



FUSSI

Newsletter

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Yes. It's Level!

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Front Cover Photo:

The Great Pipe Event. SOS cave gets a new entrance.

Front Cover Photo Credit:

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A DAY OR TWO IN THE COUNTRY

Heiko Maurer and Clare Buswell

September 10/11. 2011

As we were going to be in the Coonawarra area what a good idea it seemed to pack a picnic lunch, go visit a winery, enjoy sitting back and contemplating the beginning of spring. Well that must have been a dream or some drug induced hallucination. Reality turned up the following:

Pack: shovel, pick, hammers, gumboots, ropes, buckets, scrubbing brushes, saws and for some, concrete and water containers. This was a caving trip? After all, those on it were all cavers so therefore it must be a caving trip. (Discuss!)

The plan started back in March of this year when FUSSI visited S102 and dropped in to see the landowner. He mentioned that the other cave (SOS) on his property had recently had part of the entrance collapse and was in danger of continuing to do so. He was concerned about his cattle becoming trapped and wanted to fill it in, so we joined him to have a look at the situation and work out some sort of action. He had yet again, fenced off the collapsing entrance. Which meant that the entrance of collapsing sand, was now being slowed up by two rusting metal tanks, one cyclone fence and one set of movable sheep yard panels. This was effective in keeping out the animal life but not much else.



The task at hand

Time passed and two FUSSI and seven CEGSA members converged on the property and set-to with a vigour that comes from either having convict heritage or a good dose of digging madness. Heiko, Mark Sefton and I spent the greater part of Friday afternoon, collecting rock and bringing it back to the cave entrance to use it as backfill. Meanwhile, Graham Pilkington, set about reinforcing part of the collapsing solution tube and chipping rock and dirt from it so we could cement in a large steel reinforced plastic pipe on a level platform. The pipe had been delivered gratis by the local council and had a life span of a couple of million years, by

A DAY OR TWO IN THE COUNTRY

the look and weight of it. We backfilled the collapsed sections and by dusk were in a position to remove the outer tank.



Three happy tank removalists!

The next day we were joined by more CEGSA members, (Kevin Mott, Fred Aslin, Paul Harper, Neville Skinner and David Pollitt) and the backfilling, rock collecting and shoring up continued.



By lunchtime, we were in a position to stabilize the base for the plastic pipe. This meant washing all dirt from the existing rock that Graham had exposed and making a level base with concrete, and reinforcing that concrete with steel rods or bits of whatever was at hand. In the meantime, Fred

A DAY OR TWO IN THE COUNTRY

and Kevin got to work on a wooden platform which was to be placed over the concrete with the plastic pipe then to be sat on it.

By around 4.30 the great black pipe moving moment arrived. All hands on ropes, and guiding



bits of wood saw it slide into position with surprising ease. And there was much rejoicing.

At this point the FUSSI members left for Adelaide, so we cannot tell you the final outcome. Except to say that the property on which this cave resides will be up for sale in the near future, so anybody wishing for a 'cave change', should put their money on the table.

JUST THE THREE of US and a PLANK?

Clare Buswell

Corra Lynn, July and August sometime.

Present on the Trip: Graham Pilkinton, Clare Buswell and Thomas Varga.

The plan was to tag along on a CEGSA trip, which was to be a tourist trip with 7 others. The reality broke on arrival at the Bowling Green at Curramulka, when only Graham was waiting for us. This was going to be digging only. Graham assembled the required gear. Hammer, chisel, plastic crate and a 1.5m long 2x4 plank. I got the plastic crate, and Thomas got the plank to push all the way through the 'Streambed' crawl out to the Portal. (For those in Tasmania whose understanding of "stream bed" is some Exit Cave-like vision of vastness, I suggest you re-adjust your set to a belly and hands and knees crawl for some considerable distance!)

At the "letter box", beginning of the way out to the Portal, Graham took out hammer and chisel and widened a small section of it so as to cater for the widening girths of ancient speleos. (No excuses here!) It was at this section, that Thomas' love relationship with the plank began in earnest having to negotiate the letter box, corners and be pushed along flatteners and crawlways. However, this was quite minor as, on reaching the Portal, work really started.

