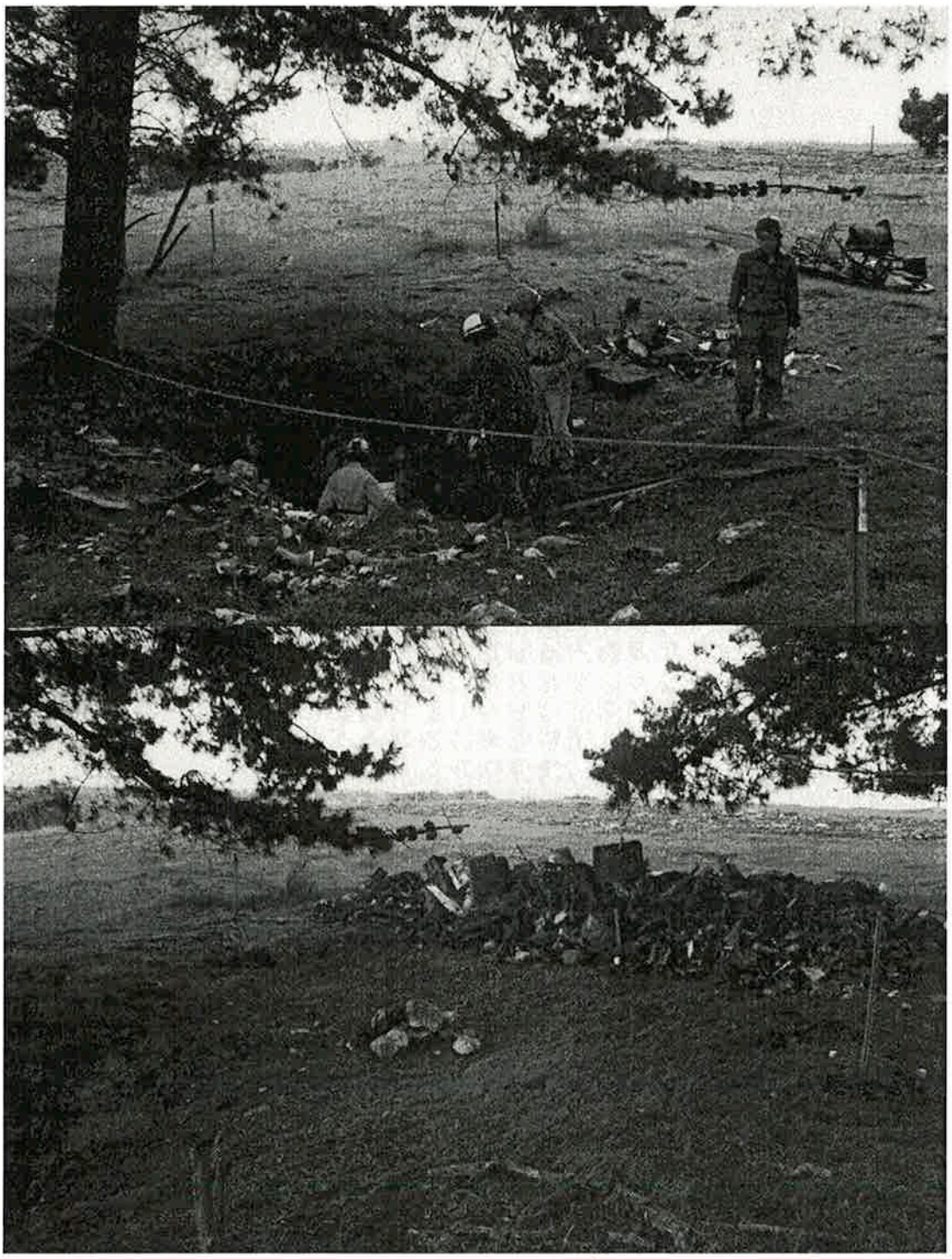
FUSSI

Vol 7 No 3



A day at Redelsham's

The Quarterly Newsletter of the

Flinders University Speleological Society Incorporated

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Meeting times:
The first Tuesday of each month

At 6.30 pm in the Kelly Morris Rm. Union Building. Flinders University.

Pre meeting drinks
Union Tavern
6pm.

In case of a caving accident call the police, then let the FUSS Safety Officer know:
Tim Payne
2/29 Rose Tce,
Prospect. 5082
Ph: 344 3282

then
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Editorial

Here we go once again for this year. I must apologize for the lack of a table of contents, but the &^&*^% word processor had to be wrestled the entire distance on this one, and it won anyway! But here it is at the promised time and all!

Whats On

7th. Nov	6.30.	General Meeting meeting. **Snakes, Lizards and You.** A presentation from the Adelaide Snake Catchers.
21th. Nov	7.30	Land Owner Liaison and Caving. Public Meeting Scout Head Quarters Fullarton Rd, Norwood.
		EXAMS NOV 20TH - DEC 2ND
2nd. Dec	9 am	**CAR WASH. Tania Co-ordinating. Followed by-**
2nd. Sat Dec	6.30 pm	**Annual Helmet Dinner Party**. 52 Main Street. Henley Beach. Clare Organising Only the most outlandish helmets allowed.
5. Dec	6.30	General Meeting. **Kirsty the Dictator.** Horizontal Leadership Accreditation.
9-10th. Dec		Rendalsham caves, plus a beach walk. Kylea Co-ordinating
2nd-12th. Jan		**Tasmania**. Mole Ck Caves. (Trip is currently full.)
17th-26th. Jan		**Yagby.** Let's find Y61. Clare Co-ordinating
27th-28th. Jan		**ASF Council Meeting Canberra.** Eric is our Representative.
6th. Feb	6.30	**General Meeting.**
12-15th. Feb		**Karst Studies Seminar Naracoorte.** This is a five day programme set in the Lower and Upper South East Karst Regions and promises to be very informative.

Each Tuesday from and including the 14th of November, SRT practice off the University foot bridge will occur principally for those going to Tassie. If others wish to come along that is also OK. Starting time: 6. p.m. Practice will go for the following three weeks.

Whats On

KARST STUDIES SEMINAR

NARACOORTE, S.A.

12-15th. FEBRUARY 1996.

This is the third in a series of informal seminars on the karst sciences, the first having been at Buchan in 1991 and the second at Wombeyan in 1993. This is the final circular, and further materials will only be sent to those who have enrolled. Do make it known to any of your colleagues who are interested but who may not have received our mailings.

PAPERS

Some dozen papers have already been offered. To confirm your offer or to make a new offer, please let us have a summary by **11th. December 1995.** We plan to publish a summaries booklet,. so please let us have yours in print-ready format (NOT by Fax !). It may be of up to 2 pages (perhaps more with special pleading, but our resources are limited) so as to provide a useful record for participants. Presentations will be limited to 15 minutes with five minutes for discussion and questions. We will have a slide projector and overhead projector on site. Late papers will not be in the booklet and will only be able to be presented as posters.

GUIDEBOOK

A regional guidebook (and hopefully the summaries booklet) will be circulated to all participants at the end of January and will include details of features which people might like to investigate on an individual basis en route. If you will not be at your usual address at that time, let us know where to send your copy.

