the introduction of Advertisements to help cover the cost of production and hopefully minimise any increase in our membership fees, which are expected to rise next year. Please consider using those companies who have advertised within our newsletter and mention where you noticed their advert. A special thanks to June MacLucas for all the work that she has put into arranging the adverts that she has for this edition of the Newsletter.

It has been suggested that the name of the CEGSA newsletter "Newsletter" should be changed to encourage businesses to advertise in future editions. What do you think of this idea? Please make any suggestions at future general meetings.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone.

Mark Thiselton

TRIP REPORTS

Upper South East - Naracoorte

26 to 29 January 1995

Party: Eddie Rubessa (leader), Ray and Terry Gibbons, Robyn McBeath, Jeanette Chapman and Gary Woodcock.

Features: 5U8/9, 5U33, 5U34, 5U73 and 5U151.

Thursday 26 January 1995. Ray, Terry and myself drove down to Naracoorte. On the way we stopped and had a look at Marcollat cave 5U33. The cave was abuzz with blowflies due to the decomposing carcasses of rabbits. Foxes would seem to have had a short lived enjoyment with those rodents as poison baits were laid for them. However we undaunted cavers did investigate this cave and retrieved a dozen desiccated bat specimens. I can just visualise Terry Reardon's exuberance of this collection. Two live bats were also sighted within the cave.

Next we visited an un-named cave 5U151. I had a cursory look at this feature eighteen months ago. There seems to be an apparent lead but we did not pursue it fully. Apparently local people also tend to visit this cave as there is evidence of beer bottles and cans that remain after a hard earned thirst! (*Eddie you have been watching too much television! Ed.*)

We then continued our journey to Naracoorte and arrived just in time to set up our tents before a thunderous rain storm deluged the region for awhile and provided us with fresh rainwater.

Friday 27 January 1995. In the morning we joined up with the local NPWS officer Robyn McBeath for a visit to Lost cave 5U34. Not ever having been there or knowing its location, we relied on Robyn's knowledge (this was a very grave error which no CEGSA member or I in the future should have to endure again). Robyn had all of us tramping through the pine forest and scrub in the most humid climate that I have ever experienced. In vain Lost cave remained lost to us. That is until ashamedly Robyn asked Brian Clarke for his assistance!

Upon locating the cave, we set up for entering a 4m drop into a 20m diameter chamber. On the right there are good examples of Lubinite covering an extensive area of the wall. The cave floor slopes downwards from the entrance where it reaches a roof step of a lower level, which is wet and decorated. This leads to a small well decorated straw chamber. Reports of considerable damage to the decoration in the chamber is not apparent to those cognisant with Lost cave. However some clean up may obviate signs of damage. This would involve dealing with the management of Naracoorte NPWS.

After Lost cave we had lunch and then headed for Bone cave 5U73, unfortunately Robyn could not join us. On route to Bone cave I showed Ray and Terry the locations of the more commonly known caves in the area. Its probably four years since I visited this lesser known cave. Another nearby cave with reports of air flow is filled in with a tonne of wire rubbish. 5U73 is not without its share of rubbish. If it wasn't for the garbage we would have needed a ladder set up to gain entry. A small consolation. This time I got to check out the southern end. Here was good potential. so Ray and I started pulling the rocks out of a narrow vertical slot. It didn't take long and I was able with a push from Ray to enter an upper level which yielded no further passage. Enthusiasm undiminished we went north, exploring the eastern wall as we went. This wall drops a good 4-5m. This section of the wall contains sporadic nodules of white decoration. Previously at the north end Gary Woodcock, Sue McCormick and myself had started a dig. Ray and I however started another dig near to the first spot. This time we found something of interest as I could see on for a further 4m or so underneath the rock pile. As this required enlargement we quit for the day and headed back the camp. Robyn had invited us over for dinner that evening. She produced a delicious Thai repast which we indulged with epicurean relish. Jeanette and Gary arrived late that evening.

Saturday 28 January 1995. We arranged for Robyn to join us surveying Blackberry cave 5U8/9. We encountered the usual difficulty in opening the gate. This was not the same deterrent as the sternum scourer was to Ray. So instead Ray and I backed out while the remaining party continued on to the last survey station. Ray and I then went to familiarise ourselves with the locations of other features not known to us. The main party covered reasonable ground on the survey.

Sunday 29 January 1995. In the morning we all went back into Blackberry cave to the Butterfly extension. Terry piked it through the initial stage (these young people have no stamina) and was escorted out by Jeanette and Robyn. On our last trip Gary had relocated the passage into the Black and White straw chamber. We surveyed more than 60m of which half was narrow, cramped and rock passage. Upon completing that section Gary set up his camera equipment.

Gary's fussing over back lighting and model positioning left a disgruntled Jeanette with a "Do It Yourself" expression. That's when Robyn and I started vying for the position of cave photographic model. Which I won! (Women should stick to calenders and leave the adventure stuff to us men) Afterwards we had a cursory inspection of the area which led to the fabulous flowstone waterfall (all possible care was taken when we traversed these areas). Robyn was quite in awe, along with Ray and the rest of us. Upon this we concluded out trip.

Eddie Rubessa

Burleeyung Cave Survey

18 June 1995

Party: Gary, Janet, Ann-Marie, Ray Gibbons and three locals from Burra.

This feature is about 30 metres long with two small chambers and one larger one at one end at the base of the entrance. The entrance is a vertical drop of five metres with a steel pipe ladder placed by the owner.

After entering the cave and looking around for a while the locals decided to leave the cave so the remaining caving party began the surveying.

While surveying we were surprised to find an existing survey point as we were under the impression that the cave hadn't been visited by any formal caving Group. If anyone has any information about this cave could you let the CEGSA Records know about the details.

Ray Gibbons

This cave turned out to be Burleeyung Cave 5A16. The survey trip of 28 September 1980 is reported in the CEGSA Newsletter volume 25 number 3, which also has a reprint from "The SA Register" of 8 November 1861 describing the cave Ed!

Nullarbor

18th April to 11th May 1995

Participants: Ken Boland (VSA) George MacLucas, June MacLucas and Frank Hankinson (CEGSA) full duration of trip.

Max Meth and Lance Hoey (CEGSA), Rob Klok and Dawn Graves (WASSG), Glen Baddeley and Erica Maggs (VSA), all joined the group for various length of time.

Manfred Walter and Sabine Muller from Germany. Miles Pierce (VSA) and Lloyd Robertson (IND) Canberra, joined the group for a few days only.

Features: Thampanna 6N206, Hurricane Hole 6N483, Goat Cave 6N745, 6N1315, Thampanna Rock Hole 6N1190, R/hole 6N612 and 6N613. Webb Cave 6N132, B/Hole 6N701, R/Hole 6N1317, Parritappa Doline 6N43, Spider Sink 6N41, Kestrel 1 6N40, and unnamed B/hole 6N1322, Kestrel 2, 6N42, Mullamullang 6N37, 6N37.2 and 6N37.4 Joes Cave 6N39, Walpet 6N38, R/hole 6N1317, doline 6N1318, R/hole 6N1320, R/hole 6N1321, Blow/hole 6N1326, R/hole 6N872, Doline 6N342, Bobobogal Doline 6N35, Firestick 6N70, Erosion Cave 6N36, Dingo Donga Cave 6N160, Lindsay Hall Cave 6N700, Plane Cave 6N1289, Doline 6N1327, Nurina Cave 6N46, Noonaera R/hole 6N870 and Windabijee Rock Hole 6N869.

There was a little mix up as to the day we had arranged to start this trip leaving from our place. Hence Glen and Erica both from Melbourne (VSA) arrived on Easter Monday April 17th. Ken Boland also from Melbourne (VSA) arrived a few hours later. We were not expecting them until the Tuesday night and of course had not finished our packing and shopping for one or two major items. This also meant Frank Hankinson had to leave his lady in a hurry and sleep over in order to make an early start in the morning. Lance called in to meet Ken and help with the packing, saying he will meet us at Madura Road House by bus in 2 weeks time.

Ken, Frank, Glen, and Erica, set off early Tuesday morning 18th April 1995, Ken and Frank purchased the fresh vegetables on the way, leaving George and myself to finish our shopping and packing of our trailer. Eventually George and I arrived at Max's place, Ceduna at 12.40am. We were greeted by Frank as we had his sleeping gear.

In the morning we found Glen's vehicle had a puncture. After repair, we set off for Eucla old camp site (from 1994 trip) 10 km from Eucla Golf course.

While at the Eucla Road House Manfred Walter and Sabine Muller cavers from Germany, recognized water tanks on top of our vehicle, came over and promptly introduced themselves as other members of our group. They had found their own way to Weebubbe, Abrakurrie and Witches and were about to join us at Thampanna Cave when they seen us at the road house.

Called in to Mundrabilla Station to give a small painting to Bob and Lucy Eglinton in appreciation for letting us track all over their property. Unfortunately no one was home. While taking in the view from the escarpment we encountered two Plane cavers heading into Mundrabilla for supplies. They had been out on the Nullarbor for a week with Max Hall. Max originally was to join our group but had taken up the offer to travel with the Plane Cavers that were using an ultra-light plane to spot caves. We were invited to call on their camp but decided to continue on to Thampanna.

