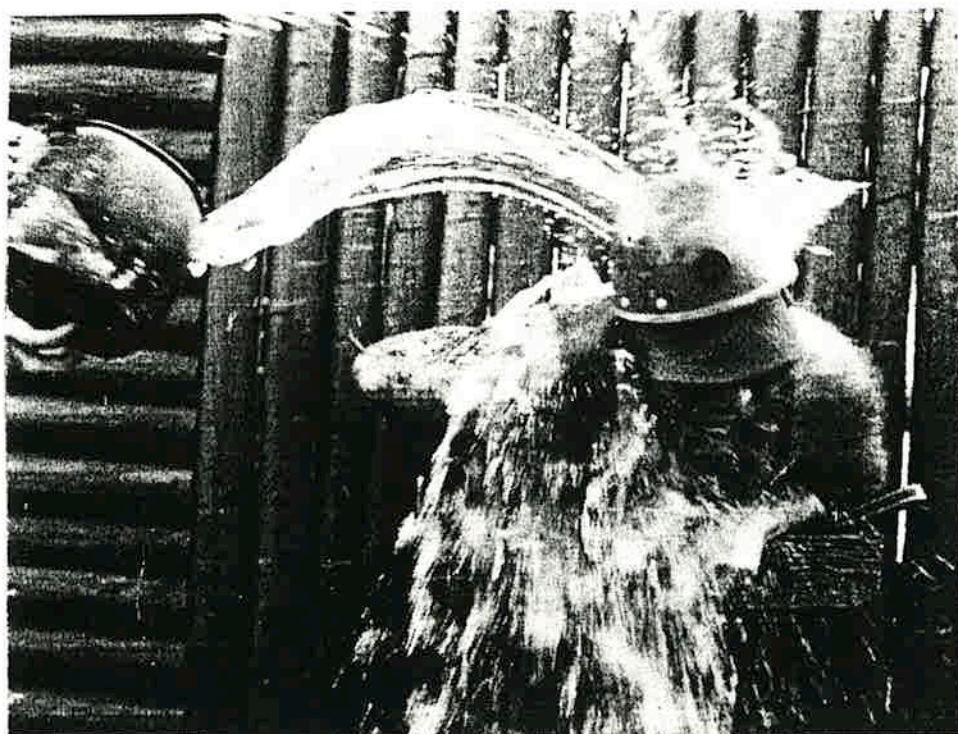


FUSSI

Vol 5 No 1 MAY 1993



Some-one pouring cold water on Heiko's idea that
ASF conferences were just a lot of hot air!

NOT QUITE

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY INCORPORATED.

FUSSI

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Editorial

Well, another disappointing year has come to pass the way of the editor's desk again. I received barely a handful of trip reports, in fact most of the '92 trips have yet to be written up!

It is because of the laziness of the members that the magazine has diminished from a quarterly to an occasional production. No amount of editorial skill can stretch so little material into a worthwhile production.

I have cajoled, begged and pleaded for material, but to no avail. Until the membership of FUSS (and I don't just mean trip leaders) extract a digit from their collective arses, their will be no more FUSSI. And it is only with this threat that I received the articles contained in this magazine

My gratitude does extend, though, to a couple of people who have helped the magazine exist for the last two years I have been editor. Firstly to Di Brinsley for her magnificent trip reports above and beyond the call of duty (e.g. Vol 4 No. 2).

Secondly, and most importantly, to Clare Buswell, who continually climbed into a Mavis suit to bring us Trog Delights, after pouring through all the newsletters received by the society, to glean whatever tidbits there were.

As can be seen from the Who's Who list opposite, we have held our AGM and there are some new faces on the committee. Good luck to you all, but most of all to Keven.

Jonathon Walsh
Newsletter Editor ('91-'92)

President's Report

1992 was an excellent year for FUSS: the club gained many new members, organised three major interstate trips (a record) and continued its tradition of putting together good meals in unlikely locations.

One significant event for the club occurred in March when the South Australian Speleological Council (finally) held its first annual general meeting. The council's membership includes all of the major speleological groups in the state, and evolved from initial discussions amongst FUSS, SCG and CEG-SA representatives in 1991.

The SASC aims include the exchange of information and ideas between member clubs, and the promotion of a better working relationship with National Parks and other cave management bodies. The involvement of FUSS is likely to lead to many benefits for the Society.

Activities of the SASC to date include the work of the Caver Accreditation Subcommittee and the Cave Management Subcommittee. The former group (with John Callison

as FUSS representative) has developed draft Leader Accreditation Standards for cavers, which were presented to the last ASF conference in Tasmania. These standards will be piloted over the next two years by FUSS as well as other SASC members and some interstate clubs, as a step towards the establishment of national standards.

The Cave Management Subcommittee, (convened by Clare Buswell and with myself as the FUSS member) has also been active. The group has been undertaking a review of the Worboys et al, Cave Classification System with a view to suggesting improvements that will be submitted to the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Commission's national review of the Worboys system.

The issues that these groups are working on are likely to have a major impact on caving in Australia. Their work, particularly the implementation of standards for caver leadership and training, should help to provide easier access to caves for (qualified) cavers, safer and more enjoyable caving, and better protection for the caves themselves.

BE WARNED The Figure-8 Is Dead

By Steve Knutson

Yes, we must mourn the passing of what many cavers thought was the ideal light, compact rappel device.