PROGRAM

Monday 12	Arrive by dinner time
Tuesday 13	a.m. Papers (at Joanna Community Hall) p.m. Field Visit to Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park and World Heritage Area staying until dark to see the bat emergence flight. BBQ dinner at the caves.
Wednesday 14	Full-day field visit to sites of interest in the lower South-east - the massive risings, karst pavements, coastal phytokarst, cenotes, archaeological sites, etc.etc.
Thursday 15	Papers (again at Joanna Hall) If time permits, further specialised field trips will be arranged.
Friday 16	Departure - again, the guidebook will provide a range of further interesting sites for individualised visiting, eg., Coonawarra wineries or the McKillop Schoolhouse at Penola.

Whats On

ACCOMMODATION

This will be provided for up to 28 people at Wongary Host Farm on a dinner, bed & breakfast basis. Many beds are already booked, so if you want this accommodation, book quickly Camping space will also be available at Wongary or the Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park at a lower rate; or those who want something more luxurious (or who book too late) can stay in town at one of the motels. If staying at a motel, please make your own bookings.

COSTS

Conference fee (including hall hire, morning/afternoon teas, lunches, BBQ at the Naracoorte caves, guidebook & abstracts, stationery & administration, and field trip expenses, including bus)	$ 95.00
Wongary dinner bed & breakfast (4 nights)	$ 135.00
Let us know if you want to share a double bed (BYO partner!)	
Camping at Wongary with breakfast & dinner	$ 71.00
Tent Camping at Wongary - no meals	$ 26.00
Tent Camping at Naracoorte Caves Park (no meals)	$ 8.00

Breakfasts & Dinners at Wongary for campers or others not staying in the house can be provided but must be booked ($ 15 per day)

Please make all cheques payable to *Rethink Consulting P/L.*

BOOKINGS

Please send bookings, summaries, questions, etc. to

Elery Hamilton-Smith
P.O. Box 36
Carlton South
Vic. 3053
Ph 03.9489.7785
Fax 03.9481.2439
e-mail : elery@alexia.net.au

Ken Grimes & Elery Hamilton-Smith: Convenors.

(N.B. Send all bookings to Elery, but note he will not be available for phone or other immediate enquiries between 20 Oct and 1 Dec.)

Trip Reports

F.U.S.S. Trip 30/Sept-2/Oct Caves L-18, L-34, L-38
(Rendelsham's Cave Clean Up Number One)

Participants
Clare,Eric,John,Paul, Debbie, Kylea
Keven Cocks,Glynis,Marie,and Alex

It didn't start out as an ordinary F.U.S.S. trip due to the presence of unusual objects such as a gennie and lights and a shelter for cooking and such.

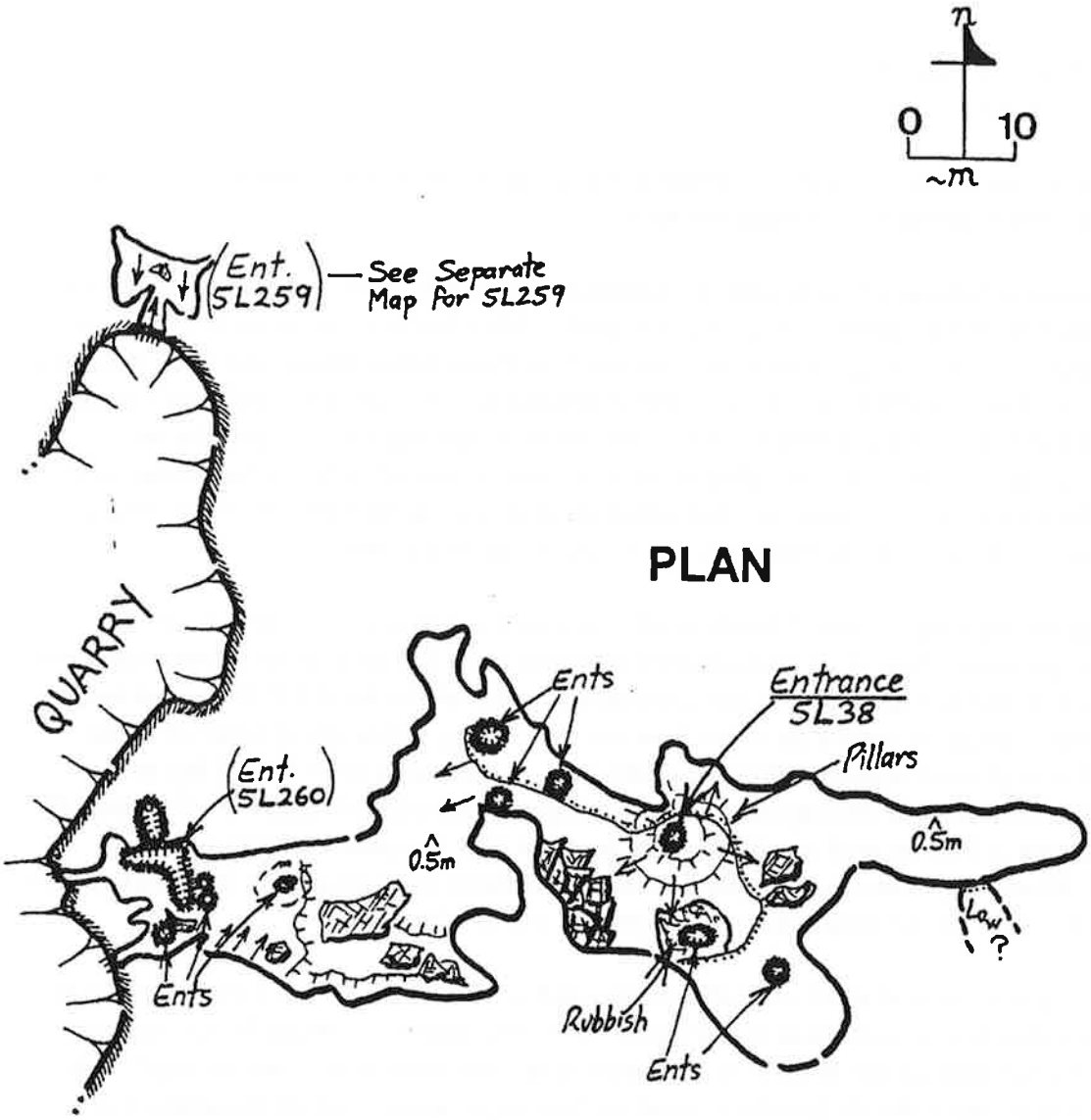
First order of business Saturday was to look at Rendelsham's cave to work out plan of attack for Sunday. We removed a little rubbish then went for lunch. After lunch we went on to Millicent, and there we split in to two groups. One consisted of Clare,Paul,Debbie,Marie and Alex the other of Eric,John,Kylea,Keven and Glynis. Clare's group headed for Morgans cave and Eric's group for Tindales. We in Eric's group found Tindales cave quite interesting with its quantity of formation and the narrow entrance. We all met back at camp at around 6:30 pm had dinner and we went on to Mt Gambier as a friend of Clare's had invited us all to his birthday party. We left the party at about 12:30 to return to Rendelsham's where we were camped.

