



# FUSSI Newsletter

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**CFS CAVE SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE IN FOX CAVE, NARACOORTE, S.A.**

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**Front Cover Photo:** Retrieval of patient from Fox Cave during CFS Search and Rescue Exercise.

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## A message from your Editor:

This quarter has seen several fantastic trips, with much fun had by all. In fact, so much good fun has been had by all that there just wouldn't be enough room in this newsletter to write up all the trip reports!

So Ed has decided it would be good to record a summary of all trips in a PAST TRIPS section. This also allows prospective new members to see what we do and provides a history of peoples experience in caving.

But it hasn't all been happy times. On the 27th September, Cameron Roy from the Scouts caving group took his own life following many years of depression. Most, if not all of us, had caved with Cameron and he had become a good friend to all who knew him. He was a caring, genuine, sincere, fun-loving, sharing person who was always ready and keen to teach and assist others. Cameron was a mentor.

Cameron's funeral was attended by 100 or more Scouts in uniform and several FUSSI and CEGSA members. Along with family and numerous other friends, the funeral spilled out of the parlour and into the driveway. The stories of Cameron's achievements and how he had positively impacted other peoples' lives flowed for over an hour. Very few people knew the dark secret inside Cameron, and all wished they could have helped in some way.

This newsletter has been difficult for me because of lack of input from others, some of whom had promised articles. This is YOUR newsletter, and it requires YOUR input to be successful.

## PAST TRIPS

### **Sat 5th Sept 2015 - CFS Search & Rescue exercise in Fox cave**

Participants: Aimee Leong, Edwina Virgo, Thomas Varga, Neville Skinner, along with approx. 20 other people from Police, CFS, St. John Ambulance, Naracoorte caves, CEGSA and the Scout group.

### **Sun 6th Sept 2015 - Cave Park cave**

Participants - refer trip report

### **Fri 11th Sept 2015 - Southern Flinders Ranges**

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Dee Trewartha, Daniel Dingwall, Nekane Reta Murua (Neka)

### **Sat 12th – Sun 13th Sept 2015 - Clara St Dora cave, Mairs cave, Mt Simms cave**

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Aimee Leong, Sue Chong, Daniel Dingwall, Dee Trewartha, Yeo Shi Hui (Jodie), Ma Chea Yee, Sim Hui Min (Yvette), Chong Yan Fong, Nekane Reta Murua, Jan Schmortte & Sarah Phillips, Neville Skinner,

### **Sat 17th Oct 2015 - Corra-Lynn cave (Dreamland section)**

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Aimee Leong, Daniel Dingwall, Neville Skinner

### **Sat 24th Oct 2015 - Rapid Bay sea caves**

Participants: Neville Skinner & Daniel Dingwall

### **Sun 25th Oct 2015 - Kongerati cave, Wirrina, and Rapid Bay cave**

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Aimee Leong, Daniel Dingwall, Neville Skinner

### **Sun 29th Nov 2015 - River Murray boat trip (in search of caves) & Punyelroo cave**

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Felicia Lee, Heiko Maurer, Neville Skinner

### **Fri 4th Dec – Mon 7th Dec 2015 - Mole Creek caves, Tasmania**

Participants: Clare Buswell (trip leader), Heiko Maurer, Thomas Varga, Trudy Field, Neville Skinner

# VALE CAMERON KINNOCH ROY

16th Sep 1987 – 27th Sep 2015

Written by Neville Skinner

Cameron had always loved the great outdoors; even as a child when the family would spend weekends at their holiday house in Blinman. It was said that when Cameron was older he would drive up to Blinman on a Friday night, sleep the night, and then drive back again the next day. He enjoyed the serenity of these surroundings.

Cameron was well educated – he went to Prince Alfred College as a boy and later to the University of SA.

Cameron joined the Cub Scouts in 1997, where he set his eyes on achieving high standards and challenging goals. In the Scouts he became known as Ullr (pron “ULL-er”), the Viking male winter god (in Norse mythology) of skiers, snowshoes, hunting, the bow and the shield.

He became heavily involved in Rogaining (long distance cross country navigation on foot), Climbing, Caving, Skiing (another of his great loves), Canoeing, Rafting and the like, and in 2007 he started actively pursuing the quest to achieve the Baden-Powell Scout Award.

In Oct 2007, Cameron went with his family to PNG where, at his father’s request, he accompanied his then 11-year old brother Callum on a Prince Alfred College trip to walk the 96kms of the Kokoda Track from Kokoda to Owers Corner in 7 days. This he achieved effortlessly.

On 18th Sept 2008, after 18 months as a Joey Leader, Cameron wrote a letter announcing his intention to finish up in that position at the end of that year. In that letter, Cameron said:

*“the thing in Scouting I am most passionate about is getting out into the great outdoors and climbing those mountains, rambling across the plains and seeing the beautiful views of the world”.*

His pursuit of the Baden-Powell Scout Award took him to places such as the Flinders Ranges (numerous areas), the Snowy Mountains, Morialta Conservation Park, Mt Crawford Forest, Waitpinga cliffs, Mt Arapiles and SW Tasmania (The Mount Anne Circuit), where he ably demonstrated his ability to organise trips and “camp on at least ten separate occasions, aggregating not less than ten nights on at least three different campsites, showing on all occasions a high standard of campcraft.”

In 2009-2011, Cameron completed a 2-year TAFE course in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. During that two year period, Cameron said he was away on trips for about 280 days, camping on most of those days.

Most of all, Cameron proved himself to be an inspiring leader and mentor to both youth and adult members within the Scouting community. Cameron was presented with his award on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 at the Beaumont Scout Hall; the highest award in the Rover Section, which is the oldest section of Scouting for young men and women aged 18-25. Cameron was the 36th South Australian Rover to receive the award.

Cameron wrote in one of his reports that during an expedition to Mt Arapiles in Jan 2011 with two mates they climbed the 100m “front route” of The Pharos, a free-standing rock tower containing three pitches, each rated at Grade 17 (Hard, Very Severe climb), with their dinner, breakfast, water, sleeping gear and bivvy bags, camped the night on the top of the summit, and then abseiled back down in the morning.

As a Scout Rover, Cameron had become a very competent leader in rogaining, skiing, climbing and caving, and it was when the Scouts became involved with joint CEGSA trips that FUSSI got to know Cameron (and other Scout leaders).

Cameron was always willing to help people, and to share his knowledge with others.

We enjoyed our short time with you Cameron, and we would have liked the opportunity to spend more time with you. Vale Cameron, we miss you.



## *Something To Fear*

*I hide it from you,  
And I hide it from them.  
I act with a clue,  
I act like a gem.*

*I have it so deep,  
Locked away deep inside.  
It seeps and it creeps,  
But it's so hard to hide.*

*It roots itself down,  
It sticks to your core.  
It is all around,  
Making life like a chore.*

*It consumes and destroys,  
Until nothing's left.  
It blocks everything out, like white noise,  
And it grows and grows, doubling in heft.*

*Now, I have just one little question for you, dear,  
Whoever told you depression wasn't something to fear?*

© Jae Morales

# CAVE PARK CAVE TRIP REPORT

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July

By Ian Lewis & Neville Skinner

Photos by Neville Skinner

Trip participants: Thomas Varga (FUSSI), Edwina Virgo (FUSSI), Aimee Leong (FUSSI & CEGSA), Neville Skinner (FUSSI & CEGSA), Ken Smith (FUSSI & CEGSA), Graham Pilkington, Damien Pilkington, ?? & Juliet Pilkington (CEGSA), Ian Lewis (CEGSA), Steve Milner (CEGSA), Cameron Roy (SCOUTS & CEGSA), Mark Corbett (SCOUTS & CEGSA), Heather Siebert (SCOUTS),..... help needed...