Much later I heard through Max Meth that this group were successful in finding some 54 new caves, with 6 caves well over 200 metre.

While travelling to Thampanna we made a very quick stop at Kelly and Thylacine Caves. We also called into Webb Cave and ran into a group of Scouts led by Michael Woodward. We were informed Simon Kendrick and Alan Jevons were already camped at Thampanna with about a dozen Scouts.

Just before dark we set up camp 20th April at Thampanna camp site. Huddled around the camp fire we proceeded to name the various tenting areas. Ken Boland was camped near us, so we were called Boland Estate. Glen and Erica's area was Glenville, Scouts Scoutsville, Frank's area was Frankwood as he was camped out in the sticks. After the evening meal we were entertained by the troops, an echo blaster belonging to the Scouts, played until 11.00pm.

Eventually on April 21st after breakfast we all made for the entrance of Thampanna to set up our gear. The Scouts, or Venturers had several lines down and were already abseiling down the pitch.

The principal aim of this particular trip was to camp for 6 days in this area to enable Ken to continue surveying Thampanna 6N206 and to tie up some loose ends left from some of his previous trips. When this was accomplished it was agreed we would look at the itinerary and sort out some agreeable plan to continue on with. In the meantime those of us who were not surveying found plenty of time to visit other caves in the area.

On the first day of the survey while so many were waiting to descend the pitch, George prompted by Ken commandeered two volunteers from the Scouts to help with surveying. When asked if they had their lunch, we were told by their leader Michael Woodward that they had to be out by 2.00pm.

According to Ken, both Frank and the Scouts loved the "Solution Tube" and the "Plug Hole" and even didn't mind the "Drain". They chose to start the survey with the "Railway Tunnel," however most of the morning was spent in a large chamber with decoration. Around about here, Frank found the rare *Tartarus Thampannensis* female spider. A beautiful blind white spider with a cone shaped web of lace with various anchor points stretched out from ceiling to floor. (*See photograph on front cover of Newsletter! Ed*).

Meanwhile, George and I went to the Phreatic Tube area with Glen and Erica. A rather popular area for photographs. After stopping for lunch, Glen and Erica continued with their survey and George and I decided to tackle the Drain. While in the Drain we encountered the Scouts on their way out. They greeted us with somewhat dismay that they still had a way to go and then asked us "...if Ken was really an undertaker". We found this amusing as it was later sorted out that Frank told them when they asked what would happen if they died in this cave, that they would be O.K. as Ken was in the business. As most of you know Ken is a Priest.

Ken mentions in his report of this survey CEGSA Newsletter Vol. 40 No. 2, that traversing the drain takes between 6 to 60 minutes according to agility and level of pain endurance. Well some of us found it long but relaxing, as I found out while talking to George during a rest period in the freezing drain, that George was stretched out sound asleep catching up on his Z's. We failed to find Ken and Frank, so returned to camp to prepare evening meal.

2nd day of the survey. It rained quite a bit during the night so the camp area was a bit muddy. After breakfast we all bid goodbye to the Scouts when Miles and Rhonwen Pierce (VSA) and Lloyd and Dorothy Robertson from Canberra arrived. They were on their way to the Kimberleys via the Nullarbor as part of their trip around Australia.

Eventually we all descended down the pitch of which Frank expressed some concern about the rain that fell during the night. The cave certainly did show signs of flooding throughout most of the passages from the heavy rains in the area a few months earlier. It was agreed that one would best be on the surface if such heavy rains were to fall during this trip.

Ken and Frank continued their surveying tying up the loose ends etc., Meanwhile Glen and Erica enjoyed each others company and George and I went down Thampanna staying most of the time in the main chamber of the entrance pitch. I completed a reasonable sized pastel and charcoal drawing with the aid of a small gas light, while George went off exploring the vast entrance chamber. Later we returned to the surface and cooked curry and rice, damper with apricots and sunflower seeds served around a good camp fire with excellent company, including a few bats that were heard flying around.

For the next few days, each night and morning we would all listen to Lloyd tell fascinating stories of his adventures and experiences of caving etc., He told stories he had heard at school as a young lad of whalers getting water from down by the cliffs, fresh water. That John Ayres, the explorer, was in a boat at the base of the cliffs and had ran out of water and that whalers had showed him where to find it. The implications of what this could mean are easy to estimate.

Third day at Thampanna Sunday April 24th at breakfast, Lloyd proudly showed us his Diprotodon. It consisted of an empty tin of Brasso containing magnesium powder, motor bike light and bits and pieces, finished off with a pink balloon tucked up under his arm like a bagpipe. This was used to throw a huge light for taking photographs in caves. Unfortunately we never seen it in action but we heard many funny stories of its use.

Straight after Lloyds entertainment, Ken and Frank joined by Manfred and Sabine surveyed along "Gnome Point" to "Turkey's Nest". George and I said goodbye to Miles and Lloyd and their wives. We then had a photographic and explorative day wondering throughout many areas of Thampanna. We came out mid afternoon to find that Max Meth had arrived from Old Homestead Cave. Also at some stage of the day Max Hall had called in and left his calling card. Unfortunately no one was on the surface to greet either of them. There was still enough time before dark for Max, George and myself to go to Goat cave 6N745. 400 metres SW of Goat Cave we took a look at the wombat diggings before returning to camp.

4th day of survey Ken, Frank, George and myself went down to continue the survey passed "Gnome Point" to a large chamber which had been found south of the first rock pile. Frank wished to return to a section they named "Fuff" chute. A smallish opening on the south side of the "Railway Tunnel". Ken and I decided to continue on and survey the chamber. Found "Gnome Point" to be beautiful black stalagmites juxtaposed to white stalagmites. Reminded me of Alice "Through the Looking Glass," with black king, queen, bishop and pawns from a chess set. Max spent the day with Manfred and Sabine at Hurricane Hole 6N483, 1.4km SE of Thampanna. Max returned first so cooked the evening meal.

It was already the 5th day of our stay at Thampanna. On the 25th April after a breakfast of pancakes, we said our good-byes to Manfred and Sabine. They were going onto Mullamullang. Ken and Frank spent the day exploring and surveying some of the tubes at the far end of "Seeing Red". Frank was excited about his find of some decoration at a mid level and reported that in this area the possibilities appear to be bountiful. Glen and Erica continued to survey other areas of the cave. Max, George and I returned to Goat Cave where I spent several hours drawing inside the main entrance chamber. During this time, Max and George went off to survey and tag the Wombat Diggings 6N1315. In all, some 14 wombat burrows, half of which still appear to be occupied. Later while I prepared the evening meal, Max and George went to collect water for washing purposes from Thampanna Rock Hole 6N1190. Frank brought out from Thampanna a rather beautiful light coloured thick tailed gecko, that we photographed with my new light weight close up lens.

6th day was a rest day for the surveyors, they needed to rest from so many days spent traversing the "Drain" and the crawl in the "Muddle". Now that we had extra water, most of us washed our hair and our overalls. We all went to see Max at Hurricane Hole and lend a hand to clear the entrance of debris. We removed a few large rocks from down the entrance hole. At first it was thought that the best way would be to tie rope to the largest rocks and use our vehicle but the rope broke and the old fashioned way of hand over hand proved the best solution. Later George, Frank and I went to Webb Cave 6N132, where I spent two hours drawing inside the main entrance chamber by gas light. Max went to blowhole 6N701. Ken cooked the evening meal.

7th day, Thursday 27th April at 10.00am, Ken, Frank and I went down Thampanna for a pleasurable photographic day, emerging at 8.00pm Took many photographs of "The White Lady," Tartarus Thampannensis, "Gnome Point", "Arch Angel," "Stags' Demise" and many other areas. Meanwhile George boiled all the rock hole water, as we found living "things" swimming around when looking through my new enlargement lens. Max went off to Rock hole 6N612 and 6N613 located on the ridge top. This time George cooked tea. At bed time it was thought that we may have to re enter the cave as Glen and Erica had not returned. While working out if we should wait until morning, or venture down now, they reappeared tired but well. Rained most of the night.

Started the next day with great fun cooking our own pancakes while Ken called out commentaries. (you had to be there). Both George I decided to take Frank to see Goat Cave. On the way back we called in on Max at Hurricane Hole where Frank was delighted to lend a hand. When the dust settled you could see a passage heading north for about 5 metres. We stayed until dark. Ken walked the 1.4km from Thampanna to give Max a "make do" bucket from a cut down water bottle. In the afternoon Ken spent time sorting his notes and redrawing the new surveyed areas of Thampanna, he then cooked tea. We all went to bed early as it was raining quite hard. Glen and Erica were planning to head off to Mullamullang but due to the rain decided it best to wait and travel with the other vehicles leaving together in the morning.

Saturday 29th April after a wet night, we packed up our gear and headed towards Mullamullang Cave 6N37. Heading West along the northern boundary fence of Mundrabilla Station. Stopped at rock hole 6N1317, where there is also 2 small rock holes. Heading north following the boundary fence of Mundrabilla/Madura Station, while still on Mundrabilla we found a wide shallow doline 6N1318.