Sunday morning we were up early as Clare had informed us local media were supposed to be arriving early to get some shots of us cleaning Rendelshams cave, but they never showed up so off we went to the cave and got started with the assistance of some of the local S.E.S. , about lunch time the local police sergeant turned up to see how we were going, unknown to some of us he knew Clare and was pleased with our efforts up until then. So he asked if we would like to see some fossilised trees and some Aboriginal middens in a place called South End, we all agreed -He said he would return at 5:30 to pick us all up ,when he did it was in a paddy wagon so we all climbed in and off we went, the road was not bad to start with but then got ruts in it about two feet deep, not good for those in the back but they enjoyed the ride all the same

Monday very early rise, around 8:30, packed up camp and set of on one of Eric's adventures (He had organised a canoe trip from Nelson in Victoria) . We were taken up-stream by car and we were to paddle back down stream to Nelson, estimated time about four hours, not so tough you reckon. I forgot to mention the 40 knot head wind we had to go against and an incoming tide. Five hours later to the relief of most we had reached the end but we all still had a great time, as it was something different to do. When we got a map and worked out how far we bad gone it was about 16kms which is not bad for a moderately fit bunch of cavers -

Written by
John Thorp.

Trip Reports
RENDELSHAM CAVE 5L38



(Map reprinted from: Lower South East Karst Reference Book. Peter Horne)
Cinderella's Shoe.
(Rendelsham's Cave Clean Up Number Two)
Clare Buswell.

Sat. Oct 14th. 1995.
Present: Kevin Mott, Fred Aslin, (CEGSA) Clare Buswell, Peter Wallis, Kylea Clarke, Richard Ewart, Eric Schulz (FUSS), members of the Mt Gambier SES and Steve Chappell, Millicent Police.

History
Rendelsham's Cave Reserve was named after the town of Rendelsham. It has now been re named by the Aboriginal name of Noorla Yo Long. The site of the 17 hectare reserve also

contains a dis-used quarry. The current known cave consists of one large chamber with seven known entrances.

In 1979 CEGSA gained persmision from the local Shire Council for persmision to clean the site up as they were concerned that the rubbish that had accumulated in it was causing a loss of habitate for the bats. The clean up occured and the matter was let be.

In March of this year FUSS was approached by Steve Chappell to help with the management of the cave as Steve had negotiated with the local council to lease the site for twenty years and develop it as an Adventure Activity area for local youth groups. (See Press Clipping this issue).

In the process of developing the obstacles for the course Steve's workers have unearthed a number of other karst features. These include a couple of new solution tubes going into the known cavity. A couple of depressions have shown up after a dozer cleared a section of the site for an obstacle to be built and a crow bar has been lost whilst digging a hole. These latter developments are away from the known cave in what appears to be the floor of the old quarry.

Over the past ten months or so local schools have planted thousands of native trees and shrubs, and numbers of pines have been removed. There are half a dozen pines over three entrances of the known six entrances and over the next few months it is hoped that these pines will be removed and replaced by local species of ground cover and shrubs. All entrances of the cave are to be fenced off and signs erected explaining the importance of caves, how they are formed and an explanation of the life found in them. A route through cave will be marked and the rest of the cave will be monitored for cave biota. The main aim of the clean up and the revegetation programme is to help bring the cave back as a wintering site for the bats that once lived there.

Saturday's Cleanup

This was the second attempt to remove rubbish from this rubbish tip of a cave. Peter Wallis, Clare Buswell, Eric Schulz and Kylea Clarke squashed into the Colt on Friday night and drove to Richard Ewart's home in Mt Gambier. Mavis was in a Clare suit which resulted in the gain to a rubbish bin of a dough nut and the squashing under foot of a lamington. These two acts resulted in near mutiny in the car, slanderous accusations, and the possible use of Richard's professional services in court if Mavis ever did such a thing again! Arriving at mid night we felt that it was imperative that we spent time drinking Richard's port and looking at old FUSS trip photos. At 2. a.m. we got to bed.

Richard supplied coffee and Crousiants for breakfast at 8.30. (Yey Richard.) FUSS members are never very good at early breakfast conversation but I distinctly remember some comments about Eric's "Fluffy tail."

Needless to say we were late at the cave site by three quarters of an hour. Kevin and Fred and the SES crew were hard at it hauling buckets up one of the solution tubes. Peter set up a haul rig at another solution tube and our crew, (after a cup of tea) using masks, started hauling out Asbestos roof sheeting which we had put to one side in the clean held two weeks previously. The sheeting was packed in large nylon bags tied up and hauled out. Two hours later saw the task completed.

Trip Reports

The after lunch effort saw yet another haul line set up over yet another entrance. Kevin and Peter worked above ground and Kylea, Clare, Richard and Eric took up positions on the rubbish pile below. This time we managed to collect, a truck axle, sheets of corrugated iron, pieces of pipe, some sort of metal flag pole or stobie post, a car seat, a red 1970's women's left shoe and bucket loads of broken bottles and household rubbish. (We sent the shoe up to Steve in a bucket but alas he rejected it as Cinderella was a myth.) The sad thing is we have only touched the beginning of this entrance. Meanwhile, Fred and his crew after removing a car body, dug through five feet of sand cone filled with household rubbish and has that much again to go. We finished work at 4 pm and resisted an offer from Steve to go over a new part of the adventure course. Instead we watched Steve's son and Lawrence go over the them. Somehow or other I think we wimped out and really wanted a ride to the beach again.

During all this activity we managed to collect some soil samples for culturing out and took a spider from amongst the many that live in the rubbish heap. The spider is now in the South Australian Museum in its collection of spiders. It was identified by David Hurst, as Baiani glenelgi, it has been described by Mike Gray from the Australian Museum. It is not trolobitic. To David's knowledge the Museum has not received any spiders from the Lower South East before and this particular spider is common around the Glenelg River area.

As we had an appointment back in Adelaide later in the evening we pack up the Colt and left for town at 5. p.m. The drive back was a breeze as we decided that we would change drivers each hour. The only draw back for some was that the Colt is not an Alfa!

SEARCH AND RESCUE SEMINAR AND SIMULATION EXERCISE AT CORRA LYNN. August 12/13 1995.

Persons Present at the seminar: Co-ordinators: Clare Buswell, Tim Payne, John Meikle.

Group members; Kylea Clarke, Glenys Crane, Emma Gasconio, Debbie Callison, Marie Choi, Kirsty Kitto, Sue Archdall, Alex Stojnic, Marie McMahan, John Meikle, John Thorpe, Jonathon Walsh, Kevin Dixon, Paul Waclawic, Kevin Cocks, David Egel, Frank Hankinson,

Persons present for the weekend exercise: Co ordinators: Clare Buswell, Eric Schulz, John Callison, Di Brinsley. Sat only.
Group members; Kylea Clarke, Debbie Callison, Marie Choi, Kirsty Kitto, Sue, Alex, Marie McMahan - Sunday only, John Meikle, John Thorpe, Jonathon Walsh, Kevin Dixon, Paul Waclawic, Peter Wallis.

