

SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Vol. 26 | No. 4 | 2014



FUSSI Newsletter



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Front Cover Photo: FUSSI 40th Celebrations: Back Row L-R: Garry Woodcock, Mark Sefton, Janet Woodcock, Karin Sefton, Kylea Clark, Ruby, Bella and Eric Schulz, Thomas Varga, Clare Buswell. Front Row L-R: Michael Meynell-James, Jenny Driscoll, Edwina Virgo, Neville Skinner, Daniel Dingwall, Bronya Alexander. Photographer: Aimee Leong.

Missing from photo, but in attendance: Heiko Maurer, Jenny Laidlaw, Tania Wilson, Lee Coshell, Guy Smith, Tom Szabo, Graham Pilkington, Ruth Lawrence, Ian Lewis, Paul Waclawic, Deborah Callison, Ian Callison and Jade Callison, Jan Schmorte, Sarah Phillips, Matthew Bray and Cathy Meynell-James.



Always taking the opportunity to dress well!
Wendy Babbage, Peter Wallis, Guy Smith and
Heiko Maurer, Corra Lynn Cave. 1985.
Photographer: C. Buswell

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Preamble

This issue of the FUSSI newsletter is a compilation of some of the records of the Society's activities and adventures over the forty years of its existence.

The club does not have any records of the minutes of any meetings from 1974 to June 1979. From the 1980 onwards, the club records consist of complete sets of minutes, intermittent annual reports and a complete set of Treasurer's records from 1974 to the present. The Treasurer's records show a listing of the membership for each year as well as income and expenditure. Did you know that a Bonwick caving ladder cost \$35.00 in 1977?

Caving trips were recorded in the FUSS

Logbook, which the club has in its library. It shows records of club trips from 1974 to mid-1985. Most of those trips in the 1970s were to the Naracoorte area and Tantanoola Lake Cave. After June 1989, the Society's quarterly newsletter took over the role of recording trips as well as discussing caving news and techniques. The newsletter is now into its 27th year.

FUSSI is the longest surviving club at Flinders University and has, over the course of its life, introduced hundreds of people to, what its members consider to be, the best sport in the world – CAVING.

In this issue you will find material from the club files reporting on trips to the karst backyard for SA cavers - the Nullarbor, caving trips interstate, finance and the Club's lack of money, gear purchases, the revenge of cars and tall stories.

The 40th celebrations at Naracoorte in October 2014, continued the ingrained FUSSI traditions: caving, fun, mayhem and food. For those of you who missed it, the editor hopes you enjoy this edition.

THE 1970s: PALEO KINGS

Malcolm Robb, the inaugural FUSS President, wrote in the FUSSI handbook, published in 1974, how the club came into being.

There has been at the University a group of people active in caving for a considerable time, their interest being done in conjunction with the South Australian Museum and the Tourist Commission and is primarily designed to assist with the excavation of animal bones in the caves and other related matters.

It was decided in 1974 to incorporate this group, ('The Naracoorte Group') into a new organisation with a much broader base and appeal. This is now the Flinders University Speleological Society.

The aims of the Society are not only to introduce people to the work of the Naracoorte group, but to introduce people from all over the campus to the numerous facets of caving which are possible within this state. One of the problems with a club of this sort is the belief that it is restricted to persons of scientific orientation. This is not so. Speleology may be regarded as the study of caves and this may be done purely out of interest in this completely different environment, or with scientific aspirations or just because you like grovelling in bat dung.

FUSS, as it was known before it became incorporated, was formed during the second term of 1974, when a group of approximately twenty people interested in caving met to discuss the possibility of the formation of a club or society. The Annual General Meeting was held on July 24th 1974 at 1.10pm and a committee of six elected. J. A. Sinclair was the Secretary. Membership Fees were set at a \$1.00ea, and there were 18 paid up members. By October there were 26 members.

FUSSI membership over the first decade consisted of both staff and students of Flinders University. The staff came from Biology and the School of Medicine. Lecturers, such as Dr Rod Wells, Dr David Catcheside, Biology Workshop Manager John Warman and fossil preparation guru Ed Bailey, feature as founding members, remaining active in the club from 1974 to the early 1980s. Peter Daenke, a member in 1978 was, and is, a biology laboratory technician at Flinders Uni. Students also came from these departments, one in particular, Dominic Williams completed his PhD under Dr Wells, working on the Late Pleistocene sediments and faunas of the Mt. Lofty and Flinders Ranges. He went onto become one of Australia's prominent palaeontologists. Indeed most of the people from the Naracoorte Group were palaeontologists, or geneticists, or microbiologists or had some connection to Biology. For example, Dr Ken Sanderson, from Biology was FUSS treasurer in 1979 and then around 2008 helped FUSSI members identify bat call recordings from the Flinders Ranges and the Nullarbor.

The domination, over the first 10 years of the Society, by the Biology Department (in 1982 all 17 members came from it), and in particular by the Palaeos, certainly influenced its trips to Naracoorte and the Nullarbor. Their work, no doubt led to Flinders University leading in that field of academic endeavour. Importantly, the fossil discoveries they made, and are still making, were ultimately to give Naracoorte Caves both its National Park Status and its World Heritage Listing.

By September 1974, the Society affiliated with the Flinders Uni Clubs and Society's Association and was provided with a grant to purchase gear. The committee, of course, went gear freaking buying the basics from Bushgear in Melbourne.

This is what they purchased:

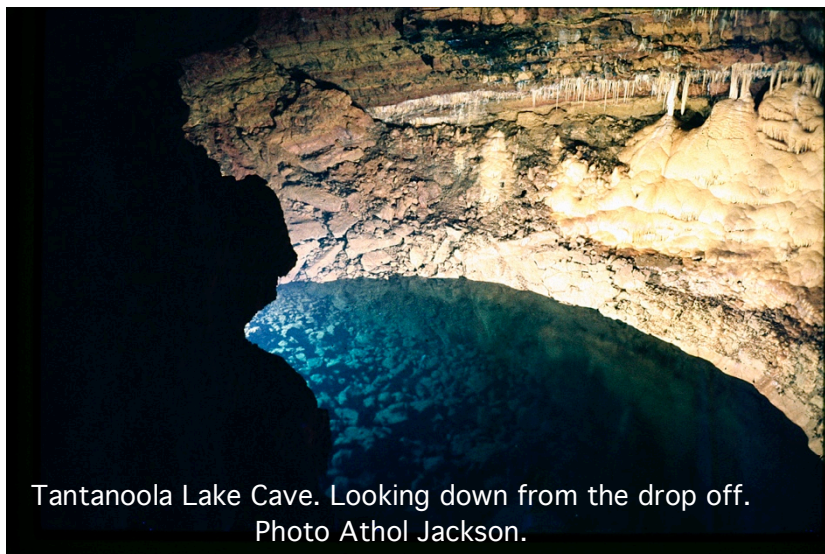
THE 1970s: PALEO KINGS

Club Equipment Costs in 1974

Carbide Lamps	2 @ \$14.00ea	\$28.00
Helmet	6 @ \$2.00 ea	\$12.00
First Aid Kit	1	\$20.00
Karabiners	5 @ Cassin S/G\$3.20ea	\$16.00
	15 @ Cassin C/G \$2.50ea	\$37.00
Tape: Waist band	150 foot @ 10c/foot	\$15.00
Slings:	50 foot @ 20c/foot	\$10.00
Tubular Tape	20 foot @ 17c/foot	\$3.40
1 pr Jumars		\$14.00
Ladders: Wire	2 @ \$20.00ea	\$40.00
Carbide	\$5.00	\$5.00
Equipment sack	\$10.00	\$10.00
Safety Rope Kernmantle	\$40.00	\$40.00

A 40 page FUSS Handbook (a copy of which is in the FUSSI library) was published. It contained information such as the constitution, committee members – who they are, how to contact them, what is expected of them in their elected positions and included detailed notes and

diagrams on safety and training. The safety section came from the Uni of Queensland Speleo Society's handbook.



Tantanoola Lake Cave. Looking down from the drop off.
Photo Athol Jackson.

In the Annual Report for 1974, Malcolm Robb outlined the activities for the latter half of the year:

“On Sept 14th, 1974 a Saturday, from 12 noon till dusk a safety and training day was held at Brown Hill Ck Quarry, where the various methods of abseiling were taught and tried. So too, was

belaying, the use of Jumars and types of knots. The activity attracted 17 attendees. Members then went off to Tantanoola and environs for the long weekend of Oct 12-14th”.

In 1975 Russell Starr, the club Secretary, wrote in the Annual Report that

“The Club has had a few organised trips down to the Naracoorte Caves, and also one trip to Yorke Peninsula, throughout the year. There have also been two safety and training days, so as to familiarize freshers to basic safety techniques and to try out new equipment before using it in caves”. Further, “a highly successful trip to the Naracoorte region resulted in the location of suitable sites believed to have caves below and also a cave new to all members of the club. A trip to the Nullarbor Caves is a major project for the future, yet to be finalised”.

The Societies records are fairly scant concerning its activities over 1976 or 1977. Membership fees remained at \$1.00 with 15 members belonging to the club in 1976. In 1977, according to a minimalist annual report, some fossil material was removed from Vic Fossil cave at Naracoorte and radio-carbon dated. Also computer programming using ALGOL 60 was used to crunch some CEGSA survey data.