Work involved emptying the area known as the "Guardhouse" of previously dugout rubble and depositing said rubble back along the walls of some of the streamway passages. It was here that the plastic crate came into its own. If you remember the film *The Great Escape*, set in WWII where allied prisoners are digging a tunnel using small trolleys and ropes, then you have the scene in Corra Lynn. The crate sat in a cradle on wheels with long ropes placed on either end of it, so it could be hauled backwards and forwards over 20-30m of passage. It was a well-engineered trolley that went around corners, glancing off walls, and not spilling its contents on route. So from 10 – 3pm we filled, hauled and dumped dirt, almost emptying the Guardhouse. The task done, we trundled homewards, completely knackered.

A month later saw, Graham, Ray Gibbons, two grand nephews of Grahams, Thomas and I back working trolleys, dirt, buckets and the plank. The latter was being used by Ray to stand on so he could haul buckets up and down the dug out shaft. The process went like this. Graham was at the 'coal face' digging, he placed what he dug out in the bucket, which was hauled and guided up the first 6m of workings by Ray to Thomas who then dumped the rubble in the Guardhouse. From there it was placed into the trolley by one of Graham's nephews, I then hauled that away and dumped the rubble along walls of the streamway. Time passed. Time passed and more dirt was hauled away. By the end of the day 60cm of depth was gained. We called it quits and Graham's very capable nephews led the way out, leaving the plank, plastic crates and piles of rubble well behind them.

BATS RIDGE

Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer and Thomas Varga

Aug 12/14.

Heiko Maurer, Thomas Varga and Clare Buswell, with Doug Henry, Peter Freeman, Scott Hall from the VSA.

We meet on the Saturday morning and Doug and Scott took us to the Davis Reserve to look at BR1 Chimney Cave before lunch and BR 4 River Cave after. One of the striking things about this reserve is the abundance of remnant vegetation which made finding caves a challenge, to say the least. Think impenetrable scrub, swamps, leaches and tiger snakes. Chimney Cave has a very nice clean shaft entrance and a walk-in entrance as well. We checked out the shaft and mumbled some words about bureaucrats which are not printable here... then wandered over to the walk-in entrance.

The cave consists of low hand and knees type passages, opening up into small chambers. The karst reminded me of Monbulla and Wrecked Car Cave in the Lower South East of SA, with soft white limestone and collapsing bedding planes in abundance. We spent time trundling around, taking photos and doing what cavers do.



Pretty Things in Cathedral Cave

BR4 River Cave.

We walked through more dense scrub and across an open plain which also, by the look of it, could double as a swamp, to find the entrance. Once again the cave was similar to Chimney Cave with crawl-ways giving way to open chambers. We were on the look out for an area known for a black pool. We eventually found a very low connection into it. Doug and Scott decided to widen the 10cm gap to 12 cm and then we accessed a 12 metre long flattener to emerge through a hole in the wall in a well decorated chamber. It was all great fun.

Doug and Scott left us so they could give Peter a hand with the Big Cave survey so we had a quick afternoon tea as they packed up. It was here that the great leech attack occurred. This translates as Heiko and Clare pouring firstly, saline solution, then Rid and finally a lit match over the said leech to get it to detach from Thomas'

calf muscle. The leech put up a grand defence, but was eventually burnt at the stake by Heiko. Thomas in the meantime felt abandoned by his fellow cavers in such a dire medical situation. Thinking that he was going to bleed to death as he watched the mad pyromania of Heiko, he kept requesting padding to mop up the teaspoon of blood, (OK, 2 teaspoons of blood ... maybe a tablespoon then.) and then some sort of dressing. These things were found and afternoon tea continued.

We went off to check out the numerous entrances to BR 2-6 Hut Cave, going both via underground routes and above ground bush bashing routes. Great little cave but, by virtue of the fact that it is right next to the parking area, it is the proverbial "sacrificial cave".

BATS RIDGE

The Sunday pack up and get way by 9 arrived all too early for the sleep and coffee deprived FUSSI lot. So an emergency stop to a very good local coffee spot provided some fortification for a trip into BIG Cave.