After entering Madura Station and heading north about 1 km from the gate we came to Parritappa Doline 6N43. A rather large doline that is remarkably shaped like Noah's Ark with vertical cliffs at the north end. We found two small caves that don't appear to go anywhere. We also spent time admiring the millions of fossils embedded in the cliff face. Frank found a beautiful large bluish native cockroach *Nomadacris Subzonata* that I photographed. We continued on noticing the hundreds of new born lambs running around. Stopped at Madura Windmill for water, arriving at Mullamullang about 4.00pm. Later that night Erica and Glen reported seeing a herd of about 16 wild ponies. Ken presented a fresh rabbit which we readily put in the pot towards flavouring our evening meal. It was a clear evening, so later that night George, Ken, Frank and I went down to the doline to experiment taking photographs with George walking down the doline using a carbide helmet light. It was fun but the photographs were a miserable failure.

Next morning it rained for hours. We planned to wait until Lance arrived by bus the next day before venturing into Mullamullang. We spent the day looking around the doline. George went down "Refrigerator" 6N37.2 a pitch of 3 metres. Ken, Max and George then went down South entrance of Mullamullang 6N37.4. This goes a fair way and its actual extent is unknown at this stage. As it was quite wet I sheltered from the rain under the South entrance overhang and completed another pastel/charcoal drawing. Erica and Glen ventured into Mullamullang as far as the 1 mile mark. Frank took a well earned rest and stayed in his tent to read his book. At 4.00pm, Max, George and I left for Madura Road House to have a shower and pick up Lance. Bus from Adelaide was due in at 3.00am.

The track to Madura was a bit rough but reasonably dry, kept stopping to pick up rocks from the track. In this area so many kangaroos trying to outrun the vehicle. Had our steak and chips first, then a wonderful long, long shower. In the Motel we met Dennis Nash, co-manager of Madura Plains Station. He told us about a cave he had found earlier in the year while putting in new fences and that he had told Miles Pierce and Lloyd Robertson when they came through a few days earlier. Max took note of location and it was decided that we will take a look in the morning. We then returned to the car and tried to sleep while waiting for Lance to arrive by bus. Not much luck of that, so much noise, drunks singing full blast on a karaoke, motors running all night from parked refrigerated semi trucks. It was too much after two weeks in the bush. Lance arrived at 2.00am. On the drive back to camp a kangaroo run into the side of our vehicle leaving behind an indentation of his body on the side of the car. Arriving back at camp we were greeted warmly by Ken in his long red nightdress (true) and Frank waiting for his special bottle of port he asked for. A few grunts came from Max's tent. It was now 3.30am so took ourselves off to bed.

Next day 1st May, we decided that since we intended to go "all the way" to the end of Mullamullang and we were all tired from such a late night picking up Lance, it would be best to spend the day looking at near by caves. It was also a good opportunity to look at the new cave Dennis had mentioned.

The first cave we went to was Joes Cave 6N39 situated inside a large doline of about 100 metres. This cave has an attractive entrance. Inside there is very dark rock caused by the bacteria from the many birds living in the entrance, similar to Webb, even smelt like Webb. One low chamber running off to the right has a really huge, low almost horizontal slab. There is a passage way to a chamber under this slab. No one looked further into this area. We all headed off to the long crawling passage that goes eventually to a rock pile ending in a small difficult squeeze. I read in one of Max's past reports that he has been able to squeeze through here. Max found a rock hole inside the doline itself 6N1320. Then 200 metres away, Ken found quite a significant rock hole 6N1321.

We then headed north to Walpet Cave 6N38. This is also an attractive doline. There is evidence of a recent collapse.

After Walpet we went onto Kestrel 1, 6N40. Lance was hoping for an abseil but we were all too anxious to find the new cave that Dennis Nash had told us about. We found the track but due to the blue bush left our vehicles and walked the 300 metres west of the main track to the new cave, 6N1322 (unnamed at the moment). The cave has an approx., 3 metres by about 1 metre drop in. There are two immediate chambers, one on the right and left of the entrance. Ken and Frank went off to the right which showed some promise, Max brought out his tape measure and George and I went left finding a low area with hundreds of small hatched reptile eggs. Max and Ken assured me that the eggs were vacated years ago, so being keen for a close up shot of the eggs I laid down to take some photographs. Frank pointed out what he thought were tracks made by a snake. All said no, but the very next day, Dawn seen live snakes at this particular spot. Meanwhile Ken and Frank found old Kestrel eggs and a small dog like skull which was thought could be a Thylacine skull. This has since been handed onto the SA Museum, which was found to be an old fox skull. Max decided to clear the track of blue bush for the vehicles to come through, pass the new cave and onto a main track beyond. It was decided that it was still too risky, so we walked back to Kestrel 1 and the vehicles. It was now dark and we returned to camp to celebrate my birthday. Lance had brought a suitcase full of fresh vegetables and fruit. Imagine after two weeks on the Nullarbor, fresh strawberries, chocolate cake with cream and a Chinese stir fry, cooked by George with fresh crisp french beans. Ken produced a candle and a large chocolate bar as after dinner mints. This was all washed down with the usual white or red. All this and a new cave too, no one could have asked for a better birthday.

Most of us had a disturbed night from a storm with heavy rain and strong winds but in the morning of the 2nd May it had cleared enough for Glen to take a photograph of the group before going into Mullamullang. Last night I had a dream that I was going to an island called Mullamullang by cable car and had lost the entrance ticket which had printed on it just one word "BIG".

After breakfast Ken, Frank, George, Lance and I went into Mullamullang at 9.30am. What a wonderful cave. Most know there are over 49 rock piles one way, some very steep over 200 feet high and many wonderful lakes. We stopped at the 1 mile marker and read the booklet and the note left by Glen and Erica the day before. In the meantime Dawn and Rob Klok from WASSG arrived and joined us at white lake. It was spectacular to watch their lights as they walked down the huge rock pile to the lake below. The colours of this spot are unbelievably beautiful. Its a pity that its too far and hazardous to carry my paints and canvas. On the surface it is reasonably flat, barren and dry, while beneath that same surface there are mountains of boulders, valleys and lakes of incredible futuristic beauty. Every step taken and corner turned there is something different to see, or experience. Even the vast ceiling inside the cave has its own beauty and character.

As we have been told, we found this cave to be a challenge. Not an easy cave at all and if you rest too long, the old knee joints stiffen up, making it difficult to climb and descend the many steep rock piles. Eventually we reached the plateau just before the dome. Signed the book and rested for a while before the return journey.

On the way back Frank, Rob and Dawn went swimming in Lake Cigalere, near Camp One. George, Lance and I were too tired to make the effort required to take off our gear. After a suitable rest we set off again. Rob and Dawn went ahead and explored Ezam Extension down to the squeeze. On the way out due to fatigue, George had a nasty fall narrowly missing his face on a sharp rock. We all gave a sigh of relief, as although Frank had taken extra gear in case of an accident, no one liked the prospects of carrying George out by make do stretcher. We returned to the surface at 3.30am, where there was a nice light rain, our journey had taken 18 hours. We were greeted by Max who took George under his wing. He had prepared a fire with plenty of hot water to wash our weary bodies and a most welcome hearty hot stew. We all went to bed about 5.00am very tired but quite content.

3rd May woke about 10.00am quite refreshed and although we have a few bruises and blisters, we were amazed that we could move at all. We decided to take it a bit easy today and set off for Kestrel 2, 6N41. We notice some severe erosion from the heavy rains to the walls of the entrance since the previous year when Max, George and I had walked down with the aid of a rope, then a ladder for the last 4 metres. The entrance looked unstable and possibly should only be tackled by abseiling from the overhang side. We then went onto Spider Sink 6N41 where Max, Dawn, Rob and Lance lent Max a hand to clear some debris and examine the phreatic passages. We returned to 6N1322 where Dawn found a live snake. Max found a doline 6N1323. Ken cooked a wonderful fresh rabbit stew, I cooked an apple crumble and Dawn made fresh bread. It rained so turned in at 10.00pm.

4th May we said goodbye to Mullamullang, some of us declaring never to undertake such a journey again, while Frank declared given half the chance, he would go back in tomorrow. Packed the vehicles went to doline 6N342. A few dead Acacia or Mulga trees around the top of the doline. Several possibilities but no cave found.

Set up camp at Firestick Cave 6N70. Ken and Frank were ahead of us and placed markers on the bushes (toilet paper) to lead us to the camp. Wonderful camp site, plenty of wood right at our site. Had a quick look at Firestick before dark. Cliff face has drop of 32 -33 metres. Quite an impressive doline. Dawn cooked fish curry and we used a fresh coconut that Lance had in his never ending supply of goodies from his suitcase. Ken brought out a very nice fruit cake made by a friend in Melbourne. The rain appears to have gone.