Why was it that Kirsty volunteered for the trip to Bushwalkers run for the third time that fateful weekend? Was it because she had a secret stash of chocolate planted there? Was it because there was a lead at the bottom of the Northern Floor Hole that only she knew about? Did Mavis decide that Kirsty was for her? Or was it because she was the 'patient' for the rescue section of the weekend course?

None of the above questions concerned the seminar and weekend of S & R that involved around 25 people from caving clubs in South Australia.

The seminar session was part of the normal general meeting of FUSS. The group of around thirty people was divided into smaller groups and given numerous scenarios to solve. These ranged from:
What are your expectations of the other members of your caving party? What are your expectations of the trip leader? What do you do as a group if one of your party members is lost? What do you do if you are the lost person? What do you do if you have run out of light? You are in the crawl sections of Cathedral cave at Naracoorte and a member of your group has sprained and ankle. How do you get them back to an entrance? A person has become exhausted during an ascent. They are in a narrow rift (the Stair well), two people are below the person and the remainder of the group are above the exhausted person. The group has to rescue the person via ascent.

What follows are the points put forward by the groups to solve the problems raised in the scenarios. These responses are not in any order and are not presented as a final set of guidelines to follow in similar situations. They are printed here as food for thought for others in the club and for ongoing discussion.

Scenarios:
What Is Expected Of Other Members?
Group 1
- Someone, preferably **everyone** (other than leader) should know way out. If you have navigation skills and prepared to teach and test others.
- Be aware of and admit personal limitations whilst caving and be sensitive to others in group.
- Be prepared: have your own gear, lighting, 1st aid, garbage bags/space blanket, etc.
- Inform leader/member of whereabouts - if leaving group.
- Stay within group - no charging off.
- To have patience.
- To bring own chocolate.

What Is Expected Of Other Members?
Group 2
- Good communication and feed back - whether a trail is worth exploring or hazards, ie looks unstable.
- To be adequately prepared for trip - first aid, light sources, clothes etc.
- To have their share of the chocolate (not too much).
- To be honest about their caving abilities - and for others to respect their honest judgement.
- To be familiar with the ASF, safety guidelines, minimal impact Caving Code.

What Is Expected Of Other Members?
Group 3
- Responsibility/Maturity
- awareness of dangers, situations
- willingness to share skills and knowledge
- no heroic efforts
- Chocolate

What is expected of a trip leader?
Group 1
- If inexperienced in particular cave be able to read map and navigate.
- Know own limitations and that of the group.
- To be organised.
- To have organised a major first aid kit, inform group members of its location. Ensure group has own first aid gear.
- To keep group together underground.
- Sensitive to limitations of group members.
- Appoint second in command - in case of injury.
- To have a good excuse for leaving us without chocolate.

What is expected of a trip leader?
Group 2
- Organise trip - good planning: First Aid, Notice of timing - permits permission from the land owner, safety with land owner.

SEARCH AND RESCUE SEMINAR AND SIMULATION EXERCISE AT CORRA LYNN. August 12/13 1995.

- To know paths and way around cave, or caving experience (research cave conditions - hazards, flooding etc).
- To know skill levels of members in group.
- To know medical conditions of members (when important).
- To be able to utilise skills of members effectively. (ie if someone else is an SRT or Search and Rescue expert).
- To have a good ratio of novice cavers to experienced cavers.
- To periodically check or monitor if people are having difficulties or roaming off on their own.

What is expected of a trip leader?
Group 3
- Get us in/out safely and enjoyably What is safe?
- Care for the cave environment - Minimal impact
- personal safety
- NO DICTATORS; (to be able to lead with the groups consent?)
- To be encouraging, Knowledgeable
- To have good navigation skills
- Inspiring, Interesting
- Cool under pressure (able to handle stress situations)
- trustworthy - no forcing
- awareness of skills/capabilities of members of groups

What does the group do if you have a member of the party who is lost?
Group 1
- STOP, (Swear)
- Make sure groovy knows the way out
- Call out, whistle
- Listen for response
  If a Response - some go to the person, rest stay put.
  If No Response - If enough people - leave some (Min 3) at place where realised missing member. Others retrace steps, stopping to whistle, call out, check leads off main track - one person stays at start of lead shines light in direction others have gone. (Try to conserve light sources).

What does the group do if you have a member of the party who is lost?
Group 2
(1) Establish a base, notice time, then organise people to search.
(2) Remember where they were last seen and how long ago.
(3) If they're not found - determine complexity of cave and experience of cavers. Decide whether to continue searching and/or call in Rescue Services (police).
(4) Determine if people are fit and/or experienced - where to send them to search and who to send out for help.

What does the group do if you have a member of the party who is lost?
Group 3.
- Collect all other members of group together.
- where did you last see the lost person?
- determine your groups and the lost persons resources
- consider groups and the lost person's caving experience
- construct a search plan
  i.e. do we search? and for how long?
  go out and wait for more help?
  how long have we been in the cave?
  where in cave are we?

What to do if you're lost?
Group 1
- Stop. Stay still don't panic.
- Conserve energy and light.
- Blow whistle to alert attention.
- Prevent hypothermia - wear garbage bag or space blanket.
- Turn off major sources of light - keep minor one going (for attention).
- DON'T fall asleep.

What to do if you're lost?
Group 2
- STOP
- Look around, look for footprints/evidence of way you have come.
- Turn light off and look for lights of group, listen for group.
- Try to retrace steps (mentally/phys)
  If can't retrace steps/don't know where you are:
- Stay in one place.
- Turn off light (conserve batteries).
- Whistle
- Wait, stay calm, warm (use garbage bag or space blanket).

(2) PROBLEM: Someone has a sprained ankle
Apply 1st aid to ankle, don't remove boot, elevate foot, etc. Assume broken.
Make an assessment concerning the resources and ability of the group to carry out a self rescue and if the condition of the victim allow it?
Try to cushion ankle for crawls
1. Drag mat/blanket lift through chamber.
   - Haul through crawls.
   (Space blanket and sleeping roll)
All depends on personal pain threshold may be able to get out with assistance (support).
- Take to hospital.

Know where the nearest hospital is and what facilities it has.

SEARCH AND RESCUE SEMINAR AND SIMULATION EXERCISE AT CORRA LYNN. August 12/13 1995.

This was followed by John Meikle demonstrating various lifts that could be used to help move a person with minor injuries. These lifts included:

Fire persons lift (over the shoulder), blanket lift, four handed seat, two handed seat, fore and aft carry/drag. The lifts provided a good opportunity for the group to find out how not only how an injured person can be moved through a cave but also how not to injure backs in lifting people and therefore becoming the next injured person to be helped from the cave.

Practical Weekend Search & Rescue at Corra Lynn.

(Corra Lynn is a three level maze cave)

Persons present for the weekend exercise: Co-ordinators: Clare Buswell, Eric Schulz, John Callison, Di Brinsley. Sat only.
Group members; Kylea Clarke, Debbie Callison, Marie Choi, Kirsty Kitto, Sue, Alex, Marie McMahan - Sunday only, John Meikie, John Thorpe, Jonathon Walsh, Kevin Dixon, Paul Waclawik, Peter Wallis.