Experience has now shown the figure-8 twists the rope in a spiral fashion as it passes through, causing an apparent permanent kinkiness in the rope. As I understand, at least some rescue groups are banning use of the device, and cavers will undoubtedly follow suit. So be warned. I intend to ban the use of figure-8's in my projects. It appears that mini-racks will be the device of choice for something compact.

If anyone goes to a carabiner brake bar setup, beware of the current style of aluminium oval that has a bump or enlargement at the gate. This prevents the brake bar from sliding up over the gate closure in use and makes for a weak device.

Reprinted in whole from :
NSS News, December 1992,
Pt II, American Caving
Accidents, 1991.

Secretary's Report

During the year of 1992, FUSS continued to visit caves around South Australia and Australia in general, to allow our new members a good start to caving.

At the start of 1992, we visited caves in Goulbourn (Bungonia), and the Snowy Mountains. In July we visited the Nullarbor, and we were also represented at the Australian Speleological Federation Conference in Tasmania at the beginning of 1993. These trips were very worthwhile, as we had the chance to see some truly awe-inspiring caves, as well as contribute to policy making at the conference. In South Australia we visited Corra Lynn (Yorke Peninsula), and the Flinders Ranges twice.

We have also visited Naracoorte caves on a number of occasions, for caving or the counting of cave crickets, to contribute to an increased knowledge of the cave ecosystem.

We heard a couple of interesting guest speakers at our meetings in 1992 - Terry Reardon from the South Australian Museum told us about species of bats in Australia, and some of the new methods being used to classify them. He also showed us some live bats after the talk which were a huge hit with everybody.

We also had a very interesting talk from Dr Rod Wells in the School of Biology at

Flinders University, about his interest in caving and bushwalking from an early age, and his work in Paleontology at Victoria Fossil Cave in Naracoorte and other sites in Australia and worldwide.

The general area of caving and outdoor recreation activities appears to have become rulebound and accountable on a national level, with the emphasis on training club members in cave leadership skills, abseiling and climbing techniques, rescue knowledge, minimal impact caving, cave management, and caving as part of a team.

These changes are important, and I was pleased to see that FUSS is involved in the decision and policy making process by continuing our involvement and communication with other caving groups and the National Parks and Wildlife Service management, both at the state and national level.

Unfortunately, FUSS still seems to have problems with fundraising. We didn't make a loss in 1992, but we continue to have a only smallish sum of money in our account. We intend to buy new equipment this year, including ropes harnesses, and other SRT gear so we will have to discuss more methods of fundraising.

Overall it was a very active and extremely enjoyable year. I hope 1993 is as enjoyable.

Deborah Callison

Safety Officer's Report

1992 was an active year for the society with only one incident, which though reported as a caving accident, was minor and did not involved the participation of outside agencies.

Two major trips were conducted by the society in early 1992 to NSW, Bungonia and Yarrangobilly. Training for both trips was conducted prior to there commencement, in particular vertical caving techniques were practiced for Bungonia.

Four members attended a cave Search and Rescue weekend at Bungonia in March which was conducted by the Cave Rescue Squad of NSW. Skills and organisational practices gleaned from the weekend are being passed through to society members.

Society trips to local karst areas were available throughout the year. On one such trip to Corra Lynn on the York Peninsula a society member tripped and gashed his hand. He was assisted by society members to exit the cave and subsequently had the wound sutured.

Training of all members in safe and minimal impact caving is continuing. This will be augmented by the introduction of the national Cave Leadership Scheme. Something which in South Australia is required for all clubs if they are to go caving. As a consequence I have spent considerable time meeting with the Safety Officers from all the South Australian Clubs discussing and planning parts of this scheme. Members of Fuss are in a good position as far as meeting the standards for this scheme are concerned.

John Callison

This Space For Rent
(Just write something)

THE CAVERS SHIELD TEST. FIRST INNINGS

The Cavers Eleven:

Ron Simms: Selector and Opening batter

Alan Jevons: Umpire and other opening batter.

Peter Kraehenbeuhl: Spin bowler.

Clare Buswell: Twelfth "man", bringer of drinks.

Middle order batters:

Heiko Maurer, Jenny Laidlaw, Mark Green, Lelah Schubert, Greg Johnston, and Tania Wilson. (FUSS) Fern Raintree, Jay Robinson, Janine Tamblyn (CEGSA) and Joanne Castleton (Cavex).

Kevin Mott and Stan Flavel: coaches

In mid 1991, myself, Peter Kraehenbeuhl, Alan Jevons were sitting around discussing what we could do as a project for grant money available from NPWS small projects scheme. Ron Simms had been counting Crickets on and off for ten years at Naracoorte so we thought that this grant may help him get the results published. We applied for the grant under the auspices of the South Australian Speleological Council and received two and a half thousand dollars.

Over the next twelve months we visited as many caves in the Upper South East Karst area as time would allow us:- usually one trip every six weeks. Ron had kept records of 10 caves on the Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park and these caves were visited on each trip. This would enable us to gauge the changes in the population levels of the crickets over a years worth of visits.

Ron had done a lot of library searching and found that not a great deal was written in Australia on the population levels or life cycles of crickets generally and of the Naracoorte species in particular. Aola Richards in the middle Sixties had done the most detailed and recent study on the subject at Naracoorte but had not recorded population levels. She was however, responsible for determining the Naracoorte cricket as a

new species. Her work is now considered seminal. Richards (1966) More was known about cave crickets in the United States mostly through the work of David Culver (1982) who had looked at distribution patterns across the States.