By 1978 membership was high, with 17 paid-up members and lots of caving. According to M. Rochler, the club Treasurer, “Caving trips occurred in April, June and August to the Naracoorte

THE 1970s: PALEO KINGS

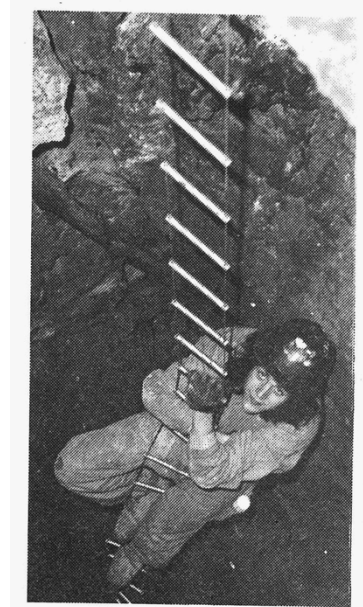
and Tantanoola areas. Victoria Fossil Cave and Beekeepers Cave were visited. Fox Cave and Tantanoola Lake Cave were both visited a number of times, with photographs being taken. The Society purchased equipment consisting of 20kg of carbide for \$15.00, 200 lamp jets and 12 reflectors at \$36.00." Amazingly the Society took a party of 15 people into Tantanoola Lake cave. The report from the logbook stated 'that it took one and a half hours to get everybody down the caving ladder to the lake. They started back up the ladder at 4pm and were all out by 6pm'. The trip from the entrance, along the rift and down the pitch to the lake would normally take a person around 15 mins.

Income and Expenditure 1976-1980

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Balance B/F	\$81.31	\$114.12	\$151.11	\$156.16	\$296.93
Total Income	\$38.41	\$110.99	\$ 91.82	\$685.24	\$ 44.63
Total Expenditure	\$ 5.50	\$ 74.00	\$ 86.77	\$544.47	\$ 19.07
Surplus	\$32.81	\$ 36.99	\$ 5.05	\$140.77	\$25.56
Balance C/F	\$114.12	\$151.11	\$156.16	\$296.93	\$322.49

Michael Rochler. Treasurer. 4. Dec. 1980.

The original Club Letterhead. The person on the ladder is Ken Smith.



FUSSI Equipment.

January 1978.

- 3 x wide-brim safety helmets
- 1 x white light-duty helmet
- 3 x narrow-brim safety helmets
- 5m length of red 20mm tube tape
- 2 x 1.5 neckbands 20mm tube tape
- 8 m length of blue 20mm flat tape
- 2 x 1m neckbands of 20mm flat tape
- 2 pr caving gloves
- 10 x 5m waistbands, black 50mm webbing
- 4 x Swami-seats of black 50mm webbing

In 1979 things really got on the road with the Nullarbor featuring highly in the club records. Here is a trip report from the November Nullarbor trip of 1979. The author

- 2 x 10m wire-rope ladders
- 6 x Carbide Lamps, with 6 spare jets
- 2 x Haversacks
- 1 x 100m tape measure
- 1 pr Jumars
- 4 x Cassin Screwgate Karabiners
- 15 x Cassin Clipgate Karabiners
- 48m length red kernmantle rope 9mm
- 45m length white kernmantle rope 11mm
- 24m length white kernmantle rope 11mm

Dominic Williams
Equipment Officer 1978

THE 1970s: PALEO KINGS

is unknown and the report is from the FUSS Logbook.

Party: John Warman, David Catcheside, Rod Wells, Annette Rogers, Ken Sanderson, John Ellis, Marilyn Browne

Friday Nov 9th: Camped at Wudinna Hill. Saturday 10th Camped just out of Eucla.

Sunday 11th Morning: Weebubbie. Party entered Weebubbie and swam to back of lake where we saw a few bats. Afternoon, drove west along the tableland to Chowilla landslip then south to Abrakurrie. Photographic expedition to Abrakurrie. Camped overnight on the edge of the doline. Saw quite a few grey kangaroos and some red kangaroos on the tableland.

Monday 12th Travelled slowly south to Kutowalla doline where we collected a few quandong seeds from trees in the doline and Rod collected a lot of recent bone material (small mammals, including bandicoots, rats, dasyurids) from fox lairs around the edge of the doline. We lunched at Winbirra Cave and then photographed the doline, flushing out a Major Mitchell Cockatoo. We had a short trip into Winbirra, inspected the very small lake at the bottom and followed the indistinct track south through the mulga to about half a km from the escarpment. We retraced our route north to the Chowilla landslip and then drove slowly west towards Mundrabilla. We camped on the edge of the escarpment and had a swim in a farmer's dam, in a creek cutting through the escarpment. There was a magnificent night sky and good sunrise.

Tuesday 13th Called in at Mundrabilla Station and then visited Witches Cave. This was a rather nice shallow cave with some decoration and a fair amount of recent skeletal material. (Dingo skulls, hairy-nosed wombat skull, kangaroo, bettong, bandicoot, rabbit. Rod did not find any significant fossil material.)

Wednesday 14th

We camped on the escarpment. There were brief showers at 3-4pm and quite a sharp squall at about 7am. We watched the rain front advance east across the Roe Plain. We drove along the highway to Madura and visited Madura Six Mile Cave. A rather grotty shallow cave used by the locals for barbecues. Rod dug out some fossil material. We inspected the widespread rubbish dump for Austin 7 parts, but in vain. Called in at Madura for a shower in their hard water and a few beers and then set off for Mullamullang. In the late afternoon John Warman and Rod went to Kalgoorlie on the Flying Doctor Service.

Thursday 15th. We reached Mullamullang about midday after camping on the tableland and went in after lunch. The Southerly Buster was blowing out quite strongly on our way in. We soon reached Oasis Valley and then inspected the "coffee and cream" and "salt cellars" in the Easter Extension. Most of the party reached the one mile cairn and then we retraced our steps. We passed the Southerly Buster at about 6pm and the air was almost still. We camped in the scrub near Mullamullang overnight and on Friday the 16th returned to Madura, picked up John and Rod, who had returned on the bus from Kalgoorlie. We drove most of the day, stopping at Yalata for tea and at Ceduna in a motel for the night.

THE 1970s: PALEO KINGS

Saturday 17th a very leisurely day was spent at Laura Bay, near Ceduna beachcombing, sandhill walking, swimming and snorkelling. The evening was clear, and occasionally lit up by lighting from a large distant storm.

Sunday the 18th four of the party returned into Adelaide about 8pm in the evening. The other three arrived home on Monday about 8pm. A successful trip.

Club membership stands at 20, and this is expected to be maintained in 1980 due to the enthusiasm of John Warman, David Catcheside and other members.

Expeditions have continued regularly, since the August 1978 trips to Naracoorte Caves and to the Nullarbor Caves in December. Four trips though 1979 were to the Naracoorte Caves and Tantanoola Caves. Activities included photography, exploration and clean ups in several caves where rubbish had accumulated. Typical weekend trips involved about 10 members and an overnight stay at the caves.

During the same period the cave divers spent many weekends exploring sinkholes in the Southeast of South Australia, these divers have added greatly to the knowledge of the water-filled caves. In one case, Peter Rogers and Clive Mills rediscovered a fossil deposit. Two especially organised expeditions led by Dr Rod Wells and Dominic Williams resulted in a large and valuable collection of fossil kangaroo skeletons. This is of great scientific interest.

Another highlight of the year was the Nullarbor Caves expedition. On the January trip of 1979, John Warman, David Catcheside visited Murra-el-Elevyn and helped remove 2 truck loads of rubbish from the doline. All of this would have to have been hauled up as the doline is sheer all the way around. The divers spent a week exploring underwater in the caves during August. In November, the dry caves were visited by another group from the club. In both instances, scientific data on cave formation, fossil bones and plants was collected. Spectacular photographs were taken which it is hoped will form part of an Orientation week activity in 1980. There is every reason to expect that a similar level of activity will be maintained in 1980.

Dominic Williams, President
29.11.1979.



Dominic Williams, in 1980 in the Lake Eyre Basin Expedition.

Photo supplied by Dr Rod Wells.

Dominic died of cancer in 1994.

THE 1970s: PALEO KINGS

Officer Bearers 1974-1984

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Equipment Officer	Safety Officer
1974	Malcolm Robb	Jill Sinclair	Mike Riley	Barry Bolton	Terry McKenzie
1975	Malcolm Robb	Russell Starr	Russell Starr		
1976		Jenny Hiscock	Mark Buckerfield		
1977	John Marshall	Marilyn Fischer	Michael Rochler		
1978	Russell Starr	Marilyn Fischer	Michael Rochler	Dominic Williams	
1979	Dominic Williams		Michael Rochler		
1980	John Warman	Jeff Router	Michael Rochler	John Warman	
1981	John Warman Peter Danke	Jane Rice	Michael Rochler	Peter Danke	
1982	Sue Danke	John Warman	Ken Sanderson	Peter Danke	
1983	John Marshall	Pam Storer	Ken Sanderson		
1984	John Marshall	Pam Storer	Roger Drinkwater	Heiko Maurer	

Membership fees remained at \$1.00 per person until 1983 when they went up to \$5.00ea.