The Saturday sessions involved group cohesion, leadership skill and gaining navigational skills, that is knowing where you are in relation to the map. This information is important if you are asked to search a defined section of the cave.

Getting Lost
Eric Schulz then ran the first session. Each group had two experienced members and two to three cavers. The experienced members of the group had a briefing session before the exercise underground began as one of them had at various stages of the scenario to pretend to get lost and were not to lead the group at all unless something went wrong. Each person of the group was required to navigate a section of the given route.

The result of the first session was that the groups found that their missing person was very quickly noticed as not being with the group. Leaders called the group to together and discussed when the missing person was last seen, and back tracked to that point. Most of the groups found their missing person at this point as the lost member had sat and waited for their return.
One group, however, had to deal with a lost and roaming person and had therefore more searching to do. (I am told that when this person was located, he was given no chocolate, told that Mavis was going to come and live with him and that he would get no dinner!) Eric led the de-brief over lunch.

Search Techniques
After lunch the session involved finding a lost person in the cave. This involved search techniques, and was led by Clare.

Each group had to find a member of another group who had been last seen by that group in X part of the cave. The scenario was that the group members where unable to locate their missing person and had come out to the surface to obtain help from other cavers known to be on the site. The session aimed at establishing search techniques, searching main drags first and calling or blowing whistles down side passages.

Group A lost John at Octopus Chamber,
Group B lost Kirsty at Skeleton Crevasse,
Group C lost Kevin somewhere near Beard Squeeze and
Group D lost Eric in the Wombat Runs.

Group A finds Kevin. Group B finds Eric. Group C finds John and Group D finds Kirsty. A time limit of two hours is set.
Stretcher carrying. Lead by John and Di

The final session of day involved a stretcher carry of an injured patient. Kirsty volunteered and was taken to Rope Crevasse. One person was appointed the leader of the whole exercise, (Marie Choi) Two teams of six split along gender lines, formed to carry the stretcher, a medical person was appointed to be with the patient at all times (Di), two scouts (Kevin and Kylea), were appointed to advise of obstacles that would need to be negotiated with particular care: eg., the rift that would require lifting the patient up 30 feet or more.

The system used was to pass the patient along on to the next group and leapfrog the crew and repeat the action. If passing was not possible then the patient was slowly dragged on the drag mat until it was possible to carry her. This passing and leapfrogging method was used for negotiating the rift. The drag matt is a piece of 1 cm thick conveyor belt with 50mm seat belt tape used for strapping in the patient and tube tape placed along it for handles.

Part of the evening was set aside for the de brief and evaluation of the days events. This was going to take half an hour, three quarters max around the camp fire. Three hours later, after long discussions on leadership types: fascist dictators, benevolent dictators, directed leadership types, lead from behind types, male styles of leadership, female types of leadership and why have a leader at all, the day was declared a success.

Working with Injuries.
Sunday was given over to finding a person who is injured, sprained ankle, cuts and bruises, broken collar bones.

Final de brief session was run by Clare.
General feeling was that the weekend was definitely worth it but may be needed to separate out the navigational sessions to another

SEARCH AND RESCUE SEMINAR AND SIMULATION EXERCISE AT CORRA LYNN. August 12/13 1995.

weekend. Need to set up a underground bivouac as a lot of caving is done in isolated area's (Flinders Ranges, Nullarbor), where outside help is hours away. If a person is injured and an outside agency is required to help then cavers will be involved in maintaining the patient and themselves in the underground bivouac until that help arrives.

It was suggested that there was a need to run a real search and rescue in real time with the involvement of the Police, SES who are the people who do the search and rescue in this State.

Handouts:
ASF Minimal Impact Caving Code.
ASF Accident/Incident Report Form.
Lake, Mike. First Response to Caving Accidents. *Australian Caver.* No. 134

Story of a rescue of a lost person in the US. Re printed below, and Results of the seminar small group work held at the general meeting.

Organ Cave. West Virginia. Lost Cavers.

Reprinted from NSS News.
American Caving Accidents. Dec 1994. p 394.

This was included as part of the notes given out at the S/R weekend. It is published here so as to give an insight into the time taken to find a couple of lost persons who continue to move through a cave rather than remain in one place.

Organ cave West Virginia. At about 1. p.m. on Saturday July 24, a large group entered the Lipps Entrance of the Organ Cave System, a 36 mile long cave in West Virginia. These included two cavers John Gillespie (15), and Matt McDonald (17), along with several younger cavers and John's mother Kathy. Their destination was Lipps Maze, about 40 minutes travel time from the Lipps Entrance.
At about 4 .15 p.m. most of the group was tired and ready to leave but Gillespie and McDonald were not. They got permission to exit the commercial Organ Caves entrance about four hours to the east. Gillespie had been through this route twice before but not on his own. McDonald had started caving in that summer and his experience in the Organ Cave system was limited.

They had trouble finding the Handley Room, about halfway along this route. When they found it, they stopped to rest, lighting several large all day candles. They signed a register and indicated they thought they had it made. They then exited the room by the Flack-Handly Turnpike, an exposed bed rock ledge leading to the Flack Room. They were now off route, heading down into the lower level of the cave. The vast majority of the standard Lipps-Organ route is in the upper level. They travelled downslope to the Fun Room, then went north , through Octopus Alley and to the Sarver Room. Eventually they went up the steep side of the Caldwell Syncline and into the Bone Room where they decided to get some sleep.

Meanwhile they had been missed and the first search was instituted at about 11.00. p.m. A group entered the commercial entrance and searched along the standard route to the Handley Room. They found the candles still burning and the note in the Handley Room register. Others searched from the Lipps Entrances to the Handley Room.

A second call-out brought in about 20 local cavers and the search was expanded. Two cavers were stationed at the Throne Room, a major junction along the upper streamway, as a communication aid and in case the lost cavers were on the move. The various groups were unsuccessful and exited the cave late Sunday afternoon. A small crew, including Gillespie's parents, entered with a dog (the family dog?), to see if the dog could track the lost cavers. There was concern at that point that the victims would become hypothermic. It was decided to do a saturation search and more cavers were called in.

That evening a note from the victims was found in the Sarver Room saying that they thought they now could find the way out and were proceeding back toward the Handley Room. One group of rescuers set out immediately for the Handley Room while another crew did a pass of the cave south toward the Handley Room. A crew of volunteer fire fighters was meanwhile stringing a telephone line down the Organ Mainstream.

At about 9.30 p.m. the lost cavers were found in the Handley Room. They were in good condition and were able to exit the cave on their own. A sweep was done to call of the various rescue groups and all exited the cave by 4.00. A.M. on the Monday morning.

The NSS News comments:
That this was the second lost caver rescue in the area where the victims did not run out of light and continued to move about, making their rescue difficult. Here it proved to be impossible to out think the cavers. Further the rescue organisation and operations were made much easier by the fact that a large number of the cavers who took part in the search knew not only the cave but also the proper names for the passages and the rooms in the cave.