We set ourselves a number of areas that we wanted to cover to make sure the project ran smoothly. Literature searches continued. The Cegsa records officer dug through all of the Upper South East cave records and gave us locations to everything that he had. He told us that we would find more caves and find that some no longer existed as they had either been quarried or filled in by land owners. We found that we would need to map caves where crickets had been recorded but no map of the cave existed.

This lead to all sorts of fun and games with snakes and foxes. One cave U108, which we named Stink Pot as it not only had 700 crickets, but a decomposing snake in it was revisited late in the spring to re-count the cricket population. Not only did it contain the still decomposing snake but three healthy ones. The group counting crickets had a data sheet which indicated that they were far from happy with the situation. Not only was the recorder appointed snake watcher, but the counters got a tad distracted as they moved around the small cavern. The three snakes were not overly happy either to have their nice quite spot at the bottom of the 3 meter pitch interrupted in the name of science. We also have a map which is incomplete as a fox decided to make its presence known half way through the survey process. Alan Jevons can tell you that it is something else to be crawling down a tight tunnel, tape measure in hand, only to hear the sound of yapping in front of you.

As tagging in the Upper South east Karst area seems pretty much a mixed bag we decided to take photographic records of the cave entrances that we visited. This would help identification in the future and add to the records base.

We also needed to determine the geographical range of the cricket population in the karst area, so we could put the park population in some sort of perspective. Were the high populations of crickets found in the Conservation Park a remnant population because of its native vegetation cover or did crickets survive quite well when the cave is sited in the middle of a grazed paddock?

The project's main focus however, was to look at what relationship exists between human visitation levels and cricket population levels. We knew that the modification to the show caves at Naracoorte caused the crickets to either move home to another close by cave or to decline. Victoria Fossil cave which has undergone so many modifications over the past ten years has very few crickets. Alexander Cave's exit on the other hand seems to enable a fairly stable population to survive. Both caves have at least two tours a day through them. Ron's data seemed to support the hypothesis that the changes made in some to the tourist caves had caused the populations of crickets to decrease.

To further look at human visitation levels we were able to obtain the Park's log book which records all speleo activities, group sizes, what caves they visited and the duration of the visit. We hoped to be able to make correlations with this and the population data that Ron has for specific caves on the park. Both sets of data go back for ten years.

At present we have almost completed the regular six weekly round of visits and counting. We still have a lot of number crunching to do and the geographical range to establish.

Caves visited over the twelve month period include:

Core caves: Vic Fossil, Alex, Blackberry (U8&U9), Anderite, Lost, Appledore, Cable, Tomato and Stick, Little Vic.

THE CAVERS SHIELD TEST. FIRST INNINGS

Other caves visited in the karst area:

Stink Pot, Cave Park Cave, Corner Of the Fence, Fox, Robertsons, Smoke/Tortoise, Saddle Cave, Cathedral, U48, U49, Lock's, Dead Sheep Cave, Joanna Bat Cave, Possum No 2 cave, V.D.C. Pepper tree hole, plus a few others.

Caves visited that no longer exist: (have been filled in): U80 Possum No 1 cave, Dead sheep cave is still full of dead sheep, and the doline to U58? is full of farm and household rubbish, including dumped empty herbicide and insecticide drums. The cave also contained a small bat colony. Resilient buggers aren't they.

Current score for the 91 - 93 season. Crickets: total Females: 877, total Males: 1787, Juveniles: 4460, Nymphs: 1137. Total number of balls bowled (Observations): 74. Total overs (caves visited) 23. Number of overs remaining (caves left to visit): 130 give or take a few.

Future developments, ask Alan Border.

Clare Buswell.

References:

Richards. A., The Rhaphidophoridae (Orthoptera) of Australia. A new species from South Australia. Proceedings the Linnean Society of NSW Vol. 91. Part 2. 22 Dec 1966.

Richards. A., Observations on the Biology of "Pallidotettis nullarborensis" Richards, (Rhaphidophoridae Orthoptera), from the Nullarbor Plains. Proceedings the Linnean Society of NSW Vol. 94. Part 3. 28 Sept 1970.

Richards. A., Life history of some species of Rhaphidophoridae (Orthoptera). Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand Vol 88. Part 4. pp. 121-137.

Culver. D., Cave Life. Evolution and Ecology. Harvard University Press, Cambridge. 1982.

Facts on Cave Crickets.

Compiled by Ron Simms for the research team.

NOTE THEY ARE NOT SMALL FURRY BILLBIES AND WOULD NOT MAKE GOOD EASTER GIFTS.

Crickets leave the cave at night to feed and are feeders of opportunity, i.e., they will eat what ever is around including each other. Usually they fed on detritus material, decaying leaves, insects etc. They are not related to the field crickets which cause so much crop damage in farming areas.

All crickets have eyes and can see, but do not make any audible noise due to lack of tympani organs or rasps. They are sensitive to body heat and excess in carbon dioxide gasses given off by humans. They react to prolonged strong light and will move away from it. Normally they move slowly when walking, but are capable of quick movement and can leap long distances. If handled, they can loose parts of the antennae and limbs very easily.

The come in four sizes: Nymph, Juvenile, Adult female, and Adult male.

Nymph: Very small, varying from

1.5 to 3mm in body length. Antennae fine and long, can exceed body length. Newly hatched nymphs can be difficult to see.