Next day, 5th May was a beautiful day and after breakfast we went down to look at Firestick Cave. Frank, Lance, Dawn and Rob abseiled in. Lance enjoyed it so much he abseiled down several times. Max went off to check out Bobobogal Cave 6N35 as he had not seen it since the Army had been there in October 1994. I set up my easel on the edge of the doline while the others had a quick look in the cave.

Later we all walked to Bobobogal Cave 6N35 and Erosion Cave 6N36. Bobobogal Cave has possibilities with a strong breeze coming out but is a bit unstable. Erosion Cave has a narrow crawl that Lance investigated. Plenty of Swallow nests under a small overhang. Later Frank, George and I went down Firestick to take photographs using a carbide lamp. Later I made stuffed pumpkins and pumpkin soup, Dawn made a coleslaw and Ken a damper. Max returned saying he has seen a group of 30 kangaroos.

Very heavy dew this morning, packed most of the gear except for the tents, decided to let them dry in the sun for a spell and go back down the cave. I thought I would take in a Walkman with tape to hear, or feel, the effects of music in the cave's main chamber. Paul Horn Inside the Great Pyramid recording of flute and vocals in an Egyptian Tomb. Remarkable music at home in a small studio, you feel like you are in a huge chamber, which I was but it sounded so spooky I wanted to run and realised that when in a cave I preferred the usual absolute natural silence.

Finally we packed and headed south to Dingo Donga Cave 6N160. This would have to be one of the most attractive dolines you could see on the Nullarbor. There is a variable 2 to 5 metre drop in around the circular doline, beautifully lined inside with quite a few Acacia trees with a cave entrance each end. One is small but the other is a cave that has several strong possibilities with a good breeze blowing from at least two likely areas. One was quite exciting. Several dingo skulls were found. It has a bell tower (a dome) that goes up into a roof, housing a colony of about 50 live bats. This cave is also home to a feral cat that had taken refuge down a small hole. Max went off with Dawn and Rob looking for Plane Cave and Crash Cave. They returned to say that Rob almost got shot by shooters. He seen them and waved and they returned it with a shot. Missed him by only a few metres, he was lucky they were in no condition for shooting. Rob and Dawn returned to camp a bit shaken up by it. The shooters didn't stop or acknowledge them. It was decided to report this to the Manager at Madura Homestead in the morning. Ken found two little bunnies that went into the stew pot. Frank set up a trap with cord at the entrance to one of the many rabbit burrows to see if he could rustle up something for tomorrow's tea.

In the morning 7th May, Ken, Max and Rob went to the Madura Homestead enjoying a serve of tea and chocolate biscuits. Apparently the shooters were a little under the weather and knew nothing of what happened. Dawn, Lance and Frank set up the SRT gear to go down Lindsay Hall Cave 6N700. A near vertical drop of 27 metres into a chamber 60 x 40m which has plenty of potential. George and I stayed at Dingo Donga and set up the easel down in the doline where I completed 3 pastel drawings. George went off exploring leaving me to draw in peace. Just after dark Max returned to camp with Dawn, they had been looking once again for Plane Cave and had found it. Max had followed the swallows returning to the cave to roost. It was within walking distance about 3 km away.

After the evening meal we all went down Dingo Donga again where Max found a small hole with a breeze. Max and Ken went in a bit further where previously Frank had found a very strong breeze coming from a passage heading downwards. This had quite a bit of potential. This campsite has offered some of the most magnificent sunsets I have ever seen and Ken, Frank and I have taken every opportunity to capture it on film.

May 8th and Max was up and off early still looking for Crash Cave but unfortunately without success. It was decided that on this trip we have enjoyed some excellent meals of green curries, Italian style pasta, Chinese stir fry, rabbit stews, monster sized quiches, stuffed pumpkins, pumpkin soup, apple & date slice, apple crumble, scones, pancakes, freshly baked bread and endless variety of dampers all cooked by either Ken, George, Dawn or myself. All this around some excellent camp fires. We were indeed armchair cavers and it was decided we were in fact, The Gourmet Armchair Cavers. So we took ourselves, chairs and table down into the doline for a members photograph.

After another quick look at Dingo Donga we set off for the walk to Plane Cave 6N1289. A west bearing of 280 degrees from our camp. According to Max this cave had a previous name of Scaddons Cave named after a bore near by. The cave itself has a short but steep descend down slippery moss covered rocks that is climbable with care. Evidence of small colony of bats. Found various small skulls of rabbits and dingos. Several fire sticks were found along with graffiti on the far walls, perhaps made by station hands years ago. Rob found a small tight lead and engaged Lance to see how far it went. Quite a few swallows living in this cave.

Later Ken and Frank returned to their "finds" in Dingo Donga and George and myself went to Lindsay Hall Cave. We found there was a strong breeze blowing up from the hole making it very hard to descend down. George went first and blew the whistle to indicate he was off rope. With the strong force coming out, it was impossible to hear. I have never encountered such a difficult descend. Should have removed some lugs from the rack, except I knew this pitch had quite a drop into a black pit. Great fun and a lot easier coming out. It was dark when we returned to camp, we could pick up the hurricane light hanging in the tree from 4 km away. They still haven't found Crash Cave but Frank and Max found a blowhole 6N1326, about 3 km SE of Dingo Donga.

May 9th and its our last day on the Nullarbor. Said goodbye to Rob and Dawn hoping to see them again next year. Max returned from his last look for Crash Cave. Headed south to the Madura Road House for some hot pies for lunch and to fill up with fuel. We all rang home to check our families etc., While in the bar buying coke or whatever, we noticed a sign. Y.C.W.C.Y.I.D.F.T.F.D.S.T.Y. which means, Your Curiosity will Cost You One Dollar For The Flying Doctor Service Thank You. So we all paid up.

After leaving Madura Road House we crossed the Eyre Highway and stopped at the Old Madura Station for Lance to check on the old cars stacked there. We then continued onto Nurina Cave 6N46. We dropped Max leaving him 3 km from the cave as he wanted to take a look around. Ken, Frank, Lance, George and myself went into Nurina Cave. A few twists and turns and you come to the water level. I recognized Norm Poulter's photographs from several different areas as we traversed the water filled passages. We decided not to do the circuit and we all took photographs instead. On the way back to the highway we picked up Max at the given spot (he had found a doline 6N1327) to find that his arms were full of marine fossils that he had picked up off the side of the track. This was great fun, riding shotgun, everyone for themselves, looking for treasure. There were heaps of fossils just lying on either side of the track dumped by the Department of Roads. They had come from a nearby quarry. None of us could believe it and proceeded to pick up wonderful specimens, some quite large and intact. We decided to return to Mundrabilla Station to drop off the painting for the Eglintons. Still no one home, so we left it in their shed, or store room near the house with a note thanking them. Ken since has heard that they were delighted.

We then took the track opposite the station on the other side of the Eyre Highway and headed for the beach following the fence line. We are still not sure if Max knew how dreadful this track was or not but it was very rough and difficult and appeared to have not been used for many years. Made camp in amongst trees near Noonaera ruins. A pleasant and well protected area with huge ant holes everywhere.

There is something about the last day that is so final you try to take in as much as you can. Kept waking up trying to see the sunrise but it was too cold to get out of the tent. Breakfast of nice sweet hot porridge. Ken wrote his notes on the survey of Thampanna while Frank, Lance George and I walked to the beach. Max went off to tag the Noonaera Rock hole 6N870. We walked through the sand dunes and vegetation to the beach. The sand here is so white and smooth. Seen a dolphin swimming not far away. Frank found several pumice stones and we all found various sea shells. On the way back to camp stopped at Noonaera Ruins and Noonaera Rock hole 6N870, quite a large rockhole. Found Ken and Max packing up so we were off again. Before we left this scrub area we found Windabijee Rockhole 6N869 which Max tagged. Our last look at the Nullarbor from the window of the car, was a beautiful sunset lighting the sky like a terrifying bush fire all around us. Arrived Ceduna 8.45pm.

Ray had prepared a welcoming meal of baked fish with vegetables and a lemon jelly with cherries on top.

Next morning 11th May, Ken and Frank left Ceduna for Adelaide and George, Lance and I decided to look at some large rocks at Wudinna that Lance mentioned earlier. At Wudinna we turned off to the left for Wudinna Mt. and followed the track 14 km to an outcrop of large rocks. Said to be the 2nd largest rock after Ayres Rock. The sign erected at Mt. Wudinna Park says there are Tafoni caves found in the granite outcrop. Perhaps we will look into this another day. The mountain area through the Eyre Peninsula that takes in Darke Peak etc., seems to have various caves in granite outcrops along the way. It has been Ken's wish to have a closer look at this area some time in the future. Perhaps next year after another week surveying Thampanna.

June MacLucas

Corra Lynn Cave

2 July 1995

Party: Chris Hales and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5Y1.

After advertising this trip at the last general meeting I received only one person interested in coming along. We spent the day exploring the far reaches of Crystal Maze trying to find more passage but with little success.

Paul Harper

Lower South East

February - July 1995

Features: L5, L21, L23, L25, L74, L107, L308, L337 - 353

Vulcon has finished, cavers have returned home, and those of us in the South East have been able to settle down and get back to caving uninterrupted by cavers from elsewhere. Survey, exploration and documentation has continued with 15 new features being numbered.