Minimal Impact Caving Code

Minimal Impact Caving Code

Convenor of the MICC Ad Hoc Committee: Rauleigh Webb

Introduction

The need for a Minimal Impact Caving Code (MICC) has evolved over many years as cavers have realised the impact that they have on caves. That impact is so diverse and varied that it has become necessary to devise a caving code that ensures that cavers are aware of the measures that are necessary to reduce their impact on caves.

To those of you who have just become Australian Speleological Federation (Inc) (ASF) members it is important that you understand that a MICC IS necessary because cavers are one of the major sources of damage to caves. Read the MICC carefully and apply it to all of your caving- it will not completely stop cavers damaging caves but it will certainly reduce their impact on the cave environment. This MICC has been devised by cavers FOR CAVES - please assist the caves of Australia by using these simple MIC techniques.

This MICC should be used in conjunction with the ASF Code of Ethics.

General

This code is divided into two sections. One relating to the exploration of a newly discovered cave or section of cave and the other relating to general cave visitation.

The following practices may fall into both sections and may be modified depending on the type of cave being visited. In general it should be stated that we are discussing here a code which will ensure that cavers have a minimal impact on the cave they are visiting. in many instances the practices may not apply as the impact that cavers have, may be minuscule, compared to the impact of flooding of the entire cave, for example. These practices are generally intended to apply in caves where cavers are likely to have a detrimental impact on the cave purely by entering the cave.

In-cave marking refers to the use of a variety of materials to define tracks, routes and barricades in a cave. These measures should be taken to protect sensitive areas, confine caver foot damage, make cavers aware that a sensitive (it may be an unobvious cave animal's territory) area exists.

General Cave Visitation

1. Remember EVERY caving trip has an impact. Is this trip into this cave necessary? If it is just for recreation, is there another cave which is less vulnerable to damage that can be visited? Make this assessment depending on the purpose of your visit, the size and experience of the proposed party, and IF THE TRIP IS LIKELY to damage the cave.

2. Where possible the party leader should have visited the cave previously and hence should be aware of sensitive features of the cave, the best anchor points, and generally reduce the need for un-necessary exploration.

3. Cave slowly. You will see and enjoy more, and there will be less chance of damage to the cave and to yourself. This especially applies when you are tired and exiting a cave.

4. If there are beginners on a trip, make sure that they are close to an experienced caver, so that the experienced caver can help them when required eg. in difficult sections. Ensure that the party caves at the pace of the slowest caver.

5. Keep your party size small -4 is a good party size.

6. Cave as a team - help each other through the cave. Don't split up unless impact is reduced by doing so.

7. Constantly watch your head placement AND that of your party members. Let them

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know before they are likely to do any damage.

8. Keep caving packs as small as possible or don't use them in sensitive caves or extensions.

9. Ensure that party members don't wander about the cave unnecessarily.

10. Stay on all marked or obvious paths. If no paths are marked or none is obvious - DEFINE ONE!

11. Learn to recognise cave deposits or features that may be damaged by walking-crawling on them.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS CODE SURVEYORS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, SCIENTISTS, EXPLORERS, ETC., ARE ALL SUBJECT TO this CODE.

Examples are:-

- Drip Holes
- Stream Sediments
- Paleosoils
- Soil Cones
- Crusts
- Flowstone
- Cave Pearls
- Asphodilites
- Bone material
- Potential Archaeological sites
- Cave Fauna
- Coffee&Cream
- Tree Roots.

12. Take care in the placement of hands and feet throughout a cave.

13. Wash your caving overalls and boots regularly so that the spread of bacteria and fungi is minimised.

14. If a site is obviously being degraded, examine the site carefully to determine if an alternative route is possible. Any alternative route MUST not cause the same or greater degradation than the currently used route. If an alternative is available, suggest the alterative route to the appropriate management authority and report the degradation.

15. Carry in-cave marking materials while caving and restore any missing markers. Tape off sensitive areas you believe are being damaged and report the damage to the appropriate management authority.

16. If it is necessary to walk on flowstone in a cave, remove any muddied boots and/or clothing before proceeding OR DON'T PROCEED!
Sometimes it is better to assess the situation and return at a later date with the appropriate equipment.

17. Treat the cave biota with respect, watch out for them, and avoid damaging them and their traps, webs etc. Also avoid directly lighting cave biota if possible.

18. If bone material is found on existing or proposed tracks, it should be moved off the track to a safer location if at all possible. Collection should only be undertaken with appropriate permission.

19. If you eat food in a cave, ensure that small food fragments are not dropped, as this may impact the cave biota. One way is to carry a plastic bag to eat over and catch the food fragments. This can then be folded up and removed from the cave.

20. Ensure that all foreign matter is removed from the cave. This includes human waste. If long trips are to be made into a cave ensure that containers for the removal of liquid and solid waste are included on the Trip inventory.

21. When rigging caves with artificial anchors eg. traces, tapes, rope etc: ensure that minimal damage occurs to the anchor site by protecting the site. For example, protect frequently used anchors eg. trees, with carpet, packs, cloth etc. Bolts should only be used where natural anchors are inappropriate

22. CAVE SOFTLY!

New Cave or Extension Explorations

1. The existing microbiology of the new cave, both fungi, bacteria and a world of protozoa, will almost certainly be irreversibly contaminated on the first trip into the cave! If you consider cave microbiology has not been

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investigated in the area of this new cave, if cave microbiologists are available, then please consider including them on initial explorations so that they may collect uncontaminated samples.

2. Do not enter the new area if you do not have the equipment required to undertake the minimal activities. Surveying equipment and in-cave markers.

3. The minimal activity should be in-cave marking and surveying. Not purely exploration.

4. Ensure that all alternative routes are examined, by completing the cave survey, prior to crossing sensitive areas. It may not be necessary to enter some areas as they can be bypassed.

5. Having determined that a sensitive areas is to be crossed it should ALWAYS be marked. Reduce future damage by defining a distinct, minimal width track.

6. Discuss in-cave marking within the party and ensure that all ideas are evaluated before marking is undertaken.

7. CAVE SOFTLY!

Cave camp. to help youth tackle life

(Re-printed from The Advertiser, Monday 7th August 1995)

By ROD SAVAGE

The rusting car wrecks have been removed and trees are being planted.

Soon, the lives of 1200 South-East youngsters will change.

And 16-year-old Millicent high School students Marika Clayson, Mark Gurney and Jason Sutherland can barely wait.

The three will be among the first to use the 17.5 ha. Noorla Yo-Long - meaning "a cave in the hills" in the Boandik Aboriginal language - that will become the base for a unique youth development facility.

Currently being cleaned up to make it ready for the first stage of the program, Noorla Yo-Long represents the first time a site has been developed with the specific aim of brightening the future of South Australia's youth.

Students from throughout the South-East will take part in the police-run camps that will see them negotiate physical obstacles and motivational challenges designed to build teamwork, confidence and leadership.

The camps will not be restricted to the site, with the rugged surroundings of the Canunda National Park to be Incorporated for exercises including abseiling, hikes and boating.