Juvenile: Small in size, 3 to 8mm in body length with the abdomen filling out in size and the hind legs larger. Antennae longer. Not showing any adult sexual characteristics.

Adult Male: Body length varying from 9 to 14mm in length (can be longer), with four small projections (cerci) from the base of the abdomen. Hind legs long and spindly with the antennae up to 6 times the length of the body.

Adult Female: Body length varying from 9 to 18mm in length with a long spur (ovipositor) projection from the base of the abdomen. Colour of ovipositor will vary from pale to pinkish red. Purpose for the colour has not been determined, but is thought to indicate sexual maturity or the egg laying stage. Hind legs are shorter and thicker than the male's with the antennae up to 6 times length of the body.

A TRIP IN THE MOONLIGHT

What follows is an account of a recent accident at Ida Bay Tasmania. It is written up so as to help evaluate the rescue process so that all may learn something from it. It is not in any way intended as a criticism of those involved.

At three in the afternoon on Sunday the 10th of January a group of five, (consisting of Clare, Heiko, Peter, Janine, and Chris B) left Arthur Clarke's house in Dover to enter Midnight Hole for a through trip to Mystery Creek cave. They stopped off at the Ida Bay Railway carriages to see if Matt, Chris H, or Paul would be interested in coming along.

The latter three had been involved in an epic trip into Big Tree Pot a couple of days before and had spent the morning of tenth cleaning gear and resting. They had planned a short walk in Mystery Ck in the afternoon. When we arrived Paul decided to come with us, Matt and Chris opting for the walk and would meet up with our group later on in the evening. At any rate if we hadn't arrived back at Ida Bay by 12midnight they were to come and look for us.

The party of six entered Midnight hole at 5.30pm. All were well equipped and all had been in Mystery Ck Cave with two members of the group having been previously down Midnight hole. The trip itself was uneventfull with no problems being encountered. One member of the group Paul, was tired, and went ahead of the group at the bottom of the last pitch and rested whilst waiting for the de-rigging and for the rest of the group to go through the Match Box Squeeze.

The group took its time coming out of Mystery Ck with Paul and Clare ahead of the rest by about a minute. It was a nice relaxing trip and we exited the cave at 10.30pm to a moon lit night.

On reaching the old quarry there was the usual rearrangement of gear. Paul and Clare at this point continued on ahead at a lesurely pace and had just started on the

muddy road section of the track back to the car park when Paul slipped on a narrow pole which was partly submerged in the mud. After about two or three minutes it became evident that Paul was in considerable pain, unable to place any weight on his left leg or lift it without help.

At this point an accessment of the first aid equipment being carried was made and a plan of action discussed. Spirits were generally good and various options were put to Paul about his future. This ranged from getting him to hop out 'cause he needed the exercise, to us coming back and collecting him tomorrow! Paul also suggested leaving him there but to make sure he is provided with three meals a day, hot bath and swimming pool!

We Paul lifted out of the mud and immobilised the leg at the knee using a splint made of sticks and tied with triangular and crepe bandages. Janine and Clare then walked to the car with some of the gear that was being carried by the rest of the group. Clare was to drive to the Ida Bay Railway carriages to get extra help in carrying Paul from Matt and Chris. Heiko, Peter and Chris B commenced a fire persons lift of Paul.

We dumped the gear at the car park and Janine returned to relieve the others or to collect more gear and bring it back to the car park. Clare began a search for the car keys and by the time she had searched the car and the gear, Janine returned. Clare suggested that Heiko may have the keys. Clare then did a second search of the car whilst Jenine returned to the others. At this point in time Matt and Chris arrived. They had intended to wait for us to exit the cave in the car park looking at the stars, yarning and sipping a bit of port, imagine that! The time was now 11.45pm.

All three of us then walked up the track to where Paul and the others had reached. The situation was re-assessed and a blanket lift was devised using a ground sheet and a therma rest which was in the back

of Chris's car. The gear was obtained and then followed a process of stretcher carrying, with six carrying the stretcher and one person guiding the group around the rocks and sticks in the mud. The two people in the middle used tube tape passed under the stretcher to ease the load placed on their backs and further supports Paul's weight. The lift went well with frequent stops being made to allow for rests. The group reached the car park at 2am, having carried Paul about 700 metres through ankle deep mud.

Paul was then placed in the back of his car, a ute, and after some discusion it was decided to drive to Hobart Hospital. Paul still in his caving gear, warm and in good spirits was in pain. At this stage he asked for a pain killer and was given Panadine Forte with a couple of sips of water.

Chris H, Matt and Clare drove back to the Railway Carriages, dropped off Matt, took the excess gear out of the back of the ute, collected a couple of sleeping bags, removed Paul's wet boots and then headed off for Hobart. It was now 2.30am. As the road to Hobart is a little on the twisty side we propped Paul up with gear to stop him from rolling around. We reached Hobart hospital at 5am and let the doctors do the rest. That is, make us all a cup of tea, and if they got round to it have a look at Paul's knee. At 6am Chris and Clare drove back to Ida Bay.

As the X Ray department was not at work, the doctors let Paul sleep till 8.30am or so and then when to work on him. Paul remained in Casualty till 3 pm.

It is now nine weeks later, Paul is just able to bend his leg. The injuries sustained were soft tissue and some cartlidge damage to the knee.

Evaluation:

Start Caving trips early in the day.