The day started with the crew from CEGSA & the Scouts arriving at the Cave Park cabin where we were staying, to check out the accommodation facilities.



**CEGSA and the Scouts inspect our salubrious lodgings; Aimee in foreground**

From there we drove down the road to the owner's house, where we checked to see if anyone was home. It came as no surprise to us that there wasn't, as Ian had told us they might not be home.

We then walked up the hill from the house to get our bearings, and for Ian to relocate the cave, after many years of not having visited the cave. Once located, we walked back to retrieve the vehicles, which we parked quite near to the cave.

It was disappointing to see the entrance totally covered with blackberry vines, and Graham said that cavers had in the past undertaken to keep the blackberries under control. Graham then looked around for a smaller, more restrictive entrance, which he thought might be easier to access once the vines were removed. And so, with much vigour the Pilkington clan (primarily) grabbed a saw and a couple of hand tools and commenced to rout out the blackberries covering this entrance. After 20 mins it looked better, you could actually see the entrance, but it failed to inspire. It was about 200mm high at its highest point and 350mm wide, and still there remained encroaching blackberry vines and roots, making it a very unattractive option.



**Ken watches on while Graham & Damien attack the blackberry vines**

With that, the majority of those present went back to the main entrance to see what was happening there.

Cameron, with the help of Mark & Heather, had identified a small solution tube near the main entrance that was clear of the blackberry bushes and had rigged up a wire ladder with belay rope. They were ready to assist members to enter the cave.



**Cameron Roy (Scouts) rigs the cave while the group wait to enter**

One by one we attached (mainly borrowed) harnesses and climbed down the wire ladder on belay, of course I couldn't see the point of climbing down the ladder when I was attached to a belay rope so I just let the whale-tail do the work.

The walls of the entrance area were wet and covered with a green moss, interspersed with some very old graffiti, while the floor was covered with ivy, competing with the blackberries for real estate.



**Entering on belay via solution tube, while Mark & Aimee look on**

Once we were down we re-grouped into small groups under the collapsed cave entrance/chamber with some heading off in a WNW direction, while Aimee, Thomas, Edwina, Heather & myself headed off into a small tunnel heading in a south-easterly direction, before winding around to the north-east and steeply upwards, to bring us into a decorated chamber containing a wall of flowstone and a few stalactites.



**Aimee entering chamber east of entrance**



**Flowstone decorations**

Edwina & myself noticed what looked like a couple of tunnels heading off high up in the rear of this small chamber, so we clambered up and I went one way and Edwina a short time later went the other way, after I complained the tunnel I was in was getting very shallow. Luckily, it was in deep sand at this stage so I dug my way on, pushing the sand aside to get through. I could see Edwina progressing through the other tunnel just a few metres away, almost effortlessly, and I realised that the tunnel she was on would converge with the one I was digging my way through. Hummmph!

At the point where these two tunnels met, I turned left into the other tunnel, and after going through a tight restriction into another low flattener I could see daylight just ahead. A bit further and I identified this as the low entrance that had been covered by Blackberries. Another Huummph!

I then exited back the way I came, and as I did so Edwina announced her eagerness to see the area for herself. I could not imagine why.



Once Edwina returned we regrouped and headed back to the entrance chamber, whereupon we found Ian Lewis with Mark & Heather (?) examining a large group of Southern Bent Wing bats roosting in two budding solution tubes. Ian said he estimated there were about 1000 bats in that area, based on an estimate of 200 bats per square foot, as I recall.

After this we turned and headed down a low, wide flattener in a northerly direction initially, before turning NW into a narrower section, then through a very tight restriction into another chamber.



**Heather entering the final northern chamber**



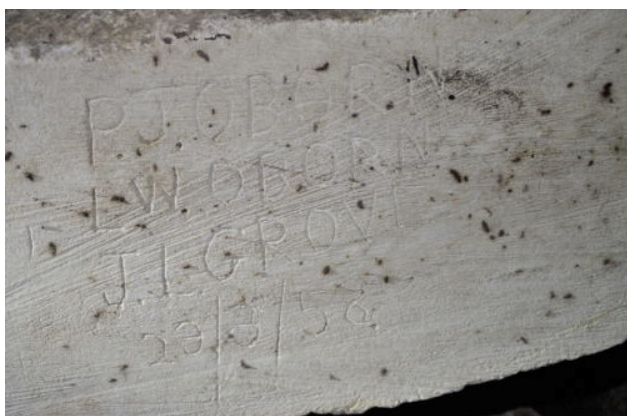
**Coral formation on low ceiling**

This chamber had some nice coral decoration in it, as well as a section of flowstone. I pointed out a nice sea-urchin fossil on one of the rocks and others were busily checking out other features. After the initial excitement dulled, a couple of the FUSSI people started to lie down and rest. I imagined it was because they had not visited the coffee shop that morning, and their stress levels were subsequently reduced.

After we left that area, Thomas, Ken & myself decided that while the others were exiting the cave we would head down the other main tunnel that headed in a ESE direction. However, there was little to see except for rock-piles, and a couple of crawl-ways through the middle of the rockpile right at the end, with another crawl-way between that same rockpile and the easterly wall of the tunnel.

It was just short of the end of this main tunnel that a smaller tunnel headed east for about 30m before it too was blocked by more rockpile. As we headed out of this smaller tunnel I stopped to take a photo of some graffiti, put there by P & L. OBORN and J. GROVE on 23rd March 1958.

At this point I noticed another Chocolate Bat on the side of a ledge in the ceiling, and took a photo of it.



**P.J.OBORN, L.W.OBORN, J.L.GROVE, 23/3/58**



**Solitary CHOCOLATE WATTLE BAT**

For this photo I took the time to change lenses to my close-up 105mm lens, which I was carrying in my camera bag, just in case. I took care not to disturb the bat, and we left the area with the bat still at rest in the same spot.



**Solitary Chocolate Wattle Bat near southern end of cave**

We were the last to head out of the cave, and Cameron was waiting on the surface to provide belay for us. When we arrived back at the vehicles, we had been in the cave for close to 4 hours. It was time to leave.

## **3D LIDAR CAVE MAPPING TRIP**

Written by Tim Featonby (Dec 2015)

People on the trip: Tim Featonby, Kevin Mott, Thomas Varga, Steven Whyte, Bec Harmer and Dave Hurst

This trip was a trial more than a trip, as the intention was to ensure that the process for the project, 3D Lidar Cave Mapping, including access arrangements, technology, reports and decimation of information, was going to work. As such this report is also brief.

Put simply, Lidar, or LIDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analysing the reflected light. We went to Snake Hill and Mt Burr caves where we were guided by Kevin Mott. 3d Lidar scans were made of the cave with some limited atmospheric data taken. Two spider specimens were taken and sent to Institute of Molecular Biology in Brisbane, who are identifying them and investigating the toxins produced by them. A sample of bat guano was taken from Mt Burr cave and this was sent to Dr. Michael Snow for mineral analysis, at the SA Museum

A third location was visited where teeth were discovered and later identified as *Thylacoleo canifex*. A future project will be conducted to try to recover the rest of the animal with assistance from volunteers. More details to follow.

The trip was a success with little caving done but it has proved the process and the technology was going to work. The intention is to open up these research trips to all with some limits on numbers due to the delicate nature of the cave and land owner requests. It is hoped that the project will really get underway in 2016 with both FUSSI and CEGSA members involvement.

# “EXMOUTH ASF NINGALOO UNDERGROUND 2015”

23rd – 28th June 2015

Written by Aimee Leong

Photos supplied by Aimee Leong

It all began with a long travel time up to Exmouth, WA for the ASF Ningaloo underground caving conference. It was a 3 ½ hr flight to Perth, then followed by a 4 hr wait in Perth airport, then a 2 hour flight to Exmouth. By the time I arrived to Exmouth, it was late afternoon; and I was very happy to catch up and see a lot of familiar faces (and meeting new ones!) that I knew from WASG, back from the days I was living in WA.