Survey work in the Monbulla - Wrecked Car system continued with three underground trips being run. A trip to establish level control and to level the entrance of L25 was also run. Wall detail has been completed and the map showing the complete cave is now available for purchase. Mark Thiselton assisted with the survey whilst down here. Some interior detail, particularly joint details, still needs to be completed. Although a dune system, jointing appears to have had a major influence on the cave development. Comments on this aspect of the cave were made some years ago by David Hawke in his thesis. Surface detail still needs to be plotted to compare cave development with surface development.

Other survey work to be done saw local divers assisting in defining the limits of L107 and local cavers helping to survey and/or resurvey L74, L308, L337, L339, L348, L351, L352 and L353. The last three were of interest as they are in the walls of Valley Lake. Local kids using the lake as a swimming venue use L351 to negotiate the cliff to get to a diving rock. L352 and L353 are in the basaltic layer of the lake wall. L352 exhibits jointing characteristics and also contains a flattener section much like a limestone cave. One immediately suspects it may be a tension split but it shows no signs of splitting away from the main body of basalt. A most interesting cave. It was named Two Torch Cave as the kids who showed it to us found two abandoned torches in the cave. L353 is lower down in the flow and occurs in a band of highly fractured basalt. Water levels in the region have been at their lowest levels for quite some time allowing access to areas not always available. Recent rains have seen water levels start to rise so if you want to visit those areas, forget it, you are too late.

Search and rescue training has not been forgotten. A cave search exercise was conducted in L119 during May. This exercise was then used as a basis to plan a training course which followed. A practical training exercise is planned to follow on in the near future.

The Inside Earth art and photographic exhibition was held in Mount Gambier in June and Elery Hamilton-Smith kindly agreed to open the exhibition. It attracted wide public interest with many of those who visited the exhibition returning with friends. June is to be congratulated for the effort she has put in to preparing and maintaining the exhibition. George and June helped survey L339 while they were down here.

Mount Gambier Goal has had recurring trouble with collapses occurring on the perimeter of the goal complex. These are being monitored on an ongoing basis. they are probably a result of earthworks to level the site and changing drainage patterns which now channel runoff into a more confined area. It has been recommended that the collapse area be fenced off and allowed to stabilise before filling with solid fill. Another interesting collapse that is being monitored is one in the Scrimber factory. This also occurred after some heavy rains (*surprise, surprise, surprise!*) in an area set aside for stormwater retention. The collapse is in an area of loosely consolidated marl.

The Rendelsham Youth Camp is proceeding, with a development application currently under consideration. Local cavers are assisting the project and offering advice on cave protection and development. Many tonnes of rubbish have already been removed from the cave. When caving in the South East it would be worth arranging a visit to the site to see what can be achieved when developers consult with cavers.

In addition about a dozen other minor features or collapses were recorded.

Kevin Mott

Vertical Training

9 July 1995

Party: Chris Hales, June and George MacLucas, Frank Hankinson, Lance Hoey, Yarna Starska, Anne-Marie Hubycz, and Paul Harper.

Feature: Gawler Bridge.

The day was spent going up and down and sideways trying out new and well tried techniques while a few newer members were shown some basics.

Paul Harper

Corra Lynn Cave

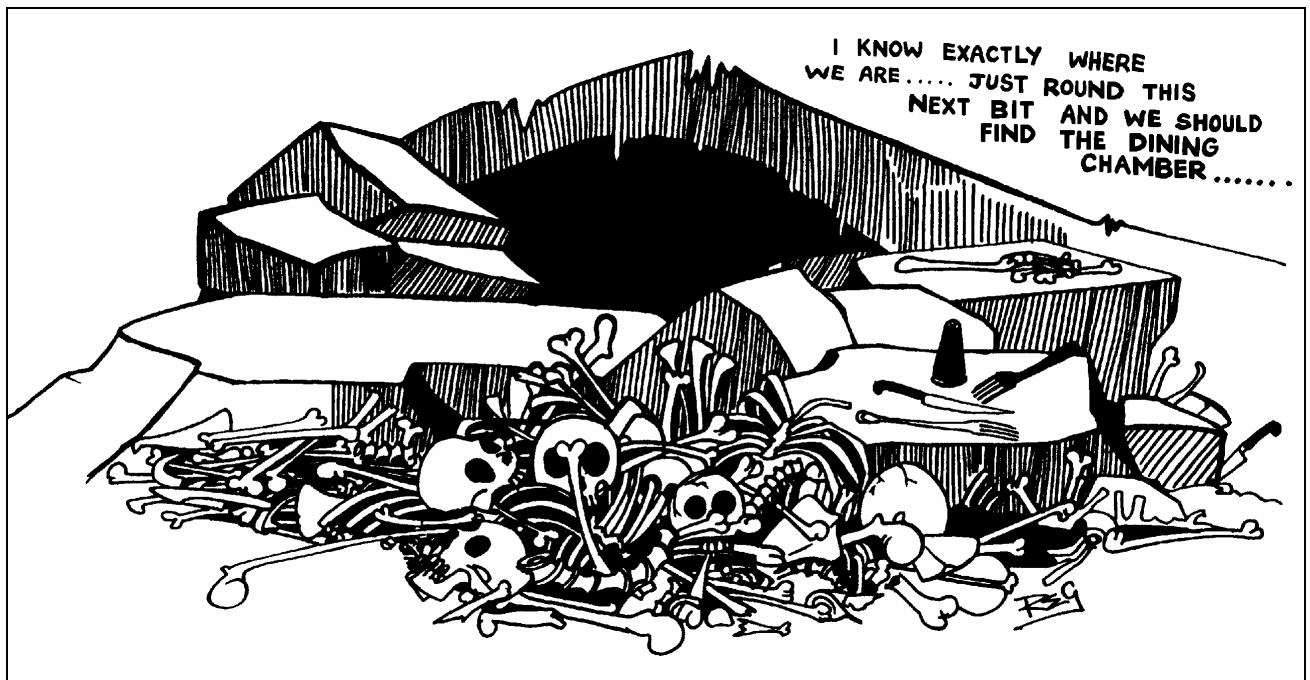
23 July 1995

Party: Jo Baur, Chris Hales and Paul Harper.

Feature: 5Y1.

We spent the day exploring the Crystal Maze area looking for leads. We then went to Crystal Attic to have a look around.

Paul Harper



Could this have been the scene at "The Kitchen" during the 1996 expeditions of Mullamullang cave 6N37?

This cartoon was drawn by Robin Gray of Cheddar, Somerset, England.
It is one of several cartoons that he has provided to June MacLucas for inclusion in our Newsletter.

Corra Lynn Cave 5Y1

22 July 1995

Party: Graham & Rodger Pilkington, June & George MacLucas, Simon Kendrick, Lance Hoey, Genelle Bettison.

An ideal caving day, many roads where under water cutting access to some hills towns. But we were OK, we were at Corra Lynn. Water only just managed to reach the entrance. Other than a decided reluctance to get out of the dry vehicle to travel the few metres down the doline, we had a nice warm day underground.

The intent of the trip was to show June and George some of Dreamland. However, George failed the letterbox test and had to stay in the Old Cave. He entertained himself for nine hours by checking out some of the local tunnels. He now knows why we don't travel down most of them - they are only good for leaning how to go in reverse.

Then there were six. On to the Portal. Not trusting the rope that someone had left trailing down the pitch, I free-climbed it. Well almost. I must be getting old, I needed a couple of boosts to speed up the ascent. Once up there I checked out the rope and found it OK but installed a ladder for the others anyway. Even then, some found it hard to climb. The problem is that the ladder stays in a narrow bit of the fissure hence climbers need to ascend away from the ladder they are climbing. This goes against all the training that CEGSA makes them do!

A detour to the Freeway and examination of some red-beds with bones. Sorry Neville, the only good ones were cemented in and for once (and I mean once) I was travelling light, i.e. without a hammer. Then on to The Carrot. While June sketched Rodger and Lance in a sleepy repose, Simon, Genelle and I went on a survey binge.

And then there were three. The last bit of Dreamland beyond the Portal (until I show the map to some of our avid explorers) has now been surveyed. I said beyond the Portal: a few metres of tunnels "behind" the Portal still need completing. So I still have a "good" reason for some more masochistic caving. My companions had done little or no prior surveying. They now know that surveying is the only way to thoroughly explore a cave! Most of the tunnels in our survey area had false floors (that is, a calcite bridge across them covered in cave debris so that when on the upper deck it is nearly impossible to tell that a walking tunnel lies a few centimetres beneath your feet. I have always wondered if the cave's length should include only one or both tunnels. To cavers they are completely independent, but to a Geomorphologist they are the same tunnel. The same difficulty in definition occurs in rockpile chambers when many independent (to a caver) negotiable tunnels traverse between the boulders.

After the survey was made, it was too late to take the others on tour of Dreamland. At least that is what they tried to make me believe, but I heard comments about conserving what energy they had left for descending The Portal and getting through the Alberta crawlways.