Sergeant Steve Chappell, of Millicent police, and businessman Mr Phil Richards came up with the idea of Noorla Yo-Long after taking 20 students to the Woodhouse Scout Camp in the Adelaide hills. After seeing an immense change in all of the students, they realised that the benefits of having a similar camp in the South-East devoted entirely to the future of country youth would be enormous. One year later, their dream is a reality and the site is expected to be ready in July, 1996. Mr Richards estimated that 1200 students would use the site every year. "The big thing about this project is it is being driven for all the right reasons - it is not financially based," Mr Richards said.

Mark, Jason and Marika, who all attended the 1994 camp at Woodhouse, agreed they now had the confidence to realise what they wanted to do in life and "go for it".

Mark said there were a lot of negative feelings and lack of

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self-belief among youngsters, particularly in the country.

"A lot don't care about their lives, but something like this will change their attitudes," he said.

The site contains seven caves which will be rejuvenated during the project with the help of local naturalists and the Flinders University Speleological Society.

Much of the Millicent community is supporting the project and the district council has agreed to lease the land, at Rendelsham, 13km west of Millicent, for $1 a year for 20 years.

The Federal Government, through the Working Nation program, has given the project $160,000 worth of labor and materials, while Kimberly-Clark Australia Pty Ltd has donated more than $20,000 worth of steel.
Miland Pty Ltd has donated salt-treated pine worth about $5000 and Greening Australia has provided 10,000 native trees to be planted on site.

Noorla Yo-Long is supported by the Blue Light section of the SA Police.

IN SEARCH OF A MICROBE BREAKTHROUGH

Three Flinders scientists spent a weekend in South Australia's Naracoorte Caves recently, but unlike most visitors to the World Heritage listed site their main interest was dirt.

Honours biology student Ms Samantha Mead is studying the variety of non-hazardous bacteria in the caves, with a view to identifying what they are and how they contribute to the subterranean ecosystem.

As a basis for that study, she, supervisor Dr Sue Thomas and research assistant Ms Kylea Clarke (who is also a cave enthusiast) spent hours crawling through narrow passageways collecting sediment samples for testing.

The biochemicals produced by some bacteria are valuable in more than simply scientific terms, and are used in everyday products such as laundry detergents and medicines.

Research in the United States has shown that subsurface bacteria, which live in dark, cool and dry areas, are different to surface bacteria which live in warmer, lighter or wetter environments, and produce different biochemicals.

Caving with a purpose: pictured from right are honours biology student Ms Samantha Mead, Dr Sue Thomas and research assistant Ms Kylea Clarke.

Their potential is clearly worth testing, yet comparatively little work has been done in Australia, and more particularly South Australia, on this novel group of microbes.

"Traditionally work with bacteria has focused primarily on their value in medical and agricultural areas and we have comparatively little knowledge of their environmental potential," said Dr Thomas, a Senior Lecturer in biology.

The term environment is used broadly in this context. It refers to the essential part microbes play in the ecosystem and, as such, Ms Mead's study can be seen as one of conservation.

She is optimistic about the prospects of identifying new bacterial species and of being able to determine their relationship with more commonly isolated types.

Tests will be run to determine whether cave bacteria can live in areas where surface bacteria would die of starvation, how sensitive they are to sunlight and ultraviolet light and, therefore, how likely they are to survive outside their normal environment.

At a later stage, molecular techniques will be applied to examine individual genes on the bacterial chromosomes. The long-term aim is to understand how bacteria repair damage to their chromosomes caused by ultraviolet light. Armed with this knowledge, the scientific community will be in a better position to develop ways of preventing and treating sunlight damage in humans. The study which has the support of the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Head Ranger at Naracoorte, Mr Brian Clarke, is one of several being undertaken at the Naracoorte Caves by Flinders research groups. Flinders has strong links with the caves dating back to 1969, when Dr Rod Wells, a Senior Lecturer in biology, was in the party which discovered the first Victoria Cave fossil beds.

(Re-printed from: Flinders Journal, October 1995. P 3)

TROG DELIGHTS

Mavis decided that Kirsty needed help with the library so Mavis pinched half the journals and made sure that her lover, the gnome, took them overseas on his latest trip. What follows are dispatches that Mavis has received.

The Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave File. This is essentially a collection of notes of one of the campaigners involved in the Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave fight. The collection contains everything from press clippings, information gained under the freedom of information act, transcripts of the Review of the facts, background notes prepared for various politicians, to a copy of the video of the cave. (Unfortunately no copy of the video of the blasting of the cave.) The file provides a history of the events that have occurred in the fight to get back into Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave, up to August of 1995. It all makes interesting reading, particularly the responses of the Dept. of Mines and Energy (now S.A. Mines and Energy) at the Review of the Facts held in 1993. Their top brass, the CEO, looked at the video that showed the initial exploration of the cave. A section of it shows a caver crawling through a tight squeeze and making the usual grunting and groaning noises. These sounds were interpreted by the CEO as rock in the cave that groaned, insinuating that, as the rock groaned, it was therefore unstable!

What is unfathomable from all these documents, a lot of it evidence that was presented to the Supreme court last year and to the Parliamentary inquiry into the fiasco, is a clear picture of who took and why the decision to implode the Big Room of the cave was taken. The bone points at the quarry manager, now resigned from Southern Quarries and working overseas, to the Dept of mines (the CEO involved at the time has also resigned) and to the quarry owners themselves.

Currently the caving fraternity is awaiting the decision of the Parliamentary Inquiry; maybe this will tell us why a company would blow up a cave on the eve of a state election and then continue mining in another section of their quarry.

Cavers Chronicle. Journal of the Speleological Research Group Western Australia. Vol. 22. No. 2. August. 1995.
Well a new species of cave Cockroach has been found (and described). It was found in 6N747 on Mundrabilla Station in 1994. It is called Neotemnopteryx wynnei. For it to be described the beastie was sent to the USA, what no Cockroach specialists in Oz?

The issue contains numerous trip reports to Yanchep, Kununurra and the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park. Also numerous press clippings are reprinted. One in particular deals with the Yardarino Mining Company seeking a permit to drill test holes about 20 metres deep across the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and further south to the Cape Leeuwin Light House. This would place the exploration in prime cave and tourism country. Time will tell if a licence will be granted for full scale mining!

NSS News. American Caving Accidents. Dec 1994 Part II.
This is the annual write up of what went wrong whilst caving and cave diving in the USA. It makes for very informative reading. An example:

"On Monday June 26, a group was doing rescue training in a Kelly Ridge Cave in Tennessee. The cave has a depth of 570 feet. At a point about 300 feet into the cave, Tim Williams, was climbing down a slope and a rock he was using as a hand hold gave way. He fell about 25 feet and landed in a stream passage with the rock landing on one of his legs. It appeared that he had suffered a broken leg. He was attended to by his companions while some exited to notify the authorities and call for outside assistance. Local fire departments, rescue squads and the National Park Service personnel responded and the victim was extricated about nine hours after the accident. He was taken to a hospital by helicopter. The leg proved to be only severely bruised".