That night was about catching up with a friend who was living in Exmouth, and it was a tequila and tacos night. Totally forgetting about the 3 hr time difference from over east; it was safe to say that it was somewhat an early night. Kallidad (a band from Sydney) were over, and were providing some awesome music, and we managed to have a bit of a dance too!

The weekend before the conference I had already pre planned to do the whale shark tour snorkel, as well as do some diving off Ningaloo reef. Two things ticked off the bucket list....! Snorkelling with whale sharks was amazing. Seeing those majestic creatures in their natural habitat, and just silently dive off into the deep blue was absolutely amazing; and I was blessed to have swum with 4 different whale sharks!

The conference itself was good fun- it all began with a welcome BBQ; whereby all attendees of the conference came together for some food and booze, and a good catch up from all around Australia. There were many talks; ranging from scientific talks to cave diving talks, to exploratory talks, to talks on statistics. A great diversity!

There were two main events of the conference- the annual SRT 30 metre climb (which was set up on the SES tower in Exmouth) alongside the ‘obstacle course’, whereby many cavers gave it a go. Greg Thomas of WA did a personal best- one minute 30+ seconds; thus winning the overall SRT competition. (there were male and female sub groups for the competition). The second main event was the obstacle course; where all the cavers got together and separated into teams of 5, and the organisers of the conference set us up a course whereby we had to shimmy, climb, squeeze to avoid bits of dried pasta masquerading as stalagmites and stalactites. I’m proud to report that my team, consisting of Asha Lampard, Brett Wiltshire, Tim Moulds (all from WASG) and myself, won the competition- total time 9 minutes and 17 seconds after all time penalties were deducted (time penalties included breaking bits of the dried pasta along the way).

## **Post conference caving trip- Cape Range National Park**

It all started with a large convoy of cars (at least 20 of us!) leaving Exmouth, equipped with food, water, caving gear, camping gear. It took us a few hours to head to our camp spot; and on the way I travelled with Asha Lane and Brett Wiltshire, and we were listening to a Canadian caving band on the way in (which was part of our conference bag), which just added a bit of flavour to the trip. Upon reaching our campground, all the cavers who were participating in the post conference trip set up camp- it was like a mini community in the middle of nowhere. There was lots of ‘gardening’ to be done- clearing away of spiky, spiky spinifex for all of us to pitch tents and set up an area for a campfire. Two toilets were put up- with the use of some special chemical to dissolve waste number #2. It was late afternoon by the time we set up camp, so we all settled in for the night; started a campfire and tucked into dinner and lots of vinos.

## **Day 1: Pterodactyl Cave**

Ian Collette, Janice Adams, Jim Crockett, Alan Caton, Asha Lane, Aimee Leong

Day 1 I was caving with cavers from around Australia- I was part of a group that consisted of Alan Caton and Jim Crockett (from NSW), Janice Adamson (TAS); Asha Lane and Ian Collette (WA) and myself, and we went checking out a cave named Pterodactyl cave. It was a 65 meter deep cave, multi pitch, and we did spend a lot of time walking in- it was at least an hour walk in (highly not recommended when breaking in new boots- rookie mistake on my behalf!!), and a lot of time was spent rigging up the cave. However, it was a very enjoyable cave; at least 5 pitches deep and was just a fun, sporting cave when we all really enjoyed.



**DEF abseiling into the cave entrance**



**GHI abseiling further into the cave**



**??? abseiling further into the cave**

It was also quite humid at that depth down in the cave, and we did find a fossilised jawbone of a small mammal at the very bottom. We all enjoyed a relatively quick break before heading back up the cave; and oddly enough, it did not take that long for us to head back out into daylight and beautiful fresh air. It was about 4pm when we arrived back out of the cave; and we left the cave rigged up for other cavers to use the next day; and off we trooped back to the car. It was a long day as the sun was setting; and we arrived back at the car just as it was becoming dusk.

The night was full of food, talks and booze; not to mention fuelling the fire with masses of spinifex. It was a relatively early night, with sleep on the agenda for the next days caving!

### **Day 2: Wanders Delight**

Darren Brooks, Janice Adams, Aimee Leong, Brett Wiltshire, Phil Flemming, Asha Lane, Alan Caton, Brian

We were very lucky to have Darren Brooks from Exmouth lead this trip, as he knew exactly where about to go and show us around. This was the cave to see in Exmouth- the iconic Wanderer's Delight. It consisted of 2 20+ meter abseils into the main part of the cave; to which all thoroughly enjoyed. Upon entering the cave, we all stopped and had a quick munchy break, and then set off to have a look around Wanderer's Delight. First stop was the Sea Urchin Chamber- where (funnily enough) there were several sea urchin

fossils discovered in the chamber. There was much oohing and ahing by all, since we had never seen fossilised sea urchins before.



**Aimee studies the fossilised Sea Urchins**

There was then a wander through a few squeeze passages that lead us to the 'milky way' chamber- which was absolutely stunning; and definitely resembled the milky way. There was a bit of a rest stop there, then it was onwards to where there was water in the cave- whereby the majority of cavers stripped off and jumped in to cool off and have a bit of an explore around.



**ABC and XYZ climb through the tree roots**



**Cooling down... L to R:**

It was then time to head back up the cave as there were quite a few of us and would take us time to SRT up the pitched and get us all back up safely to the entrance. Since a number of us were feeling the need to use nature to relieve ourselves, a few of us females decided to go up first. I ascended up the first long pitch; and whereby near the anchor point I put a foot to steady myself and accidentally dislodged a rock the size of a golf ball. "ROCK BELOW!!" was screamed down, whereby Brett who was watching below quickly ducked out of the way, out of harm's way. Upon reaching the landing; it was surprising to hear voices from the entrance of the cave- turns out there was Cathie Plowman, Ian Collette and Ross Anderson at the entrance, waiting for us to come out of the cave after their SRT training day. I made my way out of the cave first; quickly ran into the bushes to do my business, then perched on a rock to watch the others make their way out of the cave.

It was early afternoon when we all made our way out of Wanderer's delight; inclusive of all the derigging that was needed. It was a fantastic trip; with lots of fossilised sea urchins which were found throughout the cave.

It was then time to head back into the campsite, where there was nibbles, dinner cooking and booze to be had. Again, much spinifex was added to the campfire; as well was some bits of magnesium that was brought along. There was a game of saving the princess out of the tower (however I will not go into too much detail about this- its good fun!!) as well as a challenge that required two ropes, to carabiners and an empty half drum. Always good fun to problem solve after a few drinks!!

The next morning was about packing up and for some of us, to head to the airport to catch our respective flights home. a few others were staying around for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day to do more caving; there was a cave that had previously been unexplored and a few cavers were heading there to check it out; although it did contain pockets of CO<sub>2</sub>. It was very much a fun and enjoyable post conference caving trip; and very much a great conference to meet other cavers from around Australia. Thank you to all the organisers of Ningaloo Underground 2015- Fran and Ian Collette; Darren Brooks who spent a lot of time and effort organising the conference. Thank you to everyone else whom I managed to catch up with and meet; it was such a pleasure and can't wait until we catch up somewhere else around Australia or the world for some more fun! ☺

# GUANO MINERALS OF THE MURRA-EL-ELEVYN CAVE

Written by Michael Snow and Neville Skinner

A trip by Skinner in July 2015 returned samples (requested by Snow) of the crusts on the rock piles in the cave as well as samples of the dung piles. The minerals of this cave have been reported by Bridge (1973). The bat below was photographed from above and only 1.2m from the site of sample 1. These bats seem to be responsible for the now mineralised dung piles. Bridge calls it the little chocolate bat, but it is given other names as well. Quoting from Wikipedia: "The **chocolate wattled bat** (*Chalinolobus morio*) is a species of vesper bat from the Vespertilionidae family. It is found only in Australia and Tasmania, but it is endemic to those regions and is widespread, especially in southern regions. It is known to reside from sea level to at least 1,570 metres (5,150 ft) in Victoria."