Firstly, Peter wanted to check out a possible connection, which showed some promise on the map. We split into two groups, Heiko and Scott in one with the rest of us following Peter though some not nice unstable stuff to the other side of the supposed connection. At the appointed time, the yelling through 10-15 m of worm holes in rock began. (Well that is what it looked like from where I sat.) From Heiko and Scott's end it was a space within a small rock collapse. The connection was there, but over a greater distance than Peter had originally thought.

Doug and Scot then kindly took us into the Star Picket entrance of BR124 Chandelier Cave, which is part of Big Cave, for a photography session of some lovely stals. After which time, lunch was called and duly consumed. The after lunch session was to see us go back into Big cave and do a bit more of Peter's survey. On the way however we wandered by another entrance purely for a look see. Lucky for the lamb that had fallen into it that we did. So began the great lamb rescue. Ropes and ladders emerged from cars. Pulleys and slings tied to trees. Peter, Thomas and Clare formed the below ground group and Scott and Heiko the above ground crew. The lamb put up a small amount of resistance before it was caught. The lamb was in a weak state so must have been in the cave for at least a couple of days. Thomas held onto it and made comments about how cute/soft and cuddly the lamb was, to which one resident vegetarian said: "you eat these!"



Then began the making of the SHEEP harness with a 5m of seat belt tape. Once the lamb was trussed up and its legs tied up, it was hauled up by the above ground crew and released. It then decided to head back to the cave entrance, so we had to chase it away. Something about sheep and being dumb was muttered. This activity put a hole in the afternoon plans, so the FUSSI crew packed up and began the long drive, (6 hours) back to Adelaide. We broke up the trip with a look at Piccaninnie Ponds and evening meal at Millicent.

It was a great weekend of caving and our thanks go to Peter Freeman for putting the trip on for us and to Doug and Scott for showing us around. We will be back. When is the next trip?

For those interested in sheep rescue photos see: "lamb cave rescue" on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150453955724657.445747.551134656&l=4dd6453c91&type=1>

ACCIDENT IN MINI MARTIN/EXIT SYSTEM

Clare Buswell

Date 9th Feb 2011. Number of people on trip: 7

Although all of the party came down the Mimi Martin entrance, 2 of the party were off surveying a section of Exit Cave about 150m from the streambed near the bottom of the MM entrance.

At approximately 3.30 pm a member of the remaining party of 5 was climbing around a section of rocks that abutted the streamway in Exit Cave, near the Conference Concourse area. The climb involved hugging a rock at chest height, with feet planted on a muddy downward sloping rock, below which was a staggered drop of 2-3 metres to the streambed. The victim was adjusting a handhold when her feet slipped and she fell onto the rocks below landing heavily on her left side. The observable injuries received were: 2 cm long and 5mm deep gash to the middle finger of the left hand, severe pain to the right knee and the left shoulder.

Immediate Action Taken by party members.

Lots of loud cursing from the victim indicated that no loss of consciousness had occurred, but shock was evident. Incredibly no one had brought with them for the stroll to the Conference Concourse a first aid kit. All kits were left with the SRT gear at the bottom of the MM pitch. So a bleeding finger was bandaged up with a glove and an elastic hair band. As the victim could walk the rest of the injuries were considered manageable at this stage. The party then walked back to the bottom of MM, aiding the victim where needed with climbing over rocks etc.

On reaching the bottom of MM first aid kits were raided for bandaids, Betadine, and saline solution. The latter was missing so the wound was washed with water from a water bottle, (not the stream) then strapped up with gauze and a heavy-duty band-aid. After this it was wrapped in a small plastic bag to further keep the dirt out.

Exit strategy

As the survey party was being retrieved, gear was being resorted.

The streamway in Exit Cave from bottom of the MM pitch to the Valley entrance is a straight forward walking passage with a zigzagging scramble/climb through a large rock pile. The Exit up the MM pitches is a prussik of 160m with 3 re-belays to cross to reach the top. This is then followed by a lot of bush bashing on an indistinct walking track until you pick up the main track that comes up from the valley. After that it is an easy, reasonable, muddy Tasi walking track, back to the quarry and then another 1.4 km back to the car park.

From the Valley Entrance of Exit Cave it is a walk, crossing the de Castreau River, then up the hill, over a couple of creeks to where the track from MM comes in, then onto the quarry and out to the carpark. Due to the recent survey work being done in Exit Cave the track was reasonably well defined. It was estimated that both parties would take more or less the same amount of time to exit the cave, walk up the hill and be back at the cars. This was indeed the case with both parties arriving within 20mins of each other.