Always know who has or where the car keys are. It is best not to take car keys into a cave. If they drop out of your pocket in muddy

NO SNAKES OR LADDERS IN THE TOWN WELL

Place: Town Well Cave Y2.
Yorke Peninsula.

Date: a weekend in December 92.

Present: Saturday: Heiko Maurer, Kevin Dixon, Clare Buswell, Alan Jevons, Peter Kraehenbuehl.

Sunday: John Callison, Di Brinsley, Tania Wilson and some Scouts.

This was a weekend of SRT practice aimed at tuning the gear for the forthcoming Jan 93 Tasi trip. Saturday saw the five of us have a nice relaxing day negotiate some basic's: rope protectors (known as f..... rope protectors - FRP's), re-belays, ascending up a wall and boiling the billy at the top of the Well so as to keep an eye on the local kids that wanted to have a go to.

The questions they ask: why do you do that? what does this do, how far down is it and to the one and only female in the group, how old are you? The latter was followed by a stunned silence by the said female. Somebody else said that some questions were not meant to be asked!

For Kevin and Heiko it was the first time at doing this sort of stuff in a cave environment. A far cry from the numerous practices off the University foot bridge. This time there were walls and water to contend with. Peter was doing a good job putting in the FRP's whilst the rest of us thought about taking revenge and leaving him there with nothing but the FRP's.

Gear was shortened, retrieved, organised and many suggestions made about ways of ascending, one foot loop, two foot loops, etc. Up and down we all went, with change overs at the top to answer the questions of the kids and to keep the cup of tea on the boil. The latter was necessary as Krunchy had omitted to take a thermos with him so we could stop over on the ledge and be generally slack.

The Sunday was repeat of the Saturday, with a different crew and descending and ascending was done around the Scouts who were also there to see the cave. Tania had lots of fun passing knots and changing over from up and down to down and up. Crazy hey. There are

many times that one wonders why one does this!

Many thanks to Krunchy for his instruction and just for the record I have my tea black with no additives.

Clare Buswell.

Bargain!

There are still a limited number of Australian Karst Indexes available from the club.

Only \$10

See either Clare or Jonathon for this never to be repeated offer.
(At time of print there were two (2) only left.)

A TRIP IN THE MOONLIGHT continued...

conditions it is unlikely that they will be easily found. In this case there was a misunderstanding in who had them. Also the car was unlocked. Guess learning how to hot wire a car could help.

In making the first assessment of what first aid gear is available, think not only about what people have on their immediate persons but what is in the car or has been left at the cave entrance. Think also about the ease of getting it from such locations and the energy required in fetching it.

Access if the rescue needs outside help. If Paul had fallen over around the entrance of Mystery Ck Cave it would not have been possible for our group to get him out with-out more people.

If stretcher carrying rest frequently so as to save the energy of the carriers.

Always be prepared. Carry a spare sleeping bag, space blankets or garbage bags, so as to prevent hyper-thermia.

If travelling interstate know where the nearest hospital is and its amenities, as it may save you a long trip.

Thanks go to those who helped make this rescue a smooth operation. Chris Hales, Heiko Maurer, Janine Tamblyn, Peter Krahenbuel, Matt Merrick, Chris Bradley, and Paul Harper who managed to remain in good spirits despite it all.

Clare Buswell.

Corra Lynn *Part I*

The first trip to Corra Lynn for 1992 was held over the long weekend of the 16-18 May. It was my first experience of "real" caving, as opposed to organised tours through well lit walkway-provided tourist caves.

Grovelling through deep, dark, dirty crawls on hands and knees proved to be an exhilarating experience! There is the thrill of conquest and personal achievement upon wiggling through a hole which looked barely wide enough to admit your helmet; there is the fine gypsum crystals along the walls; and finally there is the sheer exhaustion and ache of tired muscles and sore knees upon resurfacing. I am one who definitely belongs to the pro-kneepad camp (sorry Jonathon!) [No you're not! -Ed]

We caved Sunday morning and afternoon, then returned to the campsite at the Minlaton Caravan Park, where we drank port, played cards, and argued heatedly on many topics until all hours.

Our Monday morning caving was made more exciting by the need to practice first aid with a dusty hankie and a "facilitated" after Paul slipped in Dream World and cut his hand. The only real drame was the decent of the chimney we had scaled to get in. We managed OK, and Paul lived to tell the tale - later sporting stitches and all!

Overall the weekend was excellent and an inspiring introduction to caving. And is it really a Freudian urge to return to the womb? A rebirthing at each exit? Try it and see!

Belinda Skuja

Part II

FUSS conducted a small expedition to the York Peninsula over the weekend of the 5th - 6th of September. Present were John Callison, Tania Wilson, Eric Schultz, Clare Buswell, and Ros Callison who stayed at the top.

We left Adelaide at the civilized hour of 10:30 am with Clare at the helm, and Tania and me (Eric) going back to sleep.

After obtaining the keys from one of the council members in Minlaton, we met John at Townwell Cave and

fought our way through the guardian sheep to the entrance.

We spent a fair while rigging for the 33m ladder climb down, into what used to be the domestic water supply for Curramulka.

The entrance shaft was really wet with water running and falling off the walls. A tricky bit of footwork is required at the bottom, to get from the ladder to the 'slope' surrounding the pool where the shaft continues (no crocodiles, luckily).

The cave is not very extensive, petering out into super tight squeezes before long. There is a fairly good selection of decoration to be admired.