Caves and Caving. The Bulletin of the British Cave Research Association. Issue 68. Summer. 1995.
An interesting note on stalactites, trees and volcanoes. We know that the annual growth banding in trees can be used to date wood. It seems that speleothems can also be dated by the rings found in them. The thickness of the bands can be related to conditions on the land surface. The bands are caused by seasonal differences in the amount and type of organic acids which are derived from soil overlying the caves and precipitated from the water, along with calcite during the stals' formation. A stal, from Sutherland, UK, has been shown to have thicker bands when a major Icelandic volcano is thought to have affected the UK in c1135. These bands in stals are only visible due to fluorescence under an ultra-violet light. Groovy!

If you want to cave in the world's third longest cave at 170kms, known as Hölloch, and found in Switzerland, you will now have to pay somewhere between £50 and £70 for an 8 to 12 hour trip as the cave is now owned by a trekking company. The journal also has writeups of trips to Spain and Nepal.

Nargun. Vol. 28. No. 2. August. 1995. Journal of the Victorian Speleological Society.
Peter Ackroyd goes surveying in those very black and overall eating lava tubes at Mount Eccles. (Brave, brave Sir Ackroyd!) Yep! this trip records the delights of solving a few connections in Carmichael Cave which has five entrances, three un-numbered entrances and lots of low nasty sharp crawls.

Finally the problem of track marking in Labertouche has been tackled.

TROG DELIGHTS

(Much applause.) This little stream passage cave is one of the most visited in Victoria, as it is close to Melbourne and very much unrestricted. Unfortunately it suffers from the Arrows Syndrome, with an arrow on almost every other rock pointing to the direction of out. But out is in many directions according to the arrows. The VSA and other interested land managers got together and spent a day or two putting a number of red and white reflectors through the cave to mark a safe and bidirectional route. They also spent time with wire brushes removing the spray painted arrows and cleaning up the rubbish. Yey team!

An interesting article on vision in low lighting conditions which gives some basic background on how we see, rods, cones, iris' retinas etc and then a discussion on light adaptation and dark adaptation. It appears that a large protion of 'adaptation to dark takes place in the first five minutes. 80% adaptation takes place in about 25 minutes and full adaptation to darkness takes about an hour'. The time taken to adapt is due to the production of a photo sensitive chemical, rhodopsin which saturates the rods. One other interesting note is that the cones which help us distinguish colour are more sensitive to red light than the rods. So those facist bully boy, military pig dog bastards use red lighting in the tax payer funded, murder planning operating rooms and warships corridors. Why? Because if the lights go out their eyes are already adapted to the dark.

Speleo Spiel. Issue 286. Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.
This issue is given over to a discussion on the planning of the management of the Ida Bay Karst area. The diologue took place between cavers, Forestry and Parks and Wildlife Service personnal. They got together for two days, went on a field trip to the Ida Bay area for a day and then spent the following day taking about how to best manage the area. The result is a useful base document from which no doubt further ideas will spring, but one senses through reading this, a will of all parties to work together and to value each others knowledge. If only such a thing could possibly occur in South Australia.

Did you know that?
There are 3000 National Parks in Australia which cover 6% of the land mass of the country, and are visited by 9 million people per year. Source: Earthbeat ABC National Radio. Sept 9th.

MAVIS ABATEMENT OFFICER ASO4

RE-ADVERTISED. Previous applicants to re apply as selection panel infiltrated by Mavis .

Due to several unfortunate accidents and coincidences the position of Mavis Abatement Officer (MAO) has become vacant within the Mavis Control Commission (MCC).

Duties: Under the supervision of the Acting Head, MCC, to carry out such duties as specified in the directive MAP0195a. Additionally, the MAO is responsible for the day to day running of the Mavis Control Office currently comprising 23 technical and administrative staff.

Responsibility: The MAO is directly responsible to the Acting Head, MCC. (The MCC having had to face a series of public meetings to explain why a garage full of missing FUSS and MCC equipment was found in her car, is now sueing certain members for slander and miss representation.)

The applicant is expected to be computer literate, have good written and verbal communication skills, and be committed to OH&S and EEO principles. Not that it will help.
Previous experience in dealing with Mavis, weather changes, cleptomania, or experience in a theatre of war will be well regarded.

Experience with cars in isolated conditions, is desirable, and extensive travel both in South Australia and interstate is required. International drivers licience would be desirable.

Applicants must not have any interest in garden gnomes.

Applicants should request a position statement from the FUSS Secretary, address the selection criteria, including the requirements of MAP0195a, and supply the names of three referees who may be contacted for further information.

Remuneration: A generous remuneration package including free health care, 6 weeks annual leave, generous sick leave provisions and a salary in the ASO4 range of $34,560 - $42,915 will be negotiated with the successful applicant.
Closing date for applications is 30/12/85.
Please quote reference Number XXX.
FUSS is an equal opportunity employer and maintains a smoke free work environment.

Please note: you must send two copies of your application to two FUSS addresses by registered mail from different post offices. This way we hope to avoid any loss (theft by M) of the applications.

FUSS,
C/- C&S
Flinders University,
GPO Box 5001
Adelaide, S. A

TROG DELIGHTS

FOR SALE

Pens, Sunglasses, Swiss Army knives, etc. Used and in good condition. Why buy new, when pre-loved and much missed is as good and much less expensive?

Contact Gladys,
C/o C&S

Insurance, Law Suits and Cavers.

Source: NSS News January 1995. p. 17.

An accident at Normans Cave, West Virginia resulted in a 62 year old women falling and braking both her ankles during a "wild cat" Cave for Pay trip. Lawsuits against the trip leader, a nearby commercial cave operator and the land owner were filed as a result of the accident. The suit against the land owner was especially grievous to cavers as this owner has been friendly to cavers and was not aware of any commercial use of his cave.

Cavers in the region explored several options for assisting the land owner. As a result, the NSS (National Speleological Society, the ASF equivalent in the USA), board of Governors adopted a motion which stated the following:

That the NSS will assume a leadership role in representing caver interests on land owner liability issues associated with cave accidents. Our goal is to foster an environment in which the cave owners are held harmless for accidents in their cave during trips for which the landowner received no fee.

As a result of that motion the Executive of the NSS has taken the following actions:

1) A restricted fund has been established to permit cavers to donate money to help defray the landowner's legal expenses as he defends himself.

2) The NSS legal committee has been asked to assist the landowner's attorney where possible.

3) In order to be better prepared to assist landowners confronted with similar problems in the future, the NSS Land Owner Relations Committee has been asked to take an active role to:

A. Develop a legal discussion and list of precedence on these issues that could be provided to the land owner for his attorney to use in developing a defence.

B. Obtain copies of suits, dispositions, judgments etc, for such suits and provide upon request when it serves our interests.

C. Seek to establish a favourable legal precedence of principle that the landowner is not liable for injuries suffered by those who enter their cave with out fee to the land owner and widely advertise our success.

D. Consider if further legislation may be necessary given current cave laws and assist local NSS regions to develop such legislation.

The land owner in question has been very moved by the expression of support received from cavers.
Now if the ASF had some foresight and some energy then maybe we could be in a prepared situation if ever the above event happened here. Pigs do fly, don't they?