The Exit Itself

The rock pile presented the most difficulty for the injured party, as difficulty was encountered in climbing with a painful left shoulder and cut on left finger preventing normal use. The pain in the right knee also meant that full weight could not be taken on it. Between the 3 other members of the party the rock pile was negotiated with assistance provided with handholds and lifting. The final section of the stream way was easily travelled and all were

ACCIDENT IN MINI MARTIN/EXIT SYSTEM

out of the cave by 7pm. The walk up the hill and back to the cars was a comparatively easy process with all arriving around 8.30 p.m.

Then followed a trip into Dover to change from wet caving gear into dry clothes and a 2 hour drive to Hobart to the RHH for treatment. The finger required 3 stitches and associated pain relief. The injury to the shoulder was determined as severe bruising as was that of the knee.

Time line of trip:

8.30 AM	All left the Lune River car park for the walk up to MM, carrying 200 odd metres of rope and associated hardware.
2.00 PM	All down at the bottom of MM pitches.
3.30PM	Accident
7.00 PM	Injured party exited cave.
8.30/8.45. PM	Both parties back at cars
9. 30 PM	Injured person back at Dover
11.30/11.45 PM	At Royal Hobart Hospital
1.15AM.	Through emergency.

Total time from accident to hospital: 10 hours.

Analysis:

1) The number of people on the trip facilitated the post-accident group split as it allowed for enough people to help the victim out and enough bods to de-rig and carry out 200m of rope. (2 X 50m 1 X 120m and) associated hardware.)

2) First Aid kits: always take with you no matter how short the trip.

3) If the cave has two entrances and one is a normal walk out, but is locked, make sure you have the key to it. Make options, manage the risk.

4) Time lines. Always start caving trips early. Ten hours from accident to post-hospital is a pretty reasonable scenario. Expect longer.

5) Injuries determine both the rescue and the exit strategy.

Postscript

After 4 weeks the victim could finally sleep on the left side and take some weight on the left shoulder. Four months later an MRI of the knee revealed a torn Meniscus and medial ligament. Surgery fixed these problems seven months later.

The victim wishes to thank all those involved for their immense help, patience and care during the incident.

WHAT IS ON

Flinders Uni Mid-Semester Break 10th Sept – 3rd Oct.

Southern Flinders	Oct 15/16 th	Bat Counting and Track Marking
General Meeting	27 th Oct	Whose bone is that? Guest Speaker. Venue TBA
Tasi	Dec 2-4 th	Trip is full
End of year get together	11 th Dec	Venue to be announced.
MARCH 2012	JENOLAN/BUNGONIA Dates TBA	

Other Events of Interest.

Bats of Gluepot Reserve.

2-4th Dec. A course on the natural history, survey techniques and identification of the insectivorous bats occurring on Gluepot Reserve. The course runs over 3 days and two nights and will suit all. See: www.riverland.net.au/gluepot

Divers' Forum HYPERBARIC MEDICINE UNIT

Royal Adelaide Hospital Presents a divers' forum on:

Wednesday. 12 October from 6.45pm.

Robson Lecture Theatre, Level 2, Eleanor Harrold Building (Enter from rear of building)

\$20 per ticket (bookings are essential)

Speakers: Brian Kakuk – Bahamas Underground Brian Kakuk is a veteran explorer of nearly 20 years of underwater cave exploration in the Bahamas. He is currently visiting Australia teaching sidemount diving techniques and enjoying some of Australia's caves.

This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of the most respected cave divers in the world, and see some of the extraordinary beauty of the underwater flooded Bahamas Caves.

John Lippmann OAM Executive Director - Divers Alert Network (DAN) Asia-Pacific Presenting: Australian diving deaths – A 30 year review.

For further details contact the Hyperbaric Unit 8222 5116 or 8222 5121

Short tours of the Hyperbaric Unit will be arranged on the night light supper provided.

Cave Diving and Technical Diving Adventures www.bahamasunderground.com
Bahamas Underground is the Bahamas premier cave and technical diving training and adventure facility.

See the flyer here: <http://www.cavediving.net.au/docs/DiversForum.pdf>