We packed up in the twilight and then headed for the caravan park at Minlaton.

On Sunday we cleared out of the caravan park and went into Corra Lynn Cave. We had a fairly sedate trip out to the back of Dreamworld, saw some gypsum crystals, but mostly just the backside of the person crawling along in front.

On the surface we examined an excavation in an adjoining paddock, being dug by the South Australian Museum and CEGSA, which was another entrance to the area we had just been in. It is to be used to remove fossil material from the cave

We arrived back in Adelaide before dark, weary but content.

Eric Schultz

Part III

"FUSS is our name, Rescuing is our game.

Destination: Curramulka Bowling Green

Time: 10am Sharp.

Objective: Caving (maybe).

Upon arriving at Curramulka, obtaining lodging for the night was undertaken. After discussion with Jovial care-taker, we made ourselves at home - cup of tea and conversation to delay our primary objective. A suggestion of swimming was made, but Corra Lynn beckoned.

On arrival at Corra Lynn, it was decided that lunch was appropriate. After feasting and filling, we geared up and headed down (finally).

Clare and Jenny were deposited in Crystal chamber and Bushwalkers Chamber. Darryl, Helen, Kevin and John - after abandoning Clare in Crystal Chamber - proceeded to search for Jenny at Bushwalkers. Meanwhile Matt, Eric, Belinda and Bryan went in search of Clare.

We found Jenny hidden away, engrossed in a novel with a block of chocolate, after she had blown her whistle a number of times.

We returned to the outside world for a well deserved beer. Thirty minutes later, the other group emerged after finding Clare and doing a tour of Crystal Maze. Alas, no beer left.

We then headed back to the Minlaton Caravan Park, after a supply detour to the pub.

Showers, beer, tea and coffee were in order to prepare for the evening meal. A communal meal was prepared, and as usual there was plenty of curry left for breakfast (a minor understatement - curry, curry, and more curry). After plenty of food, wine, and good conversation it was lights out. Late comers then arrived - Ralph, Jonathon, mosquitoes and ticking clock.

Back to Corra Lynn, and this time we decided to lose Belinda and Kevin. Then in two groups we went searching for the lost parties. Belinda was recovered at Bushwalkers, and Kevin somewhere up Rope Crevass - both were having naps (it must be hard being a victim). Lunch Time!

After lunch the group made their way into the cave to practice rescuing with a drag mat. Helen was found in Grand Central with a supposed broken arm and leg. She was carefully placed on the mat, tied with plenty of rope, and carried out of the cave (with some dragging).

A great weekend was had by all - very beneficial to everyone.

Darryl Sharman

SKELETAL REMAINS MULLAMULLANG CAVE

In July 1991, I was fortunate enough to become involved in the recovery of skeletal remains from Mullamullang Cave 39 kilometres north east of Madera on the Nullarbor Plain. Two human skeletons were eventually found and I will endeavour to explain some of the circumstances and the outcome of the inquiry that resulted.

On July 11, 1991 members of the National University Caving Club (NUCC) were exploring Mullamullang Cave when they found what appeared to be human skeletal remains in the vicinity of Franks Station approximately 2 kms into the cave.

The Police were notified and the following day members of the NUCC guided a Police party including a Forensic Officer to the remains that had been left *in situ*. After the remains were photographed they were collected and brought to the State Mortuary Perth for Forensic examination.

A search of the area immediately around the remains located a floppy cloth hat about 3 metres from the remains. That was the only evidence of clothing. A piece of timber was found near the feet of the remains however there was no evidence to indicate that the timber had been used as a firestick.

In Perth Forensic Pathologist Doctor Clive Cooke and Forensic Odontologist Mr Frank Digwood examined the remains. The remains were at least ten years deceased possibly much greater and were of a part Aboriginal male (young adult) probably 175-185 cms tall in the absence of significant injury to bones the cause of death could not be established.

Doctor Leonard Freedman PhD Hon Res Fellow Department of Anatomy and Human Biology Studies University of WA further examined the remains and commented "the overall cranial features of this individual show some Australian Aboriginal features but the individual would appear to be part Aboriginal only. This is very strongly indicated by the overall cranial shape with its posterior broadening.

I was contacted and asked for my opinion if it was usual for anyone to go into a cave alone. This was a very open question and I explained to the inquiry team and forensic experts that it was more than likely that people would enter a cave in groups of two or more.

On July 25, 1991 a decision was made to conduct a second search of Mullamullang Cave. On July 30, 1991 I led a team of 5 forensic experts and inquiry team into the cave and located where the skeletal remains found by NUCC had been. With all due respect to the members of NUCC the remains were not found near Franks Station but on the "Big Rock Pile" west of next to White Lake and on the northern side of the cave within two metres of the wall.

Whilst the Forensic Team sieved the earth at the site a team member, Bob KIPPIN, SES Coolgardie and myself searched the Big Rock pile down to White Lake for further evidence that may identify the remains. During this search Bob called to me that he had found further remains and found that they were human as the head had fallen from the skeleton and was nearby. The remains of body 2 were on the southern side of the cave diagonally opposite the remains of body 1 and approximately 50 metres apart. The remains of body 2 were on the White Lake side of the rock pile and the lake could be seen from where they were found.

Meanwhile the forensic team had found fibrous material under the area where the buttocks of body 1 had been, these were collected for later examination.