George had only exited the cave a short time before we did so he did not get too bored waiting. Paul Harper and Chris Hales arrived as we were de-trogging. They had the night shift before leading a beginners trip on Sunday. After waving off Simon's van and the underground party, five of us piled into my van to head back to Adelaide. We didn't get far - the battery must have left with the others, it sure wasn't present when I tried the starter. A few hundred metres of pushing got us going. A pity really, we would have had a great excuse for staying for another trip into the cave.

Graham Pilkington

Corra Lynn Cave

5 August 1995

Party: Frank Hankinson, Tracy Colhoun, John Meikle, Marie Choi, Fern Raintree, Bill Binks, Paul Harper.

Feature: 5Y1.

Well the party all wanted to go to Dreamland as they had heard all these wonderful stories regarding this section of cave. Little did they know that it is just as low and crawly as the rest of the cave! Only it takes a lot longer to get there and get back out again. After doing a large circuit the party was suitably impressed with the complexity of the Dreamland Maze and were ready for the one and a half hour trip out.

Paul Harper

Burleeyung Cave 5A16

8 October 1995

Party: George MacLucas (Leader) June MacLucas, Aaron MacLucas, Lance Hoey and Ray Gibbons.

The focus for this trip was threefold.

1. To look for myself how this cave had given some confusion as to why it was listed in Adelaide Region and not the Flinders Region.
2. To compare the glossy report of the cave from The SA Register Newspaper 8th November 1861 to the present day.
3. To give the landowner a copy of update map of this cave which was surveyed in 1995 by G Woodcock, R Gibbons and J Chapman. Drawn by G Woodcock. Also provide a copy of a report on the cave from a newspaper article from 1861.

From the Occasional Paper Number 5, by Ian D Lewis in 1976, Adelaide Hills Region page 24, shows end of eastern area as "Eastern boundary Edge of Rangers". This Range is North Mount Lofty Rangers as shown Worlds End Map 6730-3 1:50000 Topographic Series.

Hence the confusion, the area looks like Flinders Rangers with skimpy eucalyptus trees and dry creek beds, and why not, as approximately 60 km north the Flinders Ranges start their rise.

The SA Register Newspaper Report 1861.

..... All was stone and rock, hard and flinty; no earth or soft ground was to be seen anywhere. Arrived at the end of this chamber by the light of our candles, ...then some crawling and squeezes ...to lower section. Here the top and sides were completely encrusted with beautifully white stalactites wreathed in fantastic forms, and reflecting both the feeble light of our candles with tenfold luster. Having rested ourselves and procured some of the most beautiful specimens of stalactite, we proceeded through small apertures into other chambers and the further we penetrated the more beautiful did they appear we reluctantly abandoned further research and after securing more stalactites specimens, returned to the surface

Alas, today in this cave there is not one stalactite to be found, there is evidence of removal everywhere. The rock is still hard and flinty, the quartz shows an occasional piece of crystal but of poor quality.

On leaving this cave the real saga of our day was about to unfold.

On returning to the car our grandson Aaron MacLucas, aged 9, asked to follow the creek on our right hand side. The rest of us were walking down the side of the hill direct to the car amongst the trees some 50 metres from the cave. Suddenly he ran across our path about 30 metres in front of us straight up and over the hill. I whistled, but he did not hear. In retrospect I realise it was a panic run, he thought he had lost us, and there we were behind him. We took off after him but he had disappeared, we could see the car but no Aaron.

The worry was, what would he do. Having only four adults the type of search was limited. Emphasis was on speed before he travelled too far away. June and Ray to follow creek, Lance headed for high ground, I stayed with the vehicle, starting the diesel and blasting the horn. After 20 minutes I shifted the vehicle to the nearby creek bed hoping he had returned to the creek and would hear the sound of the diesel and horn like being in a tunnel.

Mistakes were made, after awhile I changed my hooting system to an SOS sound. A mistake, as it confused the searchers in thinking that it was a signal that he had returned. This wasted valuable time and we set out again calling, hooting asking him to respond. June and Ray returned to the creek and Lance returned to the cave and the high ground. I left the vehicle still in my view and headed for high ground while calling out. My loud voice paying off here but it echoed through the hills and was confusing. Searchers reported that the vehicles hooter and my voice bounced off the hills and trees making it difficult to get a direction.

At this stage it was suggested to call in outside rescue but it was decided to split up and try once more. Success after a worried one and a half hours, he was found by June running down the creek towards us. He was wearing a bright Crows red and yellow jumper. He had travelled until he came to a fence, deciding he had gone the wrong way, he returned to the creek. The right choice by June to stay in the main creek bed and not to follow any branches. He claimed he heard no one for some time and then only the horn when he returned to the creek but could not trace its direction. He felt lost and worried but reassured that we would not leave without him. All in all he had only travelled about 1 and a half km. He had lost one knee pad in his travels. We did not bother to look for it.

After lunch we decided to carry on with our trip, leave the pseudo Flinders and make way for the real Flinders heading for Telowie Gorge. We were looking for caves on the eastern side of the gorge F21 and F22. Spent a couple of hours looking without success, either wrong area or heavy foliage obstructing our vision. However, we did find two fissure type entrances of 2 x 3 metres about 10 metres above the main creek bed, about 800 metres down the main walking path leaving the car park of the Telowie Gorge Conservation Park. With dusk falling and no landmark for location, we decided to abort the search and return to Adelaide.

George MacLucas.

Curramulka 5Y1**14 October 1995**

Party: George MacLucas, June MacLucas and Aaron MacLucas

A short trip for some compass reading practice and photography.

George MacLucas.



This cartoon was drawn by Robin Gray of Cheddar, Somerset, England. It is one of several cartoons that he has provided to June MacLucas for inclusion in our Newsletter.

Mount Gambier

14 and 15 October 1995

Party: P. Harper, M. Choi, B. Binks, T. Colhoun, Julius G, K. Grimes, Ken ? and C. Hales.

Stayed at Venturers rooms, Margaret St., Mount Gambier. (could this have actually been the Scout Hall? Ed.)

Saturday we visited Considines cave L86, stopped for a look at Death cave L84-85, the Pines L61 on the way to visit Morgans cave L34. We later stopped at Fossil cave L81 and Three Sisters L13 on the way to visit Tindale's E cave L18.

Sunday we visited Circuit sinkhole L136 on the way to L339 (a new cave found during the recent Vulcon Conference). On the return trip to Mount Gambier we went via Caroline sinkhole L10 and Hells hole L40 and then made our way to L174 for a quick visit.

After lunch we made our way to Mount Burr to have a look at L335 (a cave which had not been entered previously). Ken Grimes did a quick survey of this cave. The 5m deep entrance pitch has restrictions that prevented two of us from entering it.

Finally we left for home at around 6:00 PM.

Chris Hales

Curramulka 5Y1

22 October 1995

Party: George and June MacLucas.

Further familiarization of cave, this time travelling in the top level section. Met the training group travelling with Chris Hales and Paul Harper on the way out.

George MacLucas.

Corra Lynn Cave 5Y1

21 and 22 October 1995

Party: P. Harper, M. Choi, F. Hankinson, Julius G, Angelique, Ann Marie and friends (Chris, Troy and Jason) and C. Hales.

We went on a round trip from Grand Central via Rope Crevasse, Bushwalkers, Crystal Maze and then back through the Cauldron to Grand Central.

After lunch the more masochistic went on a round trip up through the Wombat Runs and out through Bandicoots Bypass.

Finally they let me go home.

Chris Hales

TECHNICAL and OTHER ARTICLES

Membership

New Associate Members;

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Michelle PAPILA 9509 (h) 346 3631 (w) 281 0165
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Dave GLOWACKI 9510 (h) 087 62 1977
PO Box 1060, NARACOORTE SA 5271

Transfer to Full Member;

Marie CHOI 9408 (h) 322 0895 (w) 326 1777
75 Capella Drive, HALLETT COVE, SA 5158

New Full Member:

Ian RICHARDS 9506 (h) 322 2894 (w) 237 6151
8 Knights Bridge Court HAPPY VALLEY SA 5159

Change of Address and/or Phone Number;

Rob DAYMAN 8402 (h) 43 5514
2/9 Cuming St., MILE END SA 5031

Mark THISELTON 8801 (h) 374 2592 (w) 292 1846
62 Penang Ave., COLONEL LIGHT GARDENS SA 5041

Clare BUSWELL 9002 (h) 353 6018 (w) 201 2614
52 Main Street HENLEY BEACH SA 5022

Pam ALVARO 9503 (h) 085 22 6095
24 Allwood Dr., GAWLER SA 5118

End-of-Year 'Do' BBQ and Photographic Competition

This years Christmas party will be held from 6pm on Friday 1 December 1995 at the home of John Meikle 6-8 Hillview Rd, Bridgewater, phone 339 3373. BYO food and drink. Judging and presentations at 9pm.

Annual General Meeting

The Fortieth Annual Report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 3 February 1996 at the Maid and Magpie Hotel, 1 Magill Rd, Stepney. Dinner will be available from 6pm in the Dining Room and the AGM will commence at 8pm in the Function Room.