CAVING TRIPS, MEETINGS and OTHER CARRYINGS ON

FUSSI meetings seemed to have been originally held in the basement level of the Biology building at Flinders Uni. From there they progressed to any vacant room within the University campus, to caving trips, people's houses etc.

The 1980s saw memberships around the 30 members mark, with most being active. Trips ranged far and wide to the Nullarbor in 1982 & 1985, Jenolan, Bungonia and Yarrangobilly in 1988. But at Naracoorte, around mid-1985, most of the caves on the Reserve, that members visited - Victoria Fossil, Blackberry, Fox, and by 1987 Lake Cave, became off limits to all cavers and were to remain so, on and off for the next 30 years. There were visits to the Mt Gambier area, Flinders Ranges, Kangaroo Is and to the Yorke Peninsula. The club expanded its equipment store and took up Single Rope Techniques with gay abandon. Late in the 1980s we began an association with the SES and its members took to caving with us.

Over the 40 years of FUSSI's existence it has remained, however, a staunchly student club, with members coming from all over the University: Philosophy, Computing Science, Politics, Medicine, Biology, English, Economics and Earth Sciences. Arguments around campfires raged, no doubt aided by the usual bottle/cask of red wine. The words, 'I have a theory' were heard more often than not! Apart from the 10-day trips interstate the club managed a caving trip every six weeks or so and held a meeting every month to discuss the state of karst and caving.

Given such an eclectic bunch, at times you had to wonder what planet the club was on: From the minutes of the meeting of August 1985 the club treasurer, Wendy Babbage who studied Economics stated:

7. that economic theory could convert Heiko's imitation car into a negatively geared one, linked to the exchange rate of the Argentinian Peso. After which it may 'Take Off'.

Minutes of meetings during the 1980s and 1990s seem to have been works of art, sometimes presenting harmony and peace and at others the chaos of political debate. The latter ranged over such issues as sexism and the ethics of buying products from the French, anything from Petzl for example, whilst French nuclear testing continued in the Pacific.

CAVING TRIPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER CARRINGS ON

An example from the minutes of the March meeting, 1990.

Point 4.1 Business arising from the minutes:

Helmets: The club needs some. Why? [Somebody, not stated whom]: 'wants to go to the Nullarbor with a brand new caving helmet. [they further stated]: 'I've earned it; I've bashed my head against heaps of rocks trying to get to Gravity Cavity. Fuck democracy lets just go and buy those bloody radioactive French pudding bowls! Sorry, I did not mean it, really I didn't, Sorry.'

Cartoon from the Agenda for the meeting of June 6th 1989.



"Sir Gavin said he was sorry he had slain the woman. Sir Boris then proposed a resolution opposing the slaying of women, which was passed. A very large night rode in and challenged to entire company: this was tabled for a twelvemonth. There being no further business we adjourned."

Torches: Peter Storer mentioned that Fielder and Son (didn't he have any Daughters, or has he just got something against women?) R. H. Fielder and Sons and Daughters have got Mag lights for sale at \$36.00ea. They are very good and beat the shit out of Dolphins. What has R. H. Fielder and Sons and Daughters got against Dolphins? Peter says that R. H. Fielder and Sons and Daughters and Dolphins have some really good Mag lights in all sizes for sale.

Despite such harmony and much protest, during the 1980s club members seemed to have



Top L-R: John Callison (FUSSI Safety Officer 1989-1993), and Peter Wallis, in 1988 - Corra Lynn.

gotten on with the real business of caving, running trips, organising fund raising and supporting whatever cave conservation battle was raging at the time. They put together another Handbook. Here is a trip report from 1983 to Blackberry Cave. Naracoorte.



Pam Storer. Corra Lynn, 1984. FUSSI President 84-87

CAVING TRIPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER CARRINGS ON

19th November 1983.

Party of 10 people to Blackberry Cave, Naracoorte: John Marshall, John Warman, Ed Bailey, Cindy Dyson, Jane Rice, Marc Tippet, Tracy Dodman and Paul Spiel, Stefan and Ruth.

Trip to Blackberry - main extension on Sat 19th, found a cave of small crawls and tight squeezes, the gate is a real problem and took about 40mins to open! Ed and myself took photos in the first chamber after the gate and we then proceeded with some difficulty in route finding to our furthest point via a very tight squeeze. We then retraced our steps and estimated that we had taken five and a half hours to cave in about half of what is known as the Extension.

John Warman.

Trips to the Nullarbor, although major undertakings by club members, averaged a trip every 4 years from 1979 through the 1980s and 1990s. Money for such trips was often sought from the Clubs and Societies Association to defray some of the costs. Grant records show the costs involved. Petrol cost 25c/litre in 1979!

1979 FUSS Proposed Budget for Grant from Clubs and Societies.

Details of Proposed Expenditure:

Round trip Distance:	4000km
No. of cars involved:	4
Estimated Fuel Consumption:	14lt/100km
Present cost of Petrol:	25c/lt
Total fuel cost:	\$560.00

Costing of Proposed Nullarbor trip, May 1982.

Adelaide- Cocklebidy-Adelaide (With 200km side tracking inc).	3524km
Estimated fuel consumption 100km.	13.5 lt/
Present cost of petrol:	43c/lt
Total cost of fuel	\$786.90
Food for 6 persons x 10 days:	\$350.00

By way of comparison some figures from 2012

Kms travelled: 4000km

Cost of Fuel average \$1.80/lt

Fuel: one car on trip: \$976.31

Food for 4 persons for 10 days: \$1087.50



Above: Richard Boyle descends into Thampana Cave, 2012.
Photographer: Thomas Varga.

A gear note from the 1985 Nullarbor trip:

Gear taken:

5 Jerry Cans (2 petrol, 3 water)

Couple of spare tyres.

10 days food + wine and port, for seven people.

CAVING TRIPS, MEETINGS AND OTHER CARRINGS ON



At left, 1985: Members ham it up in Mullamullang Cave near the Southerly Buster.
L-R: Matt Merrick, Peter Storer, Wendy Babbage, Clare Buswell, Pam Storer and Heiko Maurer.

Photographer: Peter Wallis

The club continued to produce its fair share of PhDs. Some even looked at ROCKS, Lee Coshell for example. Peter Wallis and Guy Smith spent a lot of FUSSI time arguing about 'Kelpie units and Ovine Field Theory'. Problem: why do sheep always face the same way in a paddock? Answer: the field force, measured in Kelpie units, causes sheep to align. JIR. Vol. 31, No. 13. pp. 8191-8208.

Still other members who successfully took the PhD route looked at cloud formation shape, Eric Schulz, or bees, Kylea Clark or Mathematics, Glenis Crane or Danny Gibbins who specialised in computer vision. Simon Schmidt went on to work on yeasts and wine, Kirsty Kitto completed her PhD in physics as it was a 'grand way to look at the world'. Whilst others examined Politics, Clare Buswell. In terms of medical doctors, Karen Magraith, Tri Phong, and Adrian Hekel came caving with FUSSI over their medical student years and continued caving afterwards.

Trivia 1)

Did you know:

Rhinoceros ivory is one of the commodities traded historically in response to the needs of the Chinese luxury market. Rhinoceros horns, however are not made of ivory. While elephant tusks are attached to the animal's skull and are made of bone, rhinoceros horns are excrescences of keratin. The same protein found in human hair and fingernails. They are not part of the skull. Shirley Brooks, Letters to the Editor. LRB. Jan 9, 2014. p. 4.

Trivia 2)

Separative Work Units, SWUs. (pronounced SWOO's) are used to measure the amount of enriched uranium that a centrifuge can produce. Around 232 SWUs are needed to produce one kilogram of 95% enriched uranium, weapons grade. Now you know. Jeremy Bernstein. LRB. July 31, 2014. p.12.

FUSSI & the ASF

The club joined the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF), at its January Council meeting of 1988, although it had co-hosted with CEGSA, the ASF Biennial conference, Speleovision, held at Flinders Uni in 1983. Over time FUSSI's involvement with the ASF resulted in two members becoming ASF vice presidents, Karen Magraith and Clare Buswell, with the latter also taking up the editorship of the ASF newsletter, Australian Caver, from 1991 to 1993. During the 1990s FUSSI and members of the SA Speleo Council were involved with the development of the ASF Caver Standards Guidelines and its Public Liability Insurance scheme. Its members attended ASF conferences at Margaret River, at Vulcon at Byaduc in Victoria and helped coordinate the successful 1997 conference held at Quorn with CEGSA and CAVEX.

Australian Speleological Federation

14th Biennial Conference

3-7 January 1983

Flinders University -- Adelaide

The Secretary (Jane Rice),
Flinders Uni. Speleological Soc.,
c/o Clubs and Societies Assoc.,
Flinders University, BEDFORD PARK,
S.A. 5042

SPELEOVISION (Attn: Michael Rochler),
Flinders University Speleological Soc.,
c/o Clubs and Societies Association,
Flinders University, BEDFORD PARK,
S.A. 5042

26th June, 1981



**Forkarst of caver density
Australia January 1983**

FUSSI continues its involvement with the ASF making use of the Search and Rescue weekends and the Cave Surveying courses that its members run. Importantly, our membership has led club members into contact with the wider Australian caving community. Roll on the conference at Ningaloo and the 2017 International Speleo Congress in which FUSSI will be involved in running trips, most likely to the Nullarbor.

THE CLUB LOGO

It was designed by Danny Gibbins, who was a member in 1988/9. He put it together whilst sitting in the pub at Uni. All liked it and it has stayed.



CAVING IN THE 90s

The 1990s proved to be a boom decade for the club with membership reaching a record of around 50 people, with around half trained in SRT. FUSSI members caved far and wide and as usual partied on.

FUSSI members caved in Tasmania for the first time at the 1993 Tas Trog conference, caving at the Mole Ck and Ida Bay areas. It was to be the beginning of fairly regular trips to 'Funland', as the Island is known amongst the caving crowd. Here is an article from the FUSSI newsletter Vol. 5, No. 3 & 4 1993 pondering over fashion and the problem of cold and wet Tasmanian Caves.

DRESS SENSE IN TASMANIAN CAVES

Kevin Dixon

Forewarned about the dress requirements for caving in Tasmania, I was not sure that I was doing the right thing. It sounded more like an Antarctic expedition. After consultation with a financial advisor (a calculator), it was obvious that I could not afford much that had been recommended. Subsequent discussion with others who had caved in Tassie before, led to the purchase of what they classed as "essential" and what somebody on a tight budget could get away with.



Kevin Dixon and his Dress Sense. 2009
Photographer. M. Meynell-James

Decked out in bright yellow wet weather gear, a good set of thermals and 2 pairs of socks, a pair of recycled plastic shopping bags inside my usual caving boots, I was suitably attired for any underground/underwater challenge. At least I wouldn't be lost anyway. The envy of those I caved with was obvious, wishing they too could look this classy. Was it adequately effective, I hear you ask? I found it sufficient for the caves I explored. I do wish that I had forked out \$30.00 for a pair of wet suit booties.

Speaking to those who had, they expressed that their feet still got cold, but I'm sure that the pained facial expressions of myself informed them of my added distress. Plastic shopping bags failed in their task of keeping water out of my boots. In fact, all they did was fill with water increasing the weight of each foot and aid drowning.

Handy tip: If at all possible, purchase wet weather pants without the opening pockets. When water reached the pocket level I ended up with cold and wet legs, which caused dismay, as well as discomfort. Dismay because I couldn't at first work out where the water was seeping in, and discomfort due to the

obvious. That was really the only time that water invaded above the ankles, otherwise the outfit was sufficient. And one more point. Don't be afraid of getting wet, just dive in, as it will be warmer on the way out!

In between all the fun in the mud and wet the Club did and does undertake some serious stuff. In 1993 the South Australian Speleo Council received a grant to enable Ron Simms (Scout Caving and long term CEGSA member) and his helpers to do a major *Rhaphidoridae* (Orthoptera) cave cricket count in the Naracoorte area. A publication resulted from Ron's work. FUSSI members helped him out and in keeping with the theme wrote up: 'The Cavers Shield Test, First Innings'. Re-printed here from FUSSI Vol. 5, No. 1. 1993. p. 5.

FUSSI. Vol. 26, No. 4. 2014. p. 14

THE CAVER'S SHIELD TEST

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 led 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 quiet 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.

STILETTO HEELS AND OTHER RUBBISH

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.

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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 lose parts of the antennae and limbs very easily.

They 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.

STILETTO HEELS AND OTHER RUBBISH

In March 1995 FUSSI was approached by Sargent Steve Chappell from the Millicent Police to help with the management/clean up of the 17 hectare site of Noorla Yo Long, that contained Rendlesham Cave.

The cave Reserve contained a disused quarry and a number of cave entrances most of which, if not all of them, were full of farm rubbish. Over the course of 1995-1997 club members trundled off to Millicent and collected the rubbish.

On one particular trip the group collected:

"A truck axle, sheets of corrugated iron, pieces of pipe, some sort of metal flag pole or Stobie post, a car seat, a 1970s women's left red stiletto shoe, and bucket loads of broken bottles and household

STILETTO HEELS AND OTHER RUBBISH

rubbish. We were helped by Fred Aslin and the local SES. On one occasion his crew, after removing a car body, dug through five feet of sand cone filled with household rubbish only to find that they had that much to go again".

On the October 1995 trip to Noorla Yo Long, the FUSSI newsletter records, some members collected a spider from the rubbish heap and gave it to the SA Museum. It was identified by David Hurst as *Baiani glenelgi*. It was described by Mike Gray from the Australian Museum. It is not troglobitic. To David's knowledge at the time, the SA Museum had not received any spiders from the Lower South East. This particular spider is common around the Glenelg River area. The Noorla Yo Long site also contains scorpions, specific to the area.

Over the course of about 3 years the site was cleaned up, revegetated and an adventure course set up by the local police so that the local kids would have something to do rather than end up in jail!

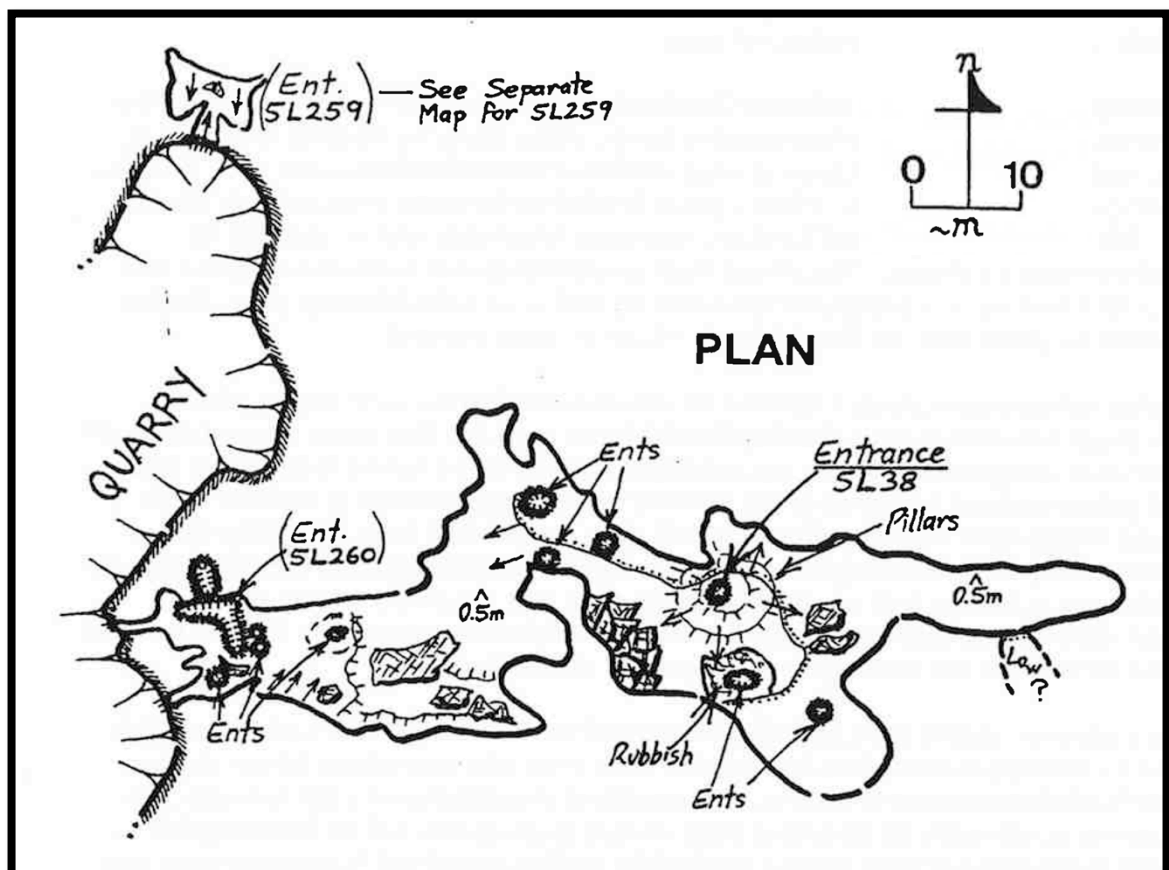


Peter Wallis, Kylea Clark, Eric Schulz, Clare Buswell and Richard Ewart.

Rendlesham clean up 1995.

Photographer Unknown.

Below: Map of Rendlesham Cave. Copyright CEGSA.



FUSSI MEMBERS CAVING



Photos clockwise from top left: Tania Wilson, Secretary 1990-1991 & Treasurer 1993. Dave Brinsley in Bath House, Yarrangobilly, 1992. Belinda Skuja Secretary 1993 & 94.

Deborah Callison. Secretary 1992, Newsletter Editor 1989.
L-R: Pam Carroll, (reading) Mark Green, Helen Dunne at Old Homestead Hilton 1992.
Gearing up for Midnight Hole. Tasmania 1993.



THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY – SELICKS

Over the course of the 40 years of FUSSI's existence, the society has been involved in at least three cave conservation battles that spring to mind. The Mt Etna battle in Queensland, the Exit Cave saga in southern Tasmania and the one closer to home, that of Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave (5A-20). It was the latter that took a great deal of South Australian cavers' time over the course of 1991-1994. Whilst prominent CEGSA members took the front running, FUSSI members lobbied politicians, attended local government council meetings, got questions raised in Parliament and worked with cavers around the country to try and save this cave. Below is a chronology of the events surrounding this battle as reprinted from Australian Caver 1994, but with a postscript.

DATE	ACTION
SEPT 1991	Initial exploration of the cave by members of CEGSA. Non-disclosure Agreement required by Southern Quarries of cavers.
NOV 1991	Last entry given to the cave for cavers.
1992	Ongoing negotiations and contract drafting with Quarry Legal representatives by cavers.
1993	
10 DEC	'The Big Room' Imploded by Southern Quarries.
11 DEC	South Australian State Election
13 DEC	The caving fraternity holds a Press Conference, resulting in the new Premier stating that he "would get to the bottom of this."
15 DEC	David Wotton appointed as Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Development.
16 DEC	Willunga Shire Council, in which the Quarry operates, meets and votes in favour of protecting the cave after hearing evidence from all parties.
1994	
6 JAN	Mac McDonald, Grant Gartrell and Alan Jevons from CEGSA and the South Australian Speleo Council meet with Minister Wotton to try and explain what has happened.
25 JAN	Review of the Facts Inquiry called by DENR and Dept of Mines and Energy.
25 JAN	Application to List 5A-20 on the State Heritage Register made by the South Australian Speleological Council.
26 JAN	Public Holiday. Terms of Reference released for the Review.
27-28 JAN	Inquiry held. Ken Grimes and Adrian Moore are the Assessors. Pat Larkin, ASF and Armstrong Osbourne argue our case at the inquiry.
29 JAN	ASF Council Meeting Canberra. Clare Buswell, Alan Jevons, Peter Kraehenbuel attend and show a Video of 5A-20. Much discussion and support by the national caving fraternity
10 FEB	Questions raised in Parliament by Caroline Pickles, Opposition Spokesperson for the Environment and a then member of Flinders University Council. She was also a caver.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY – SELICKS

Mike Elliot, Leader of the Democrats and their spokesperson for the Environment announces a motion to investigate the issue of Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave by the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment, Resources and Development.

- 17 FEB Southern Quarries solicitors claim that Southern Quarries have been defamed by Grant Gartrell.
- 27 FEB Draft legislation drawn up by the ASF and the Environmental Defenders Office Sydney, concerning the mining of Carbonate Rocks.
- 11 MARCH Government announced that [5A-20] “the impressive features are not exceptional and limiting quarry operations is not justified”
- 14 MARCH The Grimes and Moore reports are released to the public.
- 17 MARCH State Heritage Authority meeting. Provisional listing and STOP Order placed over the cave.
- 18 MARCH Wotton overrides State Heritage Authority decision of the previous day.
- 21 MARCH ASF engages the legal firm, Norman Waterhouse to act on our behalf.
- 21 MARCH March Supreme Court action brought against the Minister by the ASF. Brian Hayes QC acts on behalf of the ASF, pro bono.
- 30/31 MAY The case is listed for trial in the Supreme Court of South Australia.
- June The judge, Justice Bolland ruled against the cavers

The Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment, Resources and Development meet over the course of several weeks after the court case to hear argument presented to it from all sides, the mining company, the DME and DENRD and the cavers. SA cavers were represented by Maria Comino, Alan Jevons and Armstrong Osbourne. It made no difference.

Postscript.

In the end the mining manager at Sellicks Hill Quarry, the head of DME and DENRD all lost their jobs, and the cave has now been mined away. To the caving fraternity, at least, the whole episode represented one of the greatest acts of political and environmental bastardry in the State. Further, we have long memories and we do not forget.

THE LONG, SLOW CRAWL OF SURVIVAL - THE 3rd DECADE AND VSU

Returning membership levels in the early 2000s, dropped to the around 10 members, with a core group of about five people holding the club together during this period. The drop in active and *returning* membership did not prevent the club running trips, we just had fewer of them. The monthly club meetings dwindled to about 3 or 4 executive meetings a year. We held membership drives, had displays on what caving involves in the Flinders Uni Library, not that it helped. Students didn't have any money and tended to spend their weekends working so as not to starve. Added to the low membership levels, FUSSI had to survive the removal of funding and services that resulted from the introduction of Voluntary Student Unionism (VSU), in 2007 and the ensuing defunding and disbandment of the Clubs and Societies Association to which FUSSI had affiliated back in 1974.

THE LONG, SLOW CRAWL OF SURVIVAL - THE 3rd DECADE AND VSU

What remained of all Uni clubs after 2007 ended up under the umbrella of the Sports Association. It was a bit of a rough ride as the club's survival was not helped by the Sports Association's habit of not listing FUSSI on any of their PR stuff, which advertised all the clubs that 'belonged' to them. The problem, as it seemed to FUSSI members, was that FUSSI did not play with balls nor we did not do the competition bit. The Sports Association obviously had not heard of the Olympic sport of Speleo Sports despite us telling them about it!

Sometime around 2010 the Society was moved from the Sports Association 'back' to a newly established Clubs and Societies *section* of the re-established Students Association. (FUSSI was not asked if we wanted to move, it just happened!) It has seemed a better move, in that more funding became available, but the Students Association seems adverse to our crazy antics of jumping off things for SRT practice.



Some of those who held FUSSI together over the 2000s:
Bronya Alexander in the Matchbox squeeze, Midnight Hole. Ida Bay Tasmania. 2011

Heiko Maurer about to descend into Midnight Hole.
2011

Clare Buswell exiting Gouffre Berger, France. 2008

THE LONG, SLOW CRAWL OF SURVIVAL - THE 3rd DECADE AND VSU



Some of those who kept the Club going in the 2000s

Top Clockwise.

Michael Meynell-James in Trog Dip, Buchan. 2007

Paul Waclawic, FUSSI Treasurer Easter Cave, Yarrangobilly.

Lee Sian Mooi in Easter Cave, Yarrangobilly. 2006

Chris Wood, Helictite Hole. Yagby.

Adrian Hekel, Lynds Cave Mole Ck. 2003

Jan Schmorte, on the Nullarbor. Sharon Drabsch on the Nullarbor. 2004

Here are a couple of trip reports from the Noughty's by those who kept on caving despite it all.

RANDOM ACTS OF CAVING

Rochelle

Bonjour everyone who is reading this! Since I am stuck in essay mode, I feel like I need to introduce what this paper is about ... so, here goes ... This short blurb is a little summary about how the caving trip was in the Flinders Ranges, from my perspective. So ... first off, I went in with pretty much NO expectations because, realistically, caving is a pretty random thing to do on one's weekend, as I came to realize.

For me, I'm a fairly recent 'adventurer', and also a recent "Australian" – or so I like to think – so I went in with the mindset that I was basically willing to try anything, as long as I could ask a million questions to make sure I was on the right track. And it was the perfect group to do that with because



every person who went on that trip had a bit, or combination, of knowledge to offer, and I think that that was what made the trip that much more enjoyable.

Anthony, Rochelle, Chris and Tegan, before going underground.

There were people of all different levels and backgrounds, with a range of experience – or lack thereof such as myself – in regards to caving and other quirky non-mainstream activities, and that made it so much easier for me to feel comfortable while underground! I wouldn't say that I am a full-on claustrophobe, but I'd be lying if I said that I didn't have moments underground when I felt just a little bit nervous and had to do a llllltttle yogic breathing to calm the nerves, because really it is all true, I did have nervous moments. But as I have learned about cavers (or maybe, just you guys), there is no rush, and thus you can take your time and go at your own pace, however slow or fast that may be.



Chris Exiting the Catacombs.

So, what were my overall thoughts on the caves, and the caving itself? GREAT! I have always been a fan of the environment's amazing natural beauty (for lack of a better description), especially here in Australia, and this was a perspective I have never seen, or really even understood. I really had no idea what to expect. I mean, the caves were not as colourful or alive (in the actual sense), as maybe a botanic garden would be ... but they have a different sort of beauty, and one that has to be appreciated for the oddities they are. I mean – some of those formations – the tites and mites etc, (let's be honest here – I was not

the scientist of the crew, I was the question asker!), take thousands and thousands of years to form, and every one is so different and unique, and some are sparkly, some are crystal-y, some

RANDOM ACTS OF CAVING

Rochelle

look like Christmas trees, up, down, sideways ... everything was happening all over the place ... and to add to that it was pitch black and silent ... the experience really did feel surreal.

Another learning experience – Navigation underground. Now navigation and direction has never been my forte *above ground*, so once you take that underground, and toss in some tunnels, squeeziness and darkness, well, the combination was a bit of a challenge to me ... As I would turn around and have NO idea where I had just come from because, as far as I could see, there were a whole lot of tunnels floating about and I could have come through any of them. It really did feel like a whole other world down there. Luckily I had a couple of caving gurus as guides and to have FANTASTIC inspiring conversations with while down there!!

What I liked best about caving – or maybe I should say – the overall lesson/gist that I got out of the caving weekend: (please excuse my teeny political/philosophical rant coming out) ... basically, there is a lot of stuff going on in the world – above ground – a lot of stuff that can wear on one's positivity for it, (and by 'one' I mean me!), and I personally try to live my life in a way that is as least harmful to any one, or thing, (including the environment) as possible, while still appreciating the beauty and the positive aspects of life ... and that is what I understand caving to be about actually – it seems to embody the same principles. I found caving to be peaceful, calming, beautiful and detached from many negative things in the world, but at the same time, it is connected to, and is actually based upon and *within* the natural beauty that so many people forget to appreciate regarding the world, in all of its different wonders.

I feel quite honoured to have taken part in the weekend and experience this different side of the Ranges. The people were wonderful, the caves/abseiling/squeezing/dirtifying fantastic, and it was just an all-round enjoyable weekend for so many reasons! In fact, I would say it was the most 'random' weekend I've had in a looong time ...*wink*!

Flinders Ranges trip to Mairs, and Clara St. Dora in late September 2005. People on the trip: Rochelle, Chris Wood, Tegan Laslett, Anthony Kakosanke, Bronya Alexander, Jan Schmortte, Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer

CULTURE SHOCK IN MYSTERY CREEK

Heiko Maurer

Members Present: Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Ivan Riley and Robert Hunter
December 26 or 27/2001

The last time I had been down Midnight Hole was just after the 1993 Tas Trog Conference. This time just as much fun was had, if not even more so as we had a brand new rope to initiate. We had packed the car to the gunnels for the trip over on the boat, so Heiko and Robert who flew over from Adelaide, were given strict instructions to bring only hand luggage. Heiko's definition of hand luggage was 120 metres of new rope on a roll. I don't know how he got it on the plane, this being post planes into buildings time.

So here we were at the top of Midnight Hole, all dressed up and playing out so much rope that Heiko almost reverted to his, "ah, ya don't need a rope, just jump!" type statements. This new rope by the way was white, by the time it had done the first two pitches it was showing the new terracotta look very well. The abseil on the last pitch is the most rewarding, a 50-meter free hang down a cylindrical shaft with exposed bedding planes.

CULTURE SHOCK IN MYSTERY CREEK

We all got down the last pitch and then pushed, pulled, hauled and hugged our way through the Matchbox Squeeze, with Heiko and Ivan cursing the bag of rope. After a bit of a rest and consumption of the caver's friend - a chocolate bar - it was time to find our way into the Mystery Ck section of the cave. The fun really began here, as none of the three people who had been in the cave before could really remember the way through. We climbed up and down and crawled around thoroughly exploring the ways of the area. After about half an hour of this we finally found what is known as the Laundry Chute and hit the stream passage.

Due to all this crawling around business, there was not an un-muddied surface on any of us, so it was with some surprise that on the way out we could smell the unmistakable scent of perfume. Now cavers are not usually into such things, as what we do involves getting grotty at the very least. Imagine our surprise when the source of the scent belonged to a French film crew filming glowworms. There was here either a serious hole in the ether, or we had crossed several parsecs in a space-time continuum.

Well, I guess that Mystery Creek Cave has one of the best displays of glowworms around, so filming them here did make sense. After a brief chat, we trundled on and passed a few more day trippers going into the cave.

They stared at us with our mud covered appearance and we looked askance at their lack of equipment with which to go caving.

From Vol 14, No 1&2 2002.



Glow worms.
Photo: Ivan Riley.

THE REVENGE OF THE CAR

Being a University based club, transport to caving areas was always an issue. Students, no matter what era, never seemed to have the money to buy or run them. Of if they did have some spare dosh, the buying of a car that will do more than get one from home to Uni and back seemed beyond the reach of most. As early as 1979 we took to using Uni vehicles to get to caving areas. The minutes of the July 79 meeting suggested that 'the club store petrol for a November Nullarbor trip on campus in 44 gal drums'. Petrol at that stage cost 25c/lt and consumption was estimated at 14lt/100km for the trip. Reports discussing reliability or the lack thereof abound in the club minutes. A couple of examples.

On the 1982 Nullarbor trip five members attended taking 2 cars and a trailer. According to the Annual Report, written by Ken Sanderson, they visited, Weebubbie, Abracurrie, Witches and due to wet roads returned home early. They spent \$256.00 on petrol, and had 3 flat tyres.

Nullarbor July 1985, 7 people: 2 cars, one trailer. This combination resulted in one busted trailer axle, one broken accelerator cable and a set of not working windscreen wipers on the car with the busted cable. And yes, it rained!

The minutes of the FUSS Meeting July 1987, record that members reported on a trip to Corra Lynn Cave where Mavis seemed to be present, as:

Guy's car spun out and ran into a fence.
Peter W's car had a flat right front and a flat spare tyre.
Andrew's car had flat battery.
Pam's car had a flat battery. We called the RAA to repair a flooded carburettor.

The fun continued:

Paul W and Deb C had intended to come on this trip, They got as far as the Light River on the Friday night when their car seized. They called the RAA and went home.

FUSSI members took a brand new Uni car to the 1991 ASF conference in Margaret River, adding 10,000km to its clock. Then around 1993, access to these cars dried up. From then until the mid to late 2000s, FUSSI members faced a major transport shortage. Trips to the Nullarbor dried up. Naracoorte caves and the lower south east of the State didn't get a visit all that often.

Most of the caving was done on the Yorke Peninsula. Car UN-reliability was also a constant companion. FUSSI member's cars and non-working windscreen wipers seem to be married to each other. CV joints and engines took to going on strike in the remotest of places. One member, Safety Officer John Callison, was marooned at Hawker for the entire weekend's caving, whilst the local mechanic took his car apart and put bits of it back together.



THE REVENGE OF THE CAR

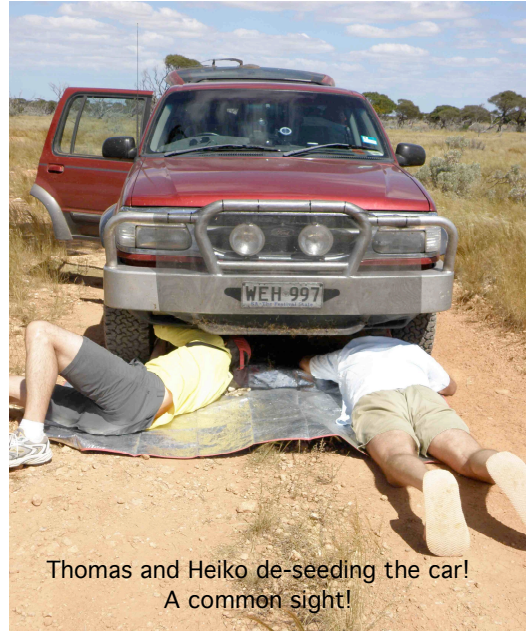
On an Easter trip in 1999, one car had 4 flat tyres. Always the front left and the flat was always obtained in the same section on the road. In the end, the members present decided to do the change and repair work themselves rather than drive to Hawker and risk yet another flat.



Professional tyre changing in the Flinders.

On the Nullarbor in 2011 the one and only car caught alight due to the compaction of grass seeds around hot places under the chassis.

Just to let you know how the car situation ruled the club, here is a story reprinted, from FUSI Newsletter. Vol. 2. (1) 1990.



Thomas and Heiko de-seeding the car!
A common sight!

SATURDAY IN PATHAWAY

Guy Smith.

On Friday the 9th March 1990, Jenny, Guy, and Cheryl set forth from Adelaide, unaware they had an appointment with destiny. The trip began normally, only about an hour late. The unsuspecting trio drove for Naracoorte, quietly wondering what we would discover that we needed when we woke on Saturday. How could we have known? It was a caving trip! Who would have thought we would need something (anything!) to do?

The hour approached. We dined, sumptuously as usual, from the à la carte menu Chez Coonalpyn. Keith was successfully negotiated and Padthaway was our next landmark. Little did we suspect how much a landmark it would be.

Five miles short of Padthaway, It Happened! Dun Dah Daahh! We didn't notice at the time. But soon, it was obvious we were losing speed. "Not a worry" thought Guy, "Spark plug's come loose. Fix it when we get there." Oh Foolish Yokel. Oh ignorant Wally. The charge light came on. The power died. The Guy cursed. The Flying Brick [Guy drove a Hilux Van] flew no more.

We entered Padthaway quietly. We had little choice. As we rolled to a stop in the street of Padthaway we wondered if there was civilisation nearby, the night burst into song: "Advance Australia Fair". Still we wondered. Was this a Country Party meeting? Were the intrepid speleologists doomed? Has Guy removed all his "Joh for Shark Bait" stickers?

Guy opened the engine cover. Steam poured out. "Whew, it's only boiled. Mmm. Funny that. I thought the steam came from the radiator at the front of the engine when it boiled, not from the back of the engine where there is this burst rubber pipe, oh dear, oh, dear."

With eyes as sharp as ever, Jenny spied an automotive repair shop. It was across the road. Metaphorical light bulbs flashed. Neurons ground away. Two and Two were put together several

THE REVENGE OF THE CAR

times and we said “Maybe the guy who runs the shop, is the local Country Party candidate and will be still at the meeting and able to replace our water pipe tonight”.

Exercising our speleolinguistic skills we communicated with a local taking her young home from the meeting. Yes! The man who ran the shop was organising the meeting. We went to the hall. The celebrations were over there was much sweeping, confusion and cries of “Jack, have you



seen George? Bill says a guy here wants to see him about a van”. George was our man. George was an avid sportsman. George had gone duck-shooting.

Next morning we awoke. By a democratic process, Jenny was selected to get us coffee. Jenny got her revenge on democracy. Jenny took half an hour.

Thus refreshed, we told the garage man what had happened. He began to look at the van. Throughout the day, our fortunes fluctuated.

First, George checked the oil. Ever seen a dry Dipstick? Next George turned the engine over. By hand. “Hmm, no compression”, said George, “Looks bad”. Oil was restored to the van. “Wonder if a pull start will get oil around the piston and restore compression?” So we tried it and it did! The van purred healthily up to the garage. We wondered if we could get to Naracoorte in time for the morning cave.

George poked about a little more. “Hmm gaskets leaking. That’s why the compression came back so quickly. Need a new gasket. Don’t think I’ve got one of those”. George disappears for a while. “No, sorry, sold the last two days ago. Maybe someone in Naracoorte will have one. Maybe”. We wondered if we could get to Adelaide in time for work.

We left George with the van and explored Padthaway. Soon, we were ensconced in the local deli, drinking tea and reading postcards. We couldn’t agree on the best card. Jenny preferred the “Having a good time in Padthaway” card, with a beautiful beach scene as the picture. [There are no beaches near Padthaway] My favourite described Adelaide as “Australia’s first capital to host a Formula 1 Grand Prix, and soon to have an exciting new casino”. They don’t sell many postcards in Padthaway.

It being a lovely day we lunched in the local park, cheerfully collecting our picnic gear from the back of the van while the engine was being dissected in the front. When we finished lunch the van was ready, the plastic damaged and we resumed our journey, much surprised by how much fun we had in Padthaway.



Jenny and coffee!

THE REVENGE OF THE CAR

POST SCRIPT

Jenny nearly visited Padthaway again on the way back, we played, “Animal, Vegetable and Mineral.” When it was her turn, Jenny tried to make us guess “Polling Booth”. Jenny nearly got let off in Padthaway.

FUND RAISING



A FUSSI Stall, fund raising on Fair day around 1986

Over the decades, minutes of meetings often discuss the abject state of FUSSI's *ability* to raise money. Over the years on Uni campus, we have held: blind chocolate and port tastings, sold cakes, falafel rolls, held raffles, stuck labels on computer discs, held film nights, bottled wine, minted our own wine glasses, washed cars and BBQ'ed a billion snags.

The sticking labels on computer discs for 8 hours made such a lasting impression on the Club

President of 1993, Jenny Laidlaw, that in the Annual Report she claimed:

However FUSSI's real breakthrough during 1993 was in the former twilight zone of fundraising. I'm not certain of this but I think that the club raised more money in a single day than in the ten odd years that I have been a member.

After 40 years of this we now have some money in the bank. However, the treasurer is still NOT happy, complaining; “we don't have enough to get to Mexico or New Guinea or ...”

FOR SALE

Latest instalment of FUSSI wine glasses
A high quality wine glass.

Embossed with the FUSSI logo,
minted
for our 40th celebrations.

\$8.00 or \$46 for ½ dz
or \$93 for 12.

Get in before they all go!

Contact: fussi@fussi.org.au.



CERTAIN BOTTLES OF WINE

Two trusted Red and White wines were bottled in 1989 as a fundraiser for the club. They were on sale for \$5.00 a bottle. The White wine sold out even before it had time to rest in the bottle. The Red however was another matter. At right is the original advertisement telling the world how great they are.

Late in 2013 Jenny Laidlaw and Lee Coshell, both previous FUSSI presidents, were renovating their Adelaide house and in the cellar they found 2 bottles of the Cavers Lament Red wine.

One of these bottles was auctioned at the FUSSI 40th Celebrations held in Oct. Bidding was intense between the wine aficionados, tea totallers, the auctioneer and those who don't drink the red stuff.

In the end after much tension, sales talk about the long lasting qualities of the said wine, its rarity, fruit, and pedigree, it sold for \$50.00 to an anonymous bidder. (Well they paid the editor money not to print his or her name!)

The second bottle was opened, tasted and ... well let's say it won't be talked about again ...



WINE FOR SALE

Red wine:

A blend of Cabernet, Shiraz and Malbec grapes from Andy Lloyd's vineyards at Coriole in the prestigious McLaren Vale viticultural area. The grapes were picked at maximum ripeness during the superb '86 autumn. The blend was stored in new French Nevers hogsheads for 6 months and final analysis confirms the winemakers high hopes: at 6.7g/l residual sugar (1.78 oechsle) and 9.34 mg/hl total acid. It promises to last, a lunchtime.

Our panel of respected wine judges came up with the following assessment:

Colour: dark, ruby ochre with hints of gold.

Bouquet: Youthful and peppery Cabernet overtones with hints of peak berry flavour backed by clean integrated oak and dead possum.

Palate: Palate is young, seductive and alluring and delivers what the nose promises – ripe, rich fruit and marsupial flavours, with chewy lumps. Good drinking now, but will improve with bottle age. Give it away in 5-10 years.

Caution: do not serve to friends (although this depends on your attitude to said friends.)

White Wine:

Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay (25/75) blend.

Picked in the dead of night when no-one was looking.

Colour: Pale gold with blue tinges.

Bouquet: Like a prawn boat after the refrigeration's failed.

Palate: Overtones of herbaceous mud do much to hide the seaweed and rubble characters on the middle palate, but the 'wine' finishes long and pleasantly sweet with hints of botrytis. Will keep for absolutely ages. Recommended.

Reprinted from:
FUSSI Newsletter. 1 (2) 1989

MAVIS: THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY

The following report was received by this editor in a plain brown envelope, with no post marks - I can only assume that the author has some intimate relationship with Mavis, and does not want to be revealed.

The origins of Mavis are somewhat obscure. Nothing is known about her early years, and her parentage and family life are shrouded in secrecy. This biography must therefore begin one evening in January 1988, when Mavis was first sighted by FUSS members. Jim, Sackie, Ceridwen and Richard were driving along the road between Corryong and Yarrangobilly in the Snowy Mountains when a large furry animal ambled across the road. Their first thought was that the creature must be a bear. However, they quickly dismissed that idea when they remembered that there are no bears in the Snowy Mountains. Moreover, it was clear that the animal was not a wombat. Not only was the creature much too large, but it was also carrying a theodolite. It was the presence of the theodolite which led the foursome to the inescapable conclusion that the creature they had seen was a Funky Gibbon.

Having revealed herself to be Mavis and subsequently attached herself to FUSS members, this Gibbon became, over the next couple of years, an integral, though not always welcome, part of the group. When several FUSS members went on a bush walk to Mount Jagungal (named after a cat) shortly after that first sighting, they were unaware that Mavis had a treacherous and sneaky character. During the course of this trip, there was much talk about funky gibbons and theodolites. They only discovered that Mavis was in their midst after a couple of days of walking, when Sackie made the shock revelation that Clare was in fact Mavis in a Clare suit. Since then, Mavis's ability to adopt the disguise of any FUSS member has become a familiar and troublesome part of most trips.

For the next year or so, Mavis kept a fairly low profile. It wasn't until the Nullarbor trip of mid 1989 that Mavis's kleptomania and generally wicked ways became fully apparent. Mavis committed a long series of crimes during this trip, beginning with the removal of the oil filler cap from Richard's car, and including the theft of many valued possessions. She also managed to overturn Dave and Di's trailer and cause significant damage to Guy's van and Pam's car. One night, while wearing a Matt suit, Mavis woke everybody up with the words "I can hear the train!". But it was probably Clare who suffered the most during the infamous Nullarbor trip of 1989. She lost several possessions, including her pocket knife, her spondonicles (many times) and the white inner plastic bit from her cup. Sadly for Clare, the latter has never been found.

Since that trip, there have been endless experiences of Mavis's wickedness. A few examples will suffice. Whilst wearing a John suit, Mavis has been known to give people false directions on badly drawn maps and has led people astray whilst map reading. (I don't think Mavis is to blame for the poor maps -Ed.) She also sabotaged Jonathon's car prior to a recent Flinders Ranges trip after giving Jonathon and Ralph a specially drawn map to the campsite.

In view of her many crimes, it is easy to point the finger at Mavis and blame her for everything that goes wrong. However, it must be remembered that Mavis occasionally seems repentant and has, in fact, done some good deeds. For example, not only did Mavis buy Clare a brand new pocket knife after the Nullarbor trip, she also eventually brought back the old one. While driving to Margaret River last year, Clare, Heiko, Tania and Richard lost Clare's sunglasses and the Mobil card from the Uni vehicle. It was clear that Mavis was up to her old tricks. However, Clare took Mavis aside and persuaded her to retreat from society for a while so that she could

contemplate her evil ways. Mavis did indeed retreat to the Himalayas, and she was expected to make a New Year's resolution to abandon her wicked ways and strive for peace and justice by doing good deeds. It seemed at first that Mavis had made such a resolution because Mavis (in a Heiko suit) appeared after New Years Eve and returned the Mobil card. However, it quickly became apparent that Mavis did not enjoy being good. Clare's sunglasses were never returned and, on the way home, Mavis caused the Uni vehicle to suffer a flat tyre on the Nullarbor.

Mavis's most recent wave of terror began when Clare, Nathan and Simon were walking in Victoria. After spending several days walking in dismal conditions, they realised to their horror that Mavis had somehow increased her powers tremendously. Mavis had, in fact, become a weather god. These new powers were evident more recently when unseasonal rain thwarted FUSS's attempt to hold a map reading workshop.

During the recent Yarrangobilly trip, Mavis's car sabotage and map reading shenanigans were getting on everybody's nerves so it was decided, in an attempt to placate her, to hold a surprise party to celebrate Mavis's fourth birthday. In order to satisfy her kleptomania, Mavis collected a present for herself which consisted of, among other things, Guy's highly valued pocket knife, Simon's cutlery, Dave's underpants, Nathan's mug, Matt's bowl, and Ros's book. Despite this gift, and although FUSS sang Happy Birthday to Mavis and drank champagne in her honour, Mavis was not satisfied.

Unfortunately, it is necessary to comment on the unpleasant subject of Mavis's sex life, a subject which, as will be revealed, is about to cause scandal in the Australian Speleological Federation. Most FUSS members are probably unaware that Rauleigh Webb, a member of the Western Australian Speleological Group, and,

MAVIS: THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY

until recently, a Vice President of the ASF, owns a gnome which was stolen from him some time ago. This gnome appears at every ASF meeting but always manages to elude Rauleigh's grasp. One morning after the recent ASF Council Meeting, a note appeared stuck to the dashboard of Richard's car. It said: "Mavis and the gnome had sex in the car last night. So there!" Needless to say, Richard, Clare, Guy and Sackie were deeply shocked and bitterly disappointed to discover that Mavis had been corrupted by Rauleigh's gnome. Their hope that this was

merely a vitriolic and insubstantial attack against Mavis's character were dashed when they visited Coolman Plain a couple of days later and, while they were caving, the following note was placed on the windscreen of Richard's car: "Dear Mavis & the Gnome - We know you had sex in the car - we saw you. You were very good too". The note was signed 'Los Trios Pervertus'.

The Mavis Sex Scandal is simply the latest in a long line of slurs against Mavis's character. Although Mavis's bad reputation is generally

well deserved, it's hard to believe that she would stoop so low as to corrupt a gnome. Clearly, there are many questions to be answered about this latest disgrace: Who seduced whom? Who are Los Trios Pervertus? Did Mavis and the gnome practice safe sex?

Finally, it is important to note that Mavis has recently been asking personal questions about Simon. This has prompted certain FUSS members to ask whether there is something going on between Simon and Mavis. Some people are even asking if Simon is really Mavis. Simon isn't giving anything away, and little can be said about the Simon/Mavis relationship at this stage for fear of legal action. It can be revealed, however, that Mavis was recently seen driving Simon's car down Goodwood Road. Clearly, there is something going on. Unfortunately, it seems that the Simon/Mavis relationship, like Mavis's life, will remain shrouded in mystery.

Footnote: It has appeared that the Mavis / Simon relationship is over, either because Simon shaved his beard off, or because his mother was asking too many questions.



Karen Magraith and Guy Bannick in River Cave, Coolamin Plains.

Heiko suffering from one of Mavis' attacks in Wet Cave Tasmania 1993. Where is his Helmet? Did Mavis return it?

The situation with the Club gremlin became so bad that the FUSSI Executive was forced to try to employ a Mavis Abatement Officer in 1996.

See the Positions Vacant Advertisement below. No applications were received.

FUSSI Newsletter 4.1.1992



EMPLOYMENT OFFER

Positions Vacant

MAVIS ABATEMENT OFFICER AS04



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 Control Office currently comprising 23 technical and administrative staff.

Responsibility:

The MAO is directly responsible to the Acting Head of the MCC, (The Head of the MCC is currently on workers compensation due to stress caused by never being able to find their car keys so as to be able to come to work.)

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.

Experience with cars in isolated conditions, is desirable although possession of a current divers licence is not required. Applicants must not have any interests in garden gnomes. Previous experience dealing with Mavis, weather changes, Kleptomania, or experience in a theatre of war will be well regarded. Extensive travel both around South Australia and interstate is required.

Remuneration: A generous remuneration package including free health care, 6 weeks annual leave, generous sick leave provisions and a salary in the AS04 range of \$34,500- \$42,915 will be negotiated with the successful applicant.

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

Closing date for the application is 30/6/95.

Please quote reference number XXX and attention FUSSI President. FUSSI is an equal opportunity employer and maintains a smoke free working environment.

FUSSI TURNS 40



At Left: Bronya and Sarah share a toast to caving.

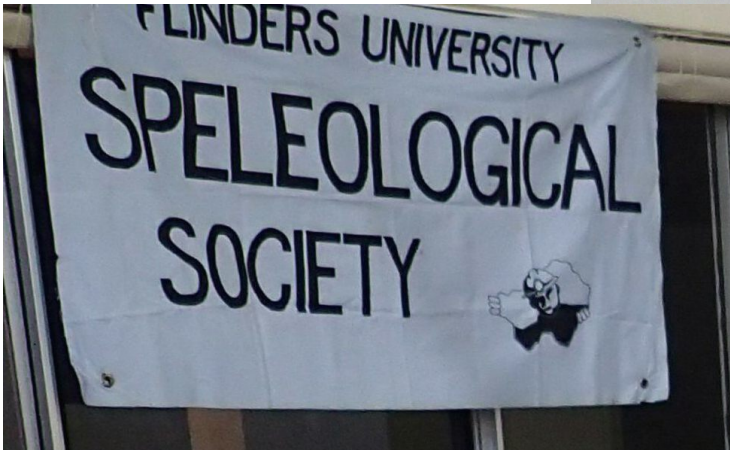
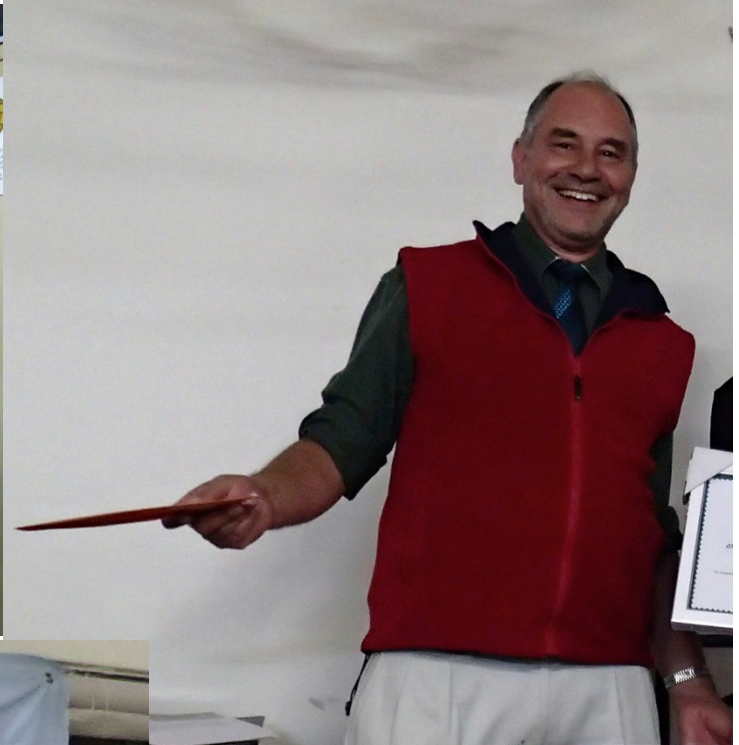
The usual FUSSI efficiency saw around 50 people turn up to a weekend of great caving and fun. Those who wished visited Blackberry Cave, Sand Cave, Fox Cave, S102, Wet cave, and enjoyed talks on the latest happenings at Naracoorte Caves National Park in relation to the World Heritage management processes, listened to bat talks and watching bats leave Bat Cave.

FUSSI TURNS 40

A party on the Saturday night saw all sorts of bribery, disguises, the auctioning off of anything that wasn't nailed down, and the consumption of food and wine etc. A big thank you to all the organisers, party goers and cooks.

An even BIGGER thankyou to Deborah Craven-Carden, Decima McTernan, Amy Macken and Tara Avery for putting up with our requests and for coming caving with us.

Here are some photos from Anniversary weekend.



FUSSI TURNS 40



THE FUTURE?

FUSSI PROGRAMME January to July 2015

18th Jan, Sunday. Sellicks Hill caves by Boat. 9.30 – 6pm. Limited to 8 people. Thomas coordinating

7-15th Feb: Yarrangobilly Caves. Clare coordinating.

22nd Feb & or 1st March. Sunday. Sellicks Hill caves by Boat. 9.30 – 6pm. Thomas coordinating

23-27 Feb O-Week

25th Feb: Fairday on Campus. Club Stall, **all help needed.**

2nd March Term Starts

7-9 March: SRT competent ONLY to Wooltana. Contact: Clare

14-15 March: Wet and Wild trip. Contact: Heiko/Thomas/Clare

19th March: General Meeting. Talk on the Caves of NZ. Ian Lewis guest speaker. 6pm - 8pm. On Campus

3-6 April: Easter Caves on the Eyre Peninsula. Clare, Dan, Neville coordinating.

MID SEMESTER BREAK April 13- 27

9th April General Meeting. The Caves of France. Ken Smith, guest speaker. TBC 6pm - 8pm. On Campus

25-26 April: Naracoorte. Sand Cave. etc

3rd May Corra Lynn. Thomas coordinating.

7th May AGM. On campus.

10-15 May ACKMA Conference Naracoorte, Cavers needed to run trips.

GLOOM, Depression etc, EXAMS 22 June – July 4

Mid Year Break 6 July – 28 July

21-26th June Ningaloo Reef WA. ASF Conference. GO TO IT.

July 11-19th Nullarbor (TENTATIVE DATE ONLY).

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SOME FUSSI CAVERS