The remains of body 2 were examined and photographed *in situ* by the Forensic Team and were packed for transportation out of the cave in my backpack. Again as in the case of body 1 there was no evidence of clothing. Whilst examining the remains an amount of fibrous material was located directly beneath the deceased's buttocks. As with body 1 body 2 was found next to the cave wall. One can only speculate that they may have been trying to feel their way out of the cave without a light source.

On return to Perth the remains of body 2 were examined by Doctor Cooke, Mr Digwood and Doctor Freedman with his assistant Ms Alana Buck.

It was found by Doctor Cooke and supported by his qualified associates that the remains were those of a full blood Aboriginal male 35-45 years, the cause of death was unascertainable as was his identity.

Alana Buck reported that the upper incisor evulsed (removed) from individual 2 indicated this was initiated according to traditional Aboriginal customs.

Samples of fibrous materials taken from under the bodies were examined by the Chemistry Centre of WA. The result was possible human hair and fibrous material of vegetable

origin. This evidence suggests that both men were weaving Tribal loin cloths known as "Julbah" these were made of human hair and grass however this is not conclusive.

Inquiries were made with long time residents of the Nullarbor and it was found that a tribe of Aboriginals known as the "Meahineng" lived in the area of Mullamullang Cave which was known by that tribe as "Gubbie Kunbenneh" a rough translation of which means "good water". It was also found that Aboriginals used to get water from near the cave entrance but the source has since dried up. One person interviewed retold a story told to him by an Aboriginal elder in the 1930s of an Aboriginal named Buddon had gone into Mullamullang Cave looking for water and never came out. Unfortunately this story cannot be proven. From what can be determined the story of Buddon entering the cave happened in the 1880s to 1890s.

Mr Mance Lofgren, Head of the WA Museum Anthropological Department spoke of people of mixed race were known as early as 1880. If this is correct it could place some credence on the story of Buddon and the fact that the body 1 was of mixed racial origin.

Mr Lofgren in his report referred to the likelihood of there being another cave entrance which was much closer to the location of the skeletal remains. He also mentions firesticks and the absence of clothing both of which tend to support the theories. Mr Lofgren expressed serious doubt that our victims would have mistakenly or otherwise ventured so far into this or any other cave. He cited documented evidence which found that there had been stone tools and artwork found some 850 feet inside the Koonalda Cave in South Australia. Finally Mr Lofgren suggested that it is not possible to accurately determine the period in which these men have died. A method known as "Radiometric dating" is available to assist with the aging of skeletal remains however this is far from precise. The method can only give the date of death within 100 years it cannot break that down into decades or years. For those reasons those tests were not undertaken.

It was the opinion of the inquiry team that both men perished after becoming stranded inside the cave following the expiration of their light source.

On December 4, 1991 the Coroner at Kalgoorlie MP Malone SM handed down his finding and in part reads "It is not possible to identify either deceased beyond saying that it is likely that one was a young part Aboriginal adult male and the other a full Aboriginal adult male of 35-45 years of age.

The date of death was between 10 and 100 years ago.

The cause of death is unknown but it is a reasonable hypothesis that both men having lost what was likely to have been a very primitive light source lost their way in the darkness of the cave described by one author as such as to "overwhelm all other senses" and unable to escape from the cave, died.

None of the evidence suggested suspicious circumstances.

In view of the foregoing I must return an open verdict concerning the two deceased.

The assistance given to me by Bob (Coolgardie) Kippin SES Coolgardie even if he did pull on his wobbly boots at night was greatly appreciated.

It's times like this when the true spirit of the SES becomes apparent, thanks Coolgardie.

I hope the story was interesting and I look forward to working with more SES units at various jobs in future.

All the best.

SENIOR SERGEANT BOB COOPS
Emergency Operations Unit

This article was reprinted (with thanks) from Western Alert, the official journal of the West Australian State Emergency Service. Vol 22, pp 41-42

What Mavis and the Gnome did during the holidays (Trog Delights)

Mavis has been very busy with the gnome in the Fuss library, doing well we can only guess by the number of condoms spread around the place, but we also found the following journal write ups amongst the mess they left behind.

Nargun: Newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Society. Vol 25, No 7. Feb 1993.

Front cover photo of a caver holding a drill is no doubt designed to stir the pot on what we should and shouldn't be doing in caves. I reminds me of the land management practices of the last 200 hundred years in this country: i.e., if it gets in the way cut it down and if it moves then shoot it.

Editorial talking about the need to repair the last two hundred years of surface vegetation damage to help with the stabilisation of karst surfaces.

Reprint of an article from 1920 outlining the discovery of Royal Cave at Buchan, now a show cave.

Peter Ackroyd goes blasting in Sundial Pot to shift a large boulder out of the entrance and find a way on. At the end of the days grunt a number of small shafts were negotiated and a further lead was found. A very readable history of three trips to Jenolan caves (NSW) by the Van Dyk family, (Kim is the VSA safety and Training Officer and the S&R Co-ordinator). I think Mavis once lived in Jenolan by the events that this write up tells: Tourists going wild caving and end up in hospital: a guide going for help and ending up needing help 'cos she knocked herself unconscious in the hurry to get help!

An article on the exploits of a couple of well known member's day at the beach. No they did not make sand castles, but a map resulting from the trip looks very fish like!

Write up of a VSA/CEGSA trip to the Mt Eccles and Byaduk area in July

of last year. Finally an article on the use of records to relocate lost caves, very instructive.