Caving Leadership Update

The ASF Caving Leadership Scheme is still moving along although at times this year it has been much slower than we would have liked.

The blockages have been with the National Outdoor Leadership Development (NORLD) competencies which form the basis for the assessment criteria which we will be using when we assess people.

Major changes in the structure of the competencies were called for in the first half of the year and the Caving specific competencies were amended at a two day writing workshop in September. As part of the changes general skills or Generic Competencies in NORLD-speak, were redeveloped for use across the Recreation Industry by a team which is due to submit a report at the end of November 1995.

As this part of the process has been out of our immediate control we have just had to wait.

A meeting was held by the ASF Caving Standards Commission also in September, with five out of seven state convenors attending. At this meeting the commission resolved the levels of leadership to be used by the federation.

They are Horizontal Caving Leader, Laddering Caving Leader, Vertical Caving Leader.

At each of these levels there is an Instructor level and an optional Assessor level. For many instances the Instructor and Assessor levels will be combined.

The SA caving standards committee with input from other state committees are currently preparing a report for the ASF meeting in January on the course structures for the Laddering and Vertical Caving Leader levels.

I have been approached by members about this Caving Leadership Scheme with concerns, here are some of the answers.

Questions from members;

I did that horizontal caving leadership course earlier this year, what happens now?

As some changes have been made to the assessment criteria, we will fast track you by a recognised prior learning path once all the pieces are known. (I hope by early 1996)
Simon Kendrick has the course records and he will work with me to sift through the changes.

In the interim make sure you are a full member of the club and keep caving as usual, in fact run more trips.

I've been a full member for years and running trips, I don't want to be doing all of these courses!

You don't have to. The course structure is to provide a logical learning pathway for any one new to the business of caving leadership. There is recognition of prior learning at all stages of this process except assessment which must occur. This means that for now continuing to cave and lead trips responsibly is the best way to remain current.

There will be a peer assessment process next year in the club to accredit existing full members. Nine people including me have indicated they would be prepared to work out a strategy for the club to deal with this. I'm suggesting we wait until we have the generic competencies information before we do this. If any one has further concerns on this process please contact me.

Does this mean these courses will replace the training days we do now?

No. The training days are an important ongoing training and practice time for all members. In some cases people may choose to attend a course in lieu of a similar training day, and also skills developed through training days or caving experience can be used recognised prior learning for parts of the ASF Leadership Scheme.

Training days are very much on a “we need practice at this can you help” basis they will remain that way, to complement the courses that are offered.

Do I have to become a Caving Leader?

Unless you lead beginners trips, or trips where people are under the age of 18, no.

We will be in a transition phase with this for the next two years, and the scheme has been designed so that all our current club trip leaders can achieve it because they are the role models we used to describe leadership levels which work.

This is also subject to any specific land owner requests, but although I think to be accredited when this becomes available is preferable, it is not a prerequisite for good peer group caving in many cases.

Krunchy

Safety and Caving Standards Officer

To all Full Members.

The Flinders University Speleological Society will be running an awareness evening on Caving Leadership and recognition of prior learning for their members on Tuesday 5th of December 1995 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Flinders University. They have invited interested CEGSA members to attend. Please contact Tim Payne 344 3283 (H) if you wish to attend.

Membership Fees Reminder

Membership fees will be due in January. Please remember to pay them promptly as only financial members can vote on CEGSA issues. This will also ensure that you continue to receive your copy of the Newsletter.

Weebubbie Cave (6N2) - When Was This Discovered By Europeans?

This cave is located on the Nullarbor Plain, near Eucla.

The monthly newspaper *EUCLA RECORDER* mentioned the 'discovery' of this cave in 3 consecutive issues, 23 June, 21 July and 18 August 1900. The 18 Aug 1900 was, coincidentally, the last issue produced before the paper became defunct.

The first account in the 23 June 1900 issue page 2, is untitled and anonymous, and is in effect, an editorial. It does not state in simple terms that a cave with a lake was found, but does so almost as an aside, in a rather rambling fashion. The article commences thus:

"As evidence of the fact of the extremely casual way in which the surrounding districts have been prospected for water, above the cliffs, the find made by several¹ gentlemen of Eucla, whilst on a hunting trip stands out very prominently. The landslip at which is situated the entrance to the cave², which contains a tremendous supply of water³, lies about 7 miles north west of Eucla.⁴ Though the ground around it was taken up more than 20 years⁵ ago, and stocked largely with sheep, no evidence was ever found as to the water concealed beneath the ground".

Notice, the article did not say, "No evidence was ever found as to the existence of the landslip".

In fact the landslip was already known. But it seems that it had not been explored, and so the existence of the cave (and lake) was unknown. The cave is very difficult to access, because the doline is vertical to overhanging on all sides with heights of up to 30m, except for one point, where there is now a fixed ladder. But even there the sides are very steep, and the appearance is, that it is not free climbable.

And there was the precedence of the two similar large dolines, Chowilla and Abrakurrie, which were known not to contain water. So why even bother to explore Weebubbie? The pastoralist was no doubt busy raising sheep, and was not a rock climber. At least this is my explanation for the lack of interest prior to this time.

I believe Weebubbie would have been known of as soon as the area around it was fenced and stocked with sheep (1880 or earlier). Two of the old fences run close to the doline.

The article goes on to say: "a great quantity ... of fertile country lying far north and west of Eucla ... was taken up by English speculators, when news⁶ of the splendid qualities of this country for stock raising was first given out to the capitalist world. (These) remained unprofitable investments, through lack of water".

The date of the article gives a clue to the date of finding the cave, and lake. It must be prior to 23 June 1900, and may be in the period since the previous issue of the newspaper, i.e. 26 May 1900 to 23 Jun 1900. This is based on the fact that the cave is not mentioned in the previous edition.

However the finders of the water Clayer and Juncken, who were telegraph employees, realised the value of the water to the sheep industry. They took out a lease on the surrounding land. But there would already have been a leaseholder, or possibly, the lease had expired. In either case, they would have had to write to Perth to take over the lease? (Perhaps this could have been done in Eucla?) And this may well have taken months.

¹We are later told that there were only 2 men involved.

²This is the very first mention in the 'Eucla Recorder' of the landslip or a cave at Weebubbie. It is here unnamed, but it is Weebubbie.

³And this is the first mention of the lake.

⁴This is a fairly accurate location. They were definitely not trying to conceal the location.

⁵'Taken up' implies that a pastoral lease was granted, and 20 years ago means 1880.

⁶Referring to the overly optimistic report by John Forrest in 1870, e.g. 'beautifully well grassed' and 'as grazing country, far surpasses anything I have ever seen'.

It would likely have been AFTER they took over the lease, that information about the water was released to the public, though this is speculation on my part. It will be necessary to check the records of lease holders to gain more insight into this.

The *EUCLA RECORDER* states: "The country in the vicinity of Eucla has been eagerly sought after, and within a radius of about 15 miles, there are only, at present, about 1 or 2 small blocks not taken up".

Clearly, the land rush had already occurred by 23 June 1900.

The other 2 issues of the *EUCLA RECORDER* contain Part 1 and 2 of an article titled, "SUBTERRANEAN LAKES", also anonymous. This actually states that the 'landslip' was already known - 21 July 1900 page 4:

"As 2 officers of the SA department (telegraph) Mr. A L Clayer and Mr. F Juncken were out for a day's shooting recently, it was a great surprise for them to come ... to the verge of a tremendous landslip 7 miles north west of Eucla. The presence of which has never even been suspected by whites, though found on inspection to have been known to the natives".

This statement, makes it clear that natives knew of the landslip, but appears to give the lie to my last statement. However, it was negated in the following issue, 18 Aug 1900, page 8:

"Correction - *Recorder* 21/7/00, in connection with the discovery, substitute "cave" for "landslip", as the presence of the slip was known to whites. *Not so that of the cave*. Ed."

This therefore confirms that the landslip of Weebubbie was known previous to June 1900, but that the cave itself was not⁷. Sadly, the article has no more to say on the subject, and there were no further editions of the paper.

A brief account of Clayer and Juncken's initial descent is given in the 21 July 1900 issue: "finding a place sufficiently less steep than the rest of the almost perpendicular walls, . . an abrupt descent of about 100 feet ...".

The date of discovery of the landslip itself remains a mystery, but as stated above, I believe it to be 1880 or earlier. In fact it is possible it was known as early as 1872, the year the Moopina sheep station commenced. Two brothers, John and Andrew Muir established Moopina Station at Eucla on 5 March 1872.

An appeal for information to clarify this is hereby launched.

Max Meth - October 1995.

Further reading / bibliography:

Dunkley J R & Wigley T M L, 1967, Caves of the Nullarbor, Speleo Research Council, Sydney.

Eucla Recorder, 1898-1900, various articles.

Forrest John, 1870, Explorations in Australia, Sampson & others, London, pp112-118.

Muir family, collection of letters and memorabilia, held in Eucla Museum, Eucla.