Ten or so bats were seen in the caves, all attached to walls and not in groups.

Bridge found a wide suite of minerals including *apthitalite* (sodium potassium sulphate), *biphosphammite* (ammonium potassium phosphate), *syngenite* (potassium calcium sulphate) and nine other minerals. The sample number 3 collected by Skinner confirms the above listed minerals in that order of abundance, but we do not see diffraction data evidence for the others in the crusts themselves.



Guano crust on rocks sample 3



Dung pile for samples 2 and 2B



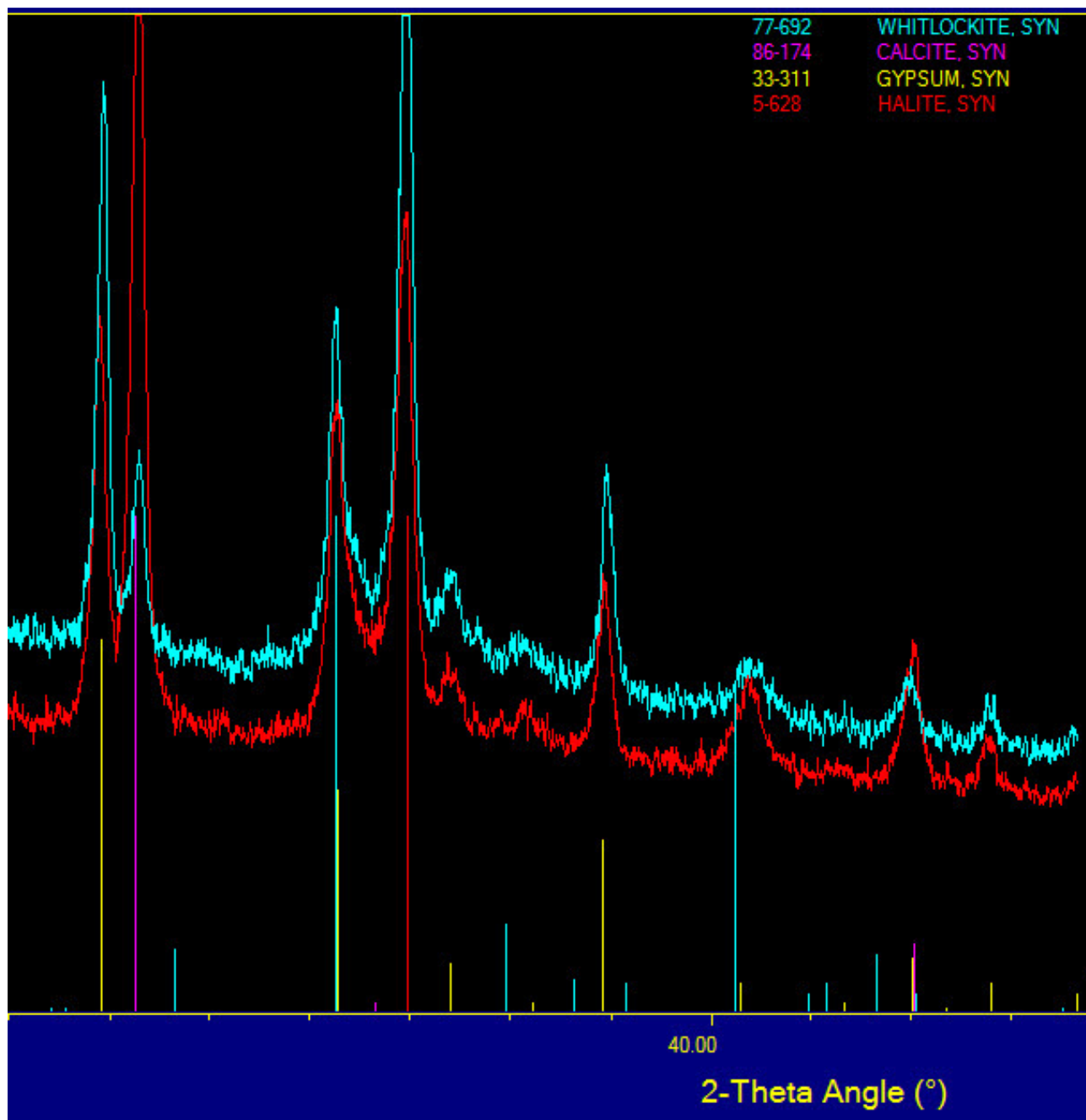
Sample 1 at base of rock pile



Little chocolate bat on side of rock



We find that the dung piles are mainly whitlockite (calcium magnesium tri-phosphate) and gypsum (calcium sulphate), which are common guano minerals. These minerals are listed by Bridge, but his paper does not allow us to distinguish between crust and dung pile samples. Whitlockite is the dominant mineral by weight, followed by gypsum. Bridge notes gypsum as a minor mineral only, which is not so in the dung piles we have sampled. The dung pile samples also have smaller amounts of *calcite* (calcium carbonate) and *halite* (sodium chloride). The halite, which is very soluble, is very suggestive that no water has dripped from the roof on these piles. There is no *quartz* (sand) in any on the Murra samples which is usually transported in by the bats into limestone caves. Of all the South Australian caves so far examined, about 20 show significant quartz and we are left to conclude that there is little sand near the openings to the caves.



Part of the Diffraction pattern of sample 2 (blue) and sample 2B (red). Sample 2B was taken 100 mm below sample 2 in the pile. Coloured vertical lines show line position of minerals in the top right corner.

Looking at the diffraction pattern we can see that there is more calcite in the 2B trace than that of sample 2. This suggests that the urine may be dissolving the calcite and allowing it to recrystallise lower in the pile. Bridge did not report either calcite or halite. Although they are both present in small amounts of less than 5%, the diffraction pattern makes it seem that they are more abundant. (Sample 2 was taken 20 to 30 mm above the limestone base and sample 2B 10 to 15 mm above.) The dung piles do not have any minerals containing potassium, a common component of urine, and also not much magnesium. As potassium and magnesium salts are very soluble they may have drained through to the base of the piles and possibly mineralised there.

Minerals reported by Bridge, but not seen by us include *brushite* (calcium hydrogen phosphate), *dahlite* in one sample (a calcium phosphate), *mirabilite* (sodium sulphate), *hannayite* in one sample (ammonium magnesium phosphate), *monetite* (calcium hydrogen phosphate), *taylorite* (potassium ammonium sulphate), guanine and an *unidentified* mineral. The fact that we don't see these minerals does not mean they don't exist. If we could gather minerals from other places in the cave we may see them.

Brushite has a very similar diffraction pattern to gypsum and it is possible that gypsum and brushite were confused in Bridge's analysis. The minerals also give rise to solid solutions (Pinto, 2012) and from the diffraction pattern we obtained, only up to 10% phosphate could be in the gypsum. To sort this out and to see if we can now identify the unidentified mineral we have written to the Chemical Laboratories in WA to see if we can get samples for re-examination.

We thank Professor Allan Pring and the SA Museum for diffractometer facilities.

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# CORRA LYNN CAVE DAY TRIP

Sat 17th October

Written by Aimee Leong  
Photos: Aimee Leong 2015

Trip participants: Thomas Varga, Daniel Dingwall, Neville Skinner & Aimee Leong

It all started off on a bright and early Saturday (!! 6.30am!!)- whereby Thomas, Neville and myself convened at my place and we headed off together, to check out the Dreamland area in Corra Lynn Cave. Even before the day started, Thomas received a panicked message from Neville, saying that he had only just woken up 5 minutes ago and would be at my place in 15 minutes, hehe.

The longish drive had a break at Port Wakefield; whereby we met up with Dan and stopped for coffee and breakfast (pies!!! Steak, cheese and onion pies!!); with myself and Thomas purchasing the densest sandwiches for lunch (no joke. They were heavy, heavy sandwiches, filled with lots of filling and squashed down to fit more in hehe). It was then onwards to Corra Lynn, to check out another area of the cave system which quite a few of us haven't seen before, so we were quite keen.

Upon pulling up at the land owner's place, Thomas dropped off the bit of paper with our lives signed away and off we went to the entrance of the cave. It was interesting to note that with the changing seasons, the grass around was much drier and therefore not green. We all decided to unpack and get ready, unbeknown (well, known after about 2 minutes) to Dan that he had parked on an ant hill and had disturbed quite a few ants that seemed to get quite angry. Thomas seemed to cop the angry ants, and even though shifting quite a fair way from the mound there seemed to be quite a few more ants down his pants hee hee ☺.

About 10.30am we decided to head into Corra Lynn, equipped with caving gear and lunch, and aimed to be out of Corra Lynn by 3.45pm. Thomas had previously been in Dreamland before, the rest of us hadn't. It was interesting through the squeeze, whereby we were informed that this was the only entrance way to Dreamland- through this small belly squeeze that opened up to many, many more kms of passageway of this cave system which we had only ever really seen/explored a small section of it.



**The start of 300m of crawling**



**Thomas taking a break**

There was lots of crawling. Belly crawling, shuffling crawling, crawling crawling. Not even quite sure how much crawling- hopefully the editor will be able to give a distance of how much crawling we did. We did come across a few pretties along the way- which were marked by pink tape so as to not disturb them. It seemed to go on for ages and ages and ages, and then it opened up to the Portal.

## The Portal

Some of the most challenging caving I have been through- there were 2 ropes set up - one as a ladder, and the other one as a hand line. It was easy to see why they had been set up- to take a fall would mean a fall of roughly 8-10 metres. The reason for it being so challenging was that getting up past half way with the rope ladder (the foot spacings were quite wide apart, and for someone of my size it was difficult to get my feet up, so I ended up using the dug out holes in the side of the walls which I found helped), there was another squeeze hole which was at a difficult angle to get up and over the big boulder which was the anchor for the ropes. The hole itself was a narrowish slit, whereby even my hips were too wide to fit through (and those of you who know me; I'm not the largest person), and trying to find a way to leverage my body up and through the gap without falling down the slit again was quite challenging. Needless to say, I was probably as graceful (if not less) as a walrus coming up over the boulder. Thomas was the first one up, and was of great support to the rest of us, guiding us up the portal.



**Daniel negotiating the boulder with The Portal directly below**

Upon entering Dreamland (the entrance was yet again a challenging steep slope; which was quite slippery due to the clay) we noticed a large, clearly non active stalactite wedding cake formation above us- covered in dirt. We then decided that it was lunch time, so since I was the 2<sup>nd</sup> person up, I scouted around for a place that was relatively flattish to sit down and have a spot of lunch.

Lunch time!! It was time to devour the heavy chicken sandwich that was purchased back at the bakery. It went down like a treat. Neville had previously bought me some "Hello Kitty" chocolates, whereby we decided this was the moment that we had to share the joys of chocolate.



**Daniel & Thomas taking a lunch break**

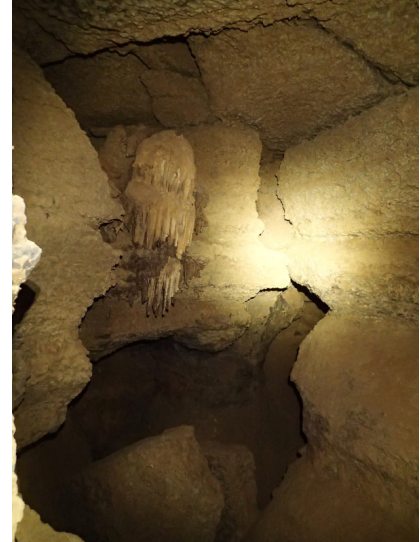
After lunch, since none of us had actually been around the Dreamland area, we weren't really sure whereabouts to go, so we decided to have a poke around. Thomas smartly dropped things such as water bottles and numerous muesli bars, so we knew whereabouts we were, since Dreamland was such a huge area and even us cavers with experience we could very easily get lost, and this was not an idea any of us wanted to entertain.



**Dreamland – we can stand up!**



**Roots coming from the surface**



**Some very old decoration**

After having a look around- and finding lots of small beautiful gypsum spikes growing through the roof of the dreamland area, we decided it was time to make our way back, as Thomas had to be back to be at the airport by a certain time. There was a few places where there were pretties, which was nice to see; however nothing overly too grand. We did have a poke around in a passageway which contained grass roots and seemed to be quite close to the surface, and towards the end of that passage was a formation which resembled a (an old) wedding cake. We also found a ledge which had small helictites growing on it, which was also really interesting!



**Corra-Lynn Helictites (?)**



**Gypsum formations**



**Coral formations**



**Old Stalactites**



**Thomas sliding into The Portal, in a controlled fall**

Down the portal was much easier than going up the portal. Gravity definitely assisted!!



It was also then back through the belly crawl area - lots of crawling, crawling. Squeezing, crawling. Belly crawling. It was quite a relief when we finally popped out next to the bearded squeeze, and were back into walking area. We actually exited the cave 15 minutes earlier than expected at 3.30pm, which was lovely and it was then all about taking post caving photos with a selfie stick, and also finding areas on which to get changed that did not contain big bitey ants.

We headed back to Port Wakefield for yet another coffee and food, and we decided to trial out another take away joint which had squishy Lino flooring. After ordering coffees and some food, we decided that we most likely were not going to come back. Trial and error! We then bid farewells to Dan, and then started making our way back to Adelaide. I promptly fell asleep in the back, with both Neville and Thomas at the front; and still out like a light when we turned up to drop off the key back to Graham's. Pretty sure I was drooling and snoring, hee, hee. I only awoke when Neville went to refuel up - was still quite groggy, however it was a big day - both physically and mentally challenging!

Thanks again to all the FUSSI members who came along on this trip and made it happen - it was an experience. The portal - definitely one of the more challenging caving I have done for a while, and was quite enjoyable (trying to figure out what to put where to leverage what to get where). Would not have a group size of more than 5 cavers, as it can take a while for everyone to get up the portal. Thomas and Neville found out from Graham that there were indeed parts of Dreamland which had pretties, however would need someone who had previously been there to show us where to go. Until next time! ☺

# CAVING ON THE SOUTH ISLAND

4<sup>TH</sup> - 7th December 2015

Written by Clare Buswell

Photos: Trudy Field, Clare Buswell & Neville Skinner 2015

Trip participants: Clare Buswell, Heiko Maurer, Thomas Varga, Trudy Field, Neville Skinner

Preamble.

The FUSSI four day Mole Ck trip runs like this:

Book airfares in June.

Book caves in June.

Book hire car in June.

Book caravan park in June.

Organize any cave guides in June.



Our vehicle & accommodation (NS)

On the appointed Friday in early December, get up at 3AM to catch the 6AM flight to the South Isle, via Melbourne. There are no direct flights from Adelaide to Launceston. Arrive to a landscape of verdant greenery, collect hire car, drive to Deloraine then find the nearest coffee shop and sort out all the cave keys, food and necessary drugs to keep you awake for the rest of the day. Shop for food, go to caravan park, sort out food, gear and then trundle off to visit the first cave on the list.

And so it was ...



**Trudy crossing the Mersey River to get to the cave (NS) and negotiating the wall to get to the waterfall**

Two o'clock in the afternoon saw us negotiating the waterfall in Lynds Cave. This is always great fun as you can't see your footholds, the water is as cold as can be so you don't want to fall in it. The noise of the water also means you can't hear directions, as to where to find hand holds all that well either. Such are the joys of caving in Mole Creek. Eventually all of us, some wetter than others, climbed out of the waterfall and trundled on our merry, wet way up the stream to the rock pile. The secret of the rock pile route is to stay low and mostly in or near the water. We however, did spend time learning this little route via the use of some inventive body gymnastics as we climbed up rather than down. Or was that the other way around!

Lynds cave consists of a beautiful stream-way passage with large flowstone banks lining the stream's path. Lots of pretties hang from the ceiling and some big columns are to be seen as well. As you are in water at all times, the cold will eventually get to you, and it forced us turn around about seventy meters or so from the end.

You return via the same route as you came, so once again you have to remember the way through the rock pile, and climb down and around the waterfall. The best bit at the end is the discovery that the Mersey River is warm!

Gear required:

Full body wet suit 5mm max, with shark skin under garments including socks, which are much warmer than thermals. Wet suit gloves, wet suit boots, NOT slippers as you need to have a gripping soled shoe, beanie under your helmet. On top of this you need your normal caving gear, spare lights, camera, first aid kit, in-cave food etc.



**Clare, Heiko, Thomas & Neville pose for photo-op (TF)**

As we left the FUSSI in-cave 'snakes' behind at the caravan park, we decided we were obviously not totally up to FUSSI standard after such an early morning start. It was however, not the only thing we were to leave behind over the course of the weekend!

Saturday morning saw us haul our collective bodies through the gate at Tailender then crawl and drag our way along the steam passage to reach the bottom of the rigged, eight metre pitch.



**Tracy ascends the pitch into the cave (NS)**

From here the boot washing stations and track making begin. Karst Care has done a great deal of work in Tailender and are to be commended for doing so. Carting water in caves is hard work and there is the odd note asking that you empty your water bottle into the washing station tub on your way out. We scrubbed our boots then negotiated the deep pool of water. This is a bit of a repeat of the waterfall clamber in Lynds, in that you are at full stretch and trying hard not to fall in!



**Thomas trials his new Harness Hammock (NS)**

Finding your way to this point is reasonably straight forward, but takes time due to gear hauling and passing of such through the odd tight bit. Once at the bottom of the pitch, it is a reasonably easy SRT up over some flowstone to the bolted pitch-head. The rope is very muddy and made for slow progress both up and down. Whilst we waited round at the bottom of this pitch Neville discovered a leech on the floor. He accidentally trod on it and further discovered that it had very recently had dinner. Hmmm, on whom, we all wondered.



From here on in the cave shows its real beauty with aragonite, helictites, flowstone glittering in one's lights. Weird twisted, gravity defying and delicate speleothems hang from the walls and ceiling. Whether String Theory or the Standard Model of particle physics can explain how these wonderful helictites came to be is questionable. But beautiful they are.



Clare ponders the best photo (NS)



The above images all taken from the same small chamber (NS)



**Thomas squeezing through restrictions (NS) ...and departing Tailender cave**

We spent time enjoying this remote chamber taking lots of photos, only leaving reluctantly due to the cold getting to a rather wet Trudy who had had a close encounter with the pool on the way in. We abseiled down the muddy rope, packed up our gear and began the long, slow crawl and haul along the stream passage to the exit. Thomas locked the gate without a struggle, and we trundled back to the car. It was here that Neville found that it was he who had provided the leech with dinner.

Sunday was set aside for the Flyover Hangover trip. We were prepared. We had organized ropes, location coordinates, looked at the map to find out where we had to drive to, packed the FUSSI in-cave food, and the cave map. What could go wrong?

After the requisite coffee and cake somewhere in Mole Ck, we drove to Baldock's Reserve. Only we didn't. We missed a turn and ended up somewhere that was not Baldock's Reserve. We returned to the well-disguised fork in the road and took the correct direction. Reaching a gate, that although would open, the road continued through a creek bed which our hire car was not going to traverse. So, we donned the caving garb, ate fruitcake, as it was by now time for third breakfasts, grabbed the ropes and rigging stuff and headed toward the hill where the GPS said the caves would be.

Now the Tassie bush is something else, so don't be fooled by the straight line approach of the GPS. This will inevitably lead you into some totally impenetrable biomass from which you will never return. We took the roundabout route: through an open paddock, then crossed the creek and headed up hill. Escaping the scrub about 30 meters from the creek saw us in open, dry forest through which progress was relatively easy.



**Thomas checks out a grike (TF)**

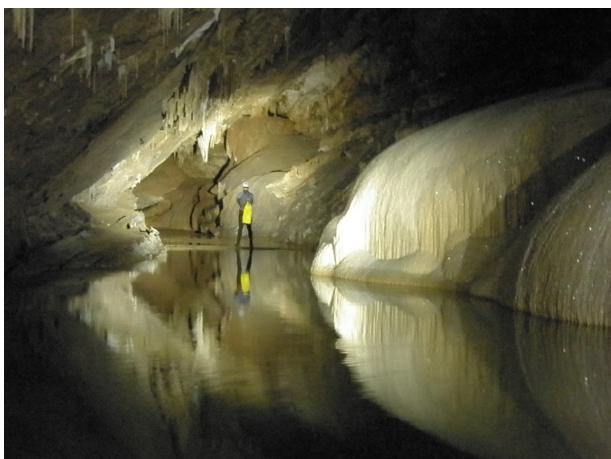
About forty minutes from the car we reach the point where the GPS god said the cave was. Only it wasn't. We searched around the ridge, the sides of the ridge and the gullies on either side. No luck. Some bright spark now suggested that we have a look at the directions we were given about the cave and its locale. Blank looks all round as no-one had picked them up from the car. Another bright spark suggested that we have lunch.



**Neville, Thomas & Clare commiserating over lunch (TF)**

This we could do! Packs were opened and lunch was had. Our searching did find some open grikes, some quite deep, but they did not go anywhere. Over lunch we decided that, as it was close to 2.30 PM, we should head back to the car and visit Croesus Cave. This we did via a bit of a circuitous route for Neville, who decided to check out one more gully that looked like a doline. Indeed it was a doline, but blind despite lots of drainage and no openings to crawl into.

A couple of hours later saw the intrepid crew, dressed to kill in full body wet suits, wet suit boots and layers of shark skin, at the gate of Croesus. Thomas began to wrestle it, and after about five minutes of push and shove the very stiff locking mechanism opened. Trudy and I crawled in and made our way past three Harvestman Spider webs and occupants and Cave crickets walked on the water of the entrance pool as we made the usual freezing water sounds.



**work in progress.....**

Any trip into Croesus is a photographic trip and ours was no exception. Neville and Clare started at points where last year's photos' failed, whilst the rest of the group, Thomas and Trudy, moved further up the steam passage. The group reassembled at the large column so Neville could set up a shot with every bit of light he could get hold of: four Scurions and a big strobe. This seemed to work.

On we all trundled gawping at the beauty that the cave has to offer. Thomas and Trudy continued on to the Golden Staircase, whilst Neville and Clare continued clicking away, slowly moving up stream. After about 2 hours, cold seeped through all our warm layers so an exit was called for. It was in the end a quick trip to a grand stream-way and though all were sad to leave, we savoured its delights, with Trudy exclaiming: "what is all this rubbish, these shawls, and pools are just rubbish. Why do I have to go home?"

We returned to the car, and after a quick dip in the Mersey River to wash the forest debris from our wet suits, drove back to our digs. Here, Heiko had conjured up a great meal, wine was drunk to fortify us for the task of packing up wet wetsuits, muddy boots and other grotty caving gear!

Monday morning saw rain and we decided that the planned trip into Ghenghis Khan could be replaced by a trip into King Solomons Tourist cave. So it was. This little cave reminded me of Jillabenan Cave at Yarrangobilly as it is packed full of speleothems. Our guide told us of the discovery of this cave involving a kangaroo and dog, the subsequent exploration and opening up as a tourist cave in 1906. The dog had chased the kangaroo into the cave via an almost vertical hole. The dog's owner had to clamber down this to retrieve the dog, finding this jewel of a cave at the same time. Indeed, such an important find it was that it received electric lighting before the township of Mole Creek in 1928. Our tour guide was also one out of the box, singing a couple of verses from an Irish folksong so we could hear the acoustics the cave offered. My only disappointment was that we did not bring our caving lights with us so we could really see what the cave had to offer. I found the lighting subdued, and although I understand the problems of lighting in tourist caves and the associated growth of Lampenflora, I felt I missed so much of what there was to see. Guess we will have to revisit!



We then began the travel back home bit, meeting up with Cathie Plowman and David Butler to return ropes and talk about all things caving in Launceston. Hire car returned and planes boarded. Ten on the Monday evening saw us land at Adelaide airport and collect cars from the long stay car park. So ended yet another fabulous FUSSI trip to the South Island.

Many thanks to Denis Marsh for being around for us to collect ropes and to David Wools-Cobb, Cathy and David for all their help with the mysterious Flyover/Hangover cave system. We will return and find it next time.

Cost for the trip, excluding airfares was: \$60.00 per day, per person. Return airfares were \$410.00 each.

# HOW DO WE DEAL WITH SNAKES?

## STUFF ALL FUSSI MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW

Written by Clare Buswell

Your hard working, coffee drinking FUSSI executive has been dealing with some legal responsibilities, insurance issues and trip organization processes which have come about due to some fiendish fetish requiring the use of paper work. But fear not, with coffee cup in hand the FUSSI executive has managed to simplify these issues for all our members to understand.

Now if you view admin, paper work, or any discussion of insurance and risk management as:

$$f(x) = a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( a_n \cos \frac{n\pi x}{L} + b_n \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} \right)$$

or view it with as much alarm as a possum about to eat FUSSI dinner as per the photo on the right, you will of course not be alone. Starting with a little bit of War and Peace or err, umm, background you'll need to know the following:

1) FUSSI became an incorporated body in August 1989. This Incorporation means that FUSSI must:

- We can be sued and can sue.
- Keep records of what we do, such as: our committee and general meeting minutes, records of equipment usage, and our activities.
- Not run off with any FUSSI moneys.
- Be able to explain the transactions and activities of FUSSI and its financial position. All members of the FUSSI executive do this when the executive reports are presented at the FUSSI AGM and published in the FUSSI newsletter. Our activities and trips are similarly explained when written up and published also in the FUSSI newsletter.
- The FUSSI Public Officer is responsible for maintaining these records and reporting to the department of Consumer and Business Services as required.
- FUSSI has to manage risk via having adequate insurances, and risk management strategies in place to reduce those risks. We reduce and manage these risks when we joined the ASF and adopted, for example, the ASF Safety Guidelines, Minimal Impact Caving Code, Code of Ethics amongst others.

Given the legal responsibilities outlined above, FUSSI via its membership primarily of the Flinders University Students Association (FUSA) and secondly of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF), has further responsibilities relating to this last point.

At this point I expect that everyone's eyes have glazed over so now it is time for:

Yep, the Latte on the right.



## 1) What's this Risk Management thingy?

If you don't understand what risk management is here is *a* way of looking at it.

All sports carry risk, as does walking out the door. Most of us, not all, when we decide to take up a new venture go and find out about it, learn how to do it and then after a while move up the sport's skill levels which of course translates as undertaking more fun and more risk. Thus in the world of caving, and simplifying this greatly, we move from simply walking/crawling around the maze of Corra Lynn, South Australia's longest cave, to ropes and ladders and then on to SRT and abseiling.

The latter three activities involve different skills and training to offset the risks involved, such as an accident or getting lost. This is one of the reasons why we train in belaying, SRT etc. Another, and it is an important reason, is that we wish to visit caves that may need this level of skill to get into and through them.

We further reduce risk when we tell people where we are going, what time to expect us home for din dins and let an appointed contact person know you have finished caving for the day. Remember the film *127 Hours* about a guy who cut his hand off when a falling boulder crashes onto his arm and traps it in an isolated canyon in Utah. He hadn't told anybody where he was going and after 5 days manages to amputate his hand (do NOT do this at home!) and is rescued.

Now you may think it is time to really disappear down a hole in the ground, but just stay with this for a bit.



## 2) What's all this insurance stuff? What does liability mean?

Here is an example: If you are driving around in the dark on the Nullarbor and drive into a doline, then the landowner is covered in terms of insurance. They are not responsible/liable for the doline being there or your driving into it!



Similarly, if a club member causes a rock to dislodge in a cave, which subsequently results in injuring members of the party, they have liability insurance in place in case any of those members injured or the member's family decides to sue.

As stated before, FUSSI has two lots of public liability coverage, one with the ASF and the other with Flinders University. Just what do they cover?

### ASF INSURANCE POLICIES.

The itemized list below has been put together by Phil Maynard, the ASF's Insurance Commission's Liaison Officer. It has been published in the ASF Annual Report for 2015/6. □Phil is a member of the Sydney Uni Speleo Society so he also understands the Uni Public Liability insurance as it relates to a Uni caving club.

The ASF maintains two insurance policies: the Association Liability policy and the Adventure Activities Combined Liability policy. The two policies are designed to cover liability for:

- The ASF, the corporate member clubs and their executives against claims for Wrongful Acts, e.g libel.
- Participants on a trip and the landowners against negligence suits.
- Cross-liability is included, e.g. a member of ASF suing another member of ASF.

- Coverage is world-wide excluding North America.
- The policies are **not** accident insurance, medical insurance or travel insurance.
- The activities included in the Adventure Activities policy are “Cave, Karst & Mine Research, Exploration, Surveying and Recreation, Equipment Testing, Canyoning and Bushwalking, Publishing and Photography, Caving (inclusive Diving) together with training and practice for the above activities as declared”.
- The landowners' cover is a vital part of the Adventure Activities policy for ASF and its members - it's the difference between access and no access for many clubs already. In future, we can expect more and more landowners to be concerned about the issue of liability caused by allowing trips on their land.

#### What is not covered:

- The normal insurance exclusions apply, the most relevant of which is that illegal activities are not covered. Trespass or caving without a permit will leave cavers exposed. All trips must have approval from the landowners.
- Travel to and from a trip is not covered, because compulsory third party motor vehicle insurance covers the same liability locally, and travel insurance covers longer trips.
- There is no accident insurance, medical insurance or travel insurance coverage.

**Flinders University General Public liability Insurance Policy as it applies to FUSSI.** This list comes from the University Insurance Officer and from FUSA.



1) For Public Liability Insurance to be applicable the clubs activity must be in “connection with the Member’s [i.e., Flinders University’s] business”. The university regards the activities of clubs associated with FUSA as its business.

However,

2) Caving as an activity is covered if FUSA approves the Club structure, thus the club and its activities will then be covered. FUSA has approved our club’s structure and constitution.

3) Should nobody be advised of the activity organized by club members and consequently not approved, then it is **not** deemed to be covered under the University GPL insurance.

4) The University does cover *all students of Flinders University for Student Personal Accident* and for *Public Liability while they are registered as a student.*

5) “all activities” must be approved by FUSA, which is then protected under the Flinders University Corporate Public Liability policy. Importantly students need to be totally aware that it is the Flinders University’s desire to know of the activities prior to them happening.

#### What is not covered.

6) Land owners on whose land we go caving.

7) Illegal entry to property is not covered. As with the ASFs’ insurance, trespass or caving without a permit will leave us exposed. Thus all trips must have approval from the landowners.

8) Club members who are not students are **not covered** by the student *accident* policy.

So where is all this leading you may well ask? Once again the FUSSI executive, after moving on from coffee to harder drugs, has to make sure that any activity the club runs must follow the definitions and procedures below.

Although this all looks complicated we are trying here to let members know how stuff works. Remember most of this work is done by the FUSSI committee, but they need to have certain information from club members to help out.

What is a FUSSI trip:

- A trip can only be a FUSSI trip when the FUSSI Committee decides that it is.
- A FUSSI member who is not on the FUSSI Committee can propose a trip but they need to do this to and through the Committee, and
- A trip can only be a FUSSI trip if it is advertised on the FUSSI website at least one month in advance. (It takes time to organize permits, get permission from land owners)
- Further, FUSA must be informed of all and any trips the club runs so we are covered by the Uni's Public Liability insurance. This is done by a member of the Committee filling out the FUSA Events form on: <http://fusa.edu.au/clubs/events/event-stall-activity-registration-form/> We can put up to 10 events on the one form.
- Members going on FUSSI trips must supply their emergency contact details to the trip leader. This is done via the FUSSI membership form. These details in cases only of emergency, are to be given to the police. It is the trip leaders responsibility to maintain members privacy details.
- These details are to be kept next to the FUSSI first Aid kit which goes on all trips or in a prominent place in a car, eg, dash board or front seat.
- A club member who is not on the trip is to be informed of the trip's programme and contacted (where possible) at the end of each day's caving so as inform them that all members are out of the cave and safe.

So who is on the FUSSI committee and how do you contact them?

In the FUSSI Newsletter and on the FUSSI website is a list of who is on the committee and an email address to contact them. Email: [fussi@fussi.org.au](mailto:fussi@fussi.org.au)

If you wish to run a trip, just contact anybody on the committee and they will get the process going. As everybody tends to be on the busy side, PLEASE allow for time for things to happen: landowners to be contacted, permits to be filled, insurance stuff dealt with, FUSSI members to be informed. Gone are the days when we could decide to go caving on Friday night, just get in the car and go caving on a whim.



Here this is the committee list and their powers, from the FUSSI constitution.

- 1. President,
- 2. Honorary Secretary/Public Officer
- 3. Honorary Treasurer
- 4. Immediate Past President
- 5. Equipment Officer
- 6. Safety Officer
- 7. Librarian
- 8. ASF Liaison Officer



What they have to do:

- 9. The Committee shall meet at least once each month during the academic year.
- 10. The Committee shall have power to make any regulations necessary to put this Constitution into effect.
- 11. A member of the Committee shall cease to be a member of the same upon any of the following happening:
  - 1. He/she submits, in writing, his/her resignation to the Honorary Secretary;
  - 2. He/she is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings without leave being granted by the Committee;
  - 3. He/she ceases to be a member of the Society.
- 12. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring on the Committee provided that such action is ratified by a General Meeting of the Society, to be held within one month of such action being taken.
- 13. The Committee shall have the power to appoint, from time to time, such officers and sub-committee as it deems necessary. The duties of such officers and sub-committees shall be defined by the Committee to which the said officers and sub-committees shall be responsible.

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If you know anyone who you think might be interested in joining FUSSI, get them to email us at [fussi@fussi.org.au](mailto:fussi@fussi.org.au).

We will ask for your contact details and then get back to you with details of our next trip(s), so you can join us on a beginners' trip, where you will be asked to submit a completed FUSSI Membership Form and pay your introductory joining fee, before you will be allowed to enter any caves (for insurance reasons).

As a member of FUSSI, you are also a member of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF), which means you are covered by the ASF liability insurance.

Membership fees and other details may be found at <http://www.fussi.org.au/howtojoin.php>.

We invite you to join us and have fun with FUSSI!

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DMM are issuing a **product recall, subject to user inspection**. This document details the products that are affected by the recall and contains instructions to identify whether or not an affected product should be returned to DMM.

In a small percentage of carabiners the interaction between the internal coil spring (which gives the gate its closing action) and the gate pusher (the component that holds the spring against the carabiner body) may cause the gate pusher to displace, potentially preventing the gate from closing or the mechanism from locking completely.

This recall encompasses all of the products in the table below. **All models, all colours and all gate types** are potentially affected by the dysfunction:

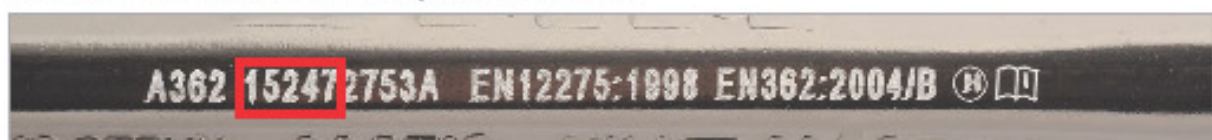


With the following serial numbers (these run sequentially):

2014 Production - 14138xxxxX to 14365xxxxX

2015 Production - 15001xxxxX to 15254xxxxX

The serial number can be found on the spine of the carabiner.



If your carabiners meet the above criteria please carry out the user inspection as detailed on the next page.

## NEWS & TITBITS



**Neka accepting a late birthday present on 25th October; special thanks to Team Nutrition for creating the photo montage.**

When Neka had her birthday on the last trip to the Lowers Flinders Ranges and nobody knew about it until after the event, it was decided that a card and a small gift would need to be provided. So, with Aimee coordinating, photos from the trip were sent to Aimee, and one evening Daniel & Aimee went through these and picked out the ones most suitable. Meanwhile, Team Nutrition had offered to create a card for the occasion, so they set to and designed & created the card, including comments of goodwill from FUSSI members. But, alas, how were we going to get it to her once it was done?

Daniel & Neville arranged to meet Neka at the Wheatsheaf Hotel one Sat night for dinner and to hear a band, and it was there that the gift (see picture above) was presented.

After that, an impromptu trip by all three to the McLaren Flat Folk Festival to meet up with Dee at 11pm, and to finish the day off with a brilliant Blues concert that ended after midnight.

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Check out the Sydney Uni. Speleological Soc. (SUSS) article this month on the Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave in southern France. The cave, discovered on 18th December 1994, contains 100's of paintings that date back some 35,000 years. From the article:

"Hundreds of animal paintings have been catalogued, depicting at least 13 different species, including some rarely or never found in other ice age paintings. Rather than depicting only the familiar herbivores that predominate in Paleolithic cave art, i.e. horses, cattle, mammoths, etc., the walls of the Chauvet Cave feature many predatory animals, e.g., cave lions, panthers, bears, and cave hyenas"

You can read the article and [see the paintings](http://suss.caves.org.au/bulletins/bulls/v5160/bull_54-1.pdf) at [http://suss.caves.org.au/bulletins/bulls/v5160/bull\\_54-1.pdf](http://suss.caves.org.au/bulletins/bulls/v5160/bull_54-1.pdf)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sat 23rd – 24th Jan:** **Wet'n'Wild trip, Millicent/Mt Gambier**  
RSVP 17th Jan at 12 noon  
Thomas coordinating.

**Sun 6th – 14th Feb:** **Yarrangobilly Caves, (High Country) NSW.**  
RSVP 20<sup>th</sup> Jan at 12 noon.  
Suitable for beginners and experienced alike.

## *22 - 26th February – O-Week*

**Wed 24th Feb** **Fair Day on campus, Club stall - ALL HELP NEEDED**

**Sat 27th Feb** **