NSS News. Journal of the National Speleological Society USA. Vol 50 No 11. Nov 1992.

A report of the building of "The Cavern: World Without Light" by the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History. Yep, this is complete with waterfalls, pits, avons, a flowing stream, phreatic passage, breakdown, a chamber of formation, live bats, and crawls, climbs and wheelchair access for the vistors. When is the Science Museum in Canberra and the ASF going to venture into a similar project.

A write up of the Latin American and Caribbean Speleological Federation Conference held in Cuba in 1992. The report mentions the problems of obtaining soap, shoes, etc let alone caving gear due to the embargo placed on Cuba by the US because the Cubans had the audacity to take control of their own political affairs a couple of decades ago.

Cuba contains some of the best examples of tropic karst in the world, as carbonate and other dissoluble rocks are present in almost 70% of the land areas and almost 100% of the shallow marine platform. Cuba's largest cave the Cueva de Santo Tomas was used by Castro to hide the invasion force during the early part of the revolution. Cuba's caves also contain some of the hottest, 44 degrees, used by bats who happen to like this level of comfort.

An article on modifying mining lamps for caving which covers such topics as filament life, battery life, voltage control and the use of lithium batteries. This issue also contains NSS News index to Vol 49. 1991.

Australian Caver No 132. 1992
Numerous letters to the editor dealing with ASF's new Code of Ethics, mostly from the pro blasting and camping lobby.

Articles on the soon to be implemented by the ASF, leadership accreditation scheme raising some of the good and bad results of such a scheme.

An essay on the problems associated with the publicity of caving and the resultant increase in human visitation on the karst. The author tries to set the perimeters of the debate, from caving for pay, making of films for sale to the mass media, caving becoming the next great holiday available for 700.00 per day. He asks is this the direction that we in the caving fraternity wants to go or is our role in speleology to act as the custodian of the karst commons, to care for it so that it remains as a future commons.

A historical note on the problems of tagging in the Northern Territory. A case of found and then lost due to a fast turnover of people in the Northern Territory.

An article on caving in Thailand. A Book review on Reardon and Flavel's book, A guide to the Bats of South Australia. A synopsis on recent overseas speleo publications and a note on the continuing Exit Cave mine.

Tas Trog 1993 Conference Papers. Presented at the 19th Biennial conference of the Australian Speleological Federation. January 4-8 1993 Launceston Tasmania.

This wide ranging set of papers demonstrates the diversity of interest and expertise of the members of the Australian Speleological Federation. Topics covered range from Recycling Mine Lamps, taking beginners caving, Tourism as Cave Conservation? Impacts of Caver Groups, to the Hydrogeology of the Mt Ann Karst, Tasmania. Get hold of the Club copy and read what interests you.

Mavis and the Gnome

A FEW NOTES ON BASIC CAVING GEAR*

HELMET WITH FOUR POINTS OF ATTACHMENT.

So it does not fall off if you get hit on the head.

BOOTS WITH GOOD TREAD.

OVERALLS OR ADEQUATE CLOTHING FOR THE CAVE ATTEMPTED.

THREE LIGHT SOURCES.

SPARE BULBS FOR EACH OF THE LIGHT SOURCES

Pack them in a smash proof container such as a film canister or a tobacco tin.

WAIST TAPE 5 METRES LONG.

Made from 50mm rated seat belt tape. Waist tapes come in handy to use as handlines, you can make up foot loops to help people climb up or down. Wrap the tape around your waist or carry it in your caving pack.

TRIANGULAR BANDAGE.

You can make these from an old sheet or the left over protest banner from the last demo you went to. Carry it in your helmet or a pocket.

A BAG TO CARRY THINGS IN. A day pack.

"No tread on your boots, no waist tape, and your permit to Blackberry cave has expired. I must take a dim view of this, Sir".



SPACE BLANKET. (Or a large tough garbage bag.)

You can carry this in the top of helmet. Space blankets are designed to keep the body heat in thus helping to prevent hyperthermia.

FIRST AID KIT.

This should contain any personal medication that you are taking, cotton buds, a compression bandage, cloth band-aids, tweezers, some pain killers, a small container of Betadine or Betadine swabs, a note pad and pen and a small plastic bank bag to put any rubbish in.

I also carry Saline solution, to get the dust out of my eyes.

DRINKING WATER.

SOMETHING TO MUNCH ON.

Chocolate, or some energy giving food.

WHISTLE.

You use less energy blowing a whistle than yelling for help if lost.

POCKET KNIFE.

GLOVES.

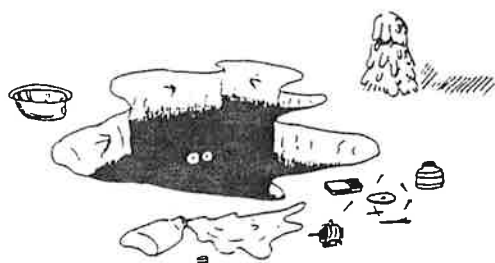
Helps to keep skin abrasions down and your hands warm.

AN EMPTY WINE BLADDER.

To piss into. Women will need a small funnel.



"A hand made scented candle as a primary light source: two sticks of Auroshikha incense as a backup light: and meditation as your third light source! I must warn you that I shall be required to take down any thing you say".



* This is for every member in the party, the Leader carries a bit more

References: ASF Cave Safety Guidelines 1990.