⁷And this makes it unlikely that there will be any reference to the landslip in any earlier writings.

Appeal For Historical Information - Nullarbor Plain

Details relating to the following topics are sought.

1. Specific to the history of Weebubbie Cave.
 2. Specific to a mail coach service that operated from about 1876 from Eucla. One coach ran east to SA, another (entirely separate) ran west into WA.
 3. Relating to accounts of persons crossing the Nullarbor, particularly during the last century.
- I would also be interested in accounts right up to the present date. These accounts may have been published in newspapers or magazines, or may be in unpublished notes and memoirs etc.
4. Any other historic information pertaining to the Nullarbor.

The writer would be delighted to discuss these matters with interested persons. Persons who can help could contact the writer, Max Meth, PO box 622, Ceduna SA 5690, telephone 086 252 700

Max Meth



This cartoon was drawn by Robin Gray of Cheddar, Somerset, England. It is one of several cartoons that he has provided to June MacLucas for inclusion in our Newsletter.

Library And Records Update

New purchases for library:

"Caves of North-West Thailand" by John R Dunkley, 1986.
"Thailand Caves Catalogue" by John R Dunkley, 1994.
"The Caves of Thailand" by John R Dunkley, 1995.
"Jenolan Caves When-the Tourists Came" Julia Horne, 1994
ASF Conference 1995 "Vulcon Guidebook" and "Vulcon Proceedings"

Incoming Records:

Received from Peter Ackroyd sketches and survey data of Lonesome cave 6N734, surveyed by Peter Ackroyd and Glen Baddeley both of VSA April 1994. Also received from Peter, survey sketch and data of a combined survey with Max Meth, Glen Baggeley and Peter Ackroyd of their survey of Thampanna cave 6N206 April 1994. Many thanks for updating our files and for keeping an exchange of information between our clubs.

Also received from Mark Sefton a large working map on graft paper of Punyelroo cave 5M1 surveyed by Mark Sefton and Chris Hales, drawn by Gary Woodcock.

Received from Peter Kraehenbuehl (Krunchy) Map of Fox cave 5U22, Naracoorte. Thanks Peter.

Received from Kevin Mott Disk of CEGSA Records of the Lower South East region.
Also received printout of the records of the Lower South East region and Newspaper clippings on Rendelsham cave 5L38. Thanks Kevin.

Received from Gary Woodcock original map Burleeyung cave 5A16, original and update of Kelly Hill cave 5K1 and Original Punyelroo cave 5M1. Thanks Gary.

This is a wonderful response to our request for members to hand in material for records. It is gratefully acknowledged and well received.

Many thanks

George MacLucas
Librarian And Records Officer

Records Working Bees

These are still happening on a regular basis with the help of Graham Pilkington, Ray Gibbons and George MacLucas. Magazines have been handed out for cataloguing on computers to energetic cavers, Steve Milner, Nicki Trenorden, Ian Charlesworth and a New Associate Jules Ghoude. This of course will take time and I thank you in advance for your time and efforts.

Many thanks

George MacLucas
Librarian And Records Officer

Additions To Occasional Paper No 5 - Lower South East

See also CEGSA Newsletter 29 (3) p30 & 38 (3) p62

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| L321 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Doline 15m diam. x 2m deep has 8m long x 4m deep cave leading off from the SE corner. End of cave silted up. |
| L322 | <u>Sphagnum Mott Cave</u> | Doline 12m diam. x 1m deep. On N side is a blocked hole 1.5m diam. x 1.5m deep. on the S side a 0.5m diam. tube tapering to 0.4x0.3m at -3m drops 10m to floor of cave. Breeze. |
| L323 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Excavation 9x3.5x1.5m deep has a joint 1.5m high x 0.5m wide heading N for 5m. Water. |
| L324 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Collapse area 2.6x2.0m has a 0.9m dam tube at SSW end. Not fully explored. |
| L325 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Depression 120x60x12m deep has a 0.5m dam entrance at the SE end which leads to a chamber 6.0x3.0x0.7m high. A roof dome near the entrance extends up for 5m. Map. |
| L326 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Two entrances (E) 1.5m dam, (W) 0.6x0.35m drop 1.5m into a chamber 14m dam x 2.7m high. Contains water and decoration. Map. |
| L327 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Mazey dune type cave with a reported length of 100m. |
| L328 | <u>Vanderpeer No 2 Cave</u> | Entrance in cutting created to enable pump to be installed closer to water table breaks midway into a joint cave 54m long. Map |
| L329 | <u>un-named Sinkhole</u> | Collapse 13x11x5m deep. |
| L330 | <u>un-named Doline</u> | Flat floored doline 55x40x3.5m deep. Map. |
| L331 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | Small cave at interface of Gambier and Bridgewater limestones. Occurred between elevations EL 45.0 - 48.9m and covered an area of 25x15m. Cave now destroyed by roadworks. Map |
| L332 | <u>un-named Doline</u> | Doline 65x60x5m deep. Rock exposure on south side. Soil contains evidence of volcanics. |
| L333 | <u>un-named Cave</u> | 0.7x0.5x0.7m deep entrance in 3m dam doline leads to single low chamber 5m dam. |
| L334 | <u>un-named Doline</u> | Doline 7.0x3.3x0.7m deep. |
| L335 | <u>President Pot</u> | 1.6m dam tube tapering to 0.5x0.4m drops 5.0m to floor of cave. Not explored and may connect with L69. |
| L336 | <u>un-named Hole</u> | 2.5m dam x 2.5m deep tube in depression 30m dam x 2.5m deep. |

- L337 un-named Sinkhole Sinkhole 74x95x6.5m deep with vertical sides on the north and east. Undercut on the north side 30m wide x 6m deep. Map
- L338 un-named Cave Twin collapses 0.6x0.3m lead into joint cave with total length of 17m and average width of 0.3m. Water at -8m. Several adjacent collapses also drop into water. Map.
- L339 un-named Cave Window entrance 3.4x 2.0m leads to joint cave a total length of 90m and a depth of 12m. Development occurs on several levels. Map.
- L340 un-named Doline Doline 15.0x10.0x2.5m deep filled with rubbish historically took surface runoff from The Bluff. A hole of indeterminate depth is in the middle. Map.
- L341 un-named Hole Kidney shaped collapse 1.7.2.5x1.6m deep.
- L342 un-named Cave Entrance 2.2x1.4m drops through fill material in a series of steps for 6m. Cave 5m long x 1.3m wide. Map.
- L343 un-named Cave Window 2.3x0.9m drops 3.8m to a small joint cave.
- L344 un-named Cave 1.5x1.0m entrance leads to small joint cave.
- L345 un-named Cave 1.0m diameter entrance drops 2.3 m to a chamber 50x15m. Small extensions to the south east and east. Water channel and some decoration in the main chamber.
- L346 un-named Cave Doline 3m diameter leads into chamber approx. 12m in diameter. Entrance now filled with rubbish.
- L347 un-named Cave Entrance 1.7m wide x 0.8m high in low cliff leads into a small cave.
- L348 un-named Cave Collapse in fill material leads into a chamber 10.0x2.0x3.0m high at the intersection of converging joints. Eastern joint continues north for approx. 9m Entrance collapse continues to the south for 6m. Map.
- L349 un-named Cave Joint cave 20m long with an av. width of 0.7m leads off from the NW end of a doline 9x3m. Map.
- L350 un-named Cave Small dug entrance leads to a small cave.
- L351 un-named Cave 7m long joint like passage between two faces of an arete in the wall of Valley Lake. Map.
- L352 Two Torch Cave Twin entrances lead into a vertical rift 5m long and of indeterminate depth in the basaltic layer of the wall of Valley Lake. A low flattener leads off the western side. Map.
- L353 un-named Cave Single chamber 3.0x1.0x1.5m high in the basaltic layer in the wall of Valley Lake. Map.

PROGRAMME

December

1	CEGSA End-of-Year 'Do' BBQ - Photographic Competition	John Meikle
2+3		
3	Gawler Bridge - SRT Training	Chris Hales
5	Cave Leadership awareness meeting (refer to page 102)	Tim Payne (FUSS)
9+10	Rendelsham Cave Cleanup	Peter Kraehenbuehl
16+17		
23-26		

January

6+7		
13+14		
20+21	Blackberry RDF work	Steve Milner
20-23	Bat Ridge	Simon Kendrick
24	General Meeting - Business	
27+28		

February

3	Annual General Meeting - Maid and Magpie Hotel	
3+4		
10+11	Naracoorte / Penola	Steve Milner
17+18		
24+25		
28	General Meeting - Tasmanian Caves	Chris Hales

March

2+3		
9+10	Lower South East	Chris Hales
16+17		
23+24	Punyelroo Cave	Mark Sefton
27	General Meeting - Business	
30+31		

April

5-8	Eyre Peninsula	
5-21	Nullarbor	Mark Sefton
8-28	Nullarbor	June MacLucas
24	General Meeting - Auction and Quiz Night	
27+28	Flinders Ranges	

Check with the Trip Liaison Officer, Suzanne Charlesworth, (h) (085) 36 3816 for any additions or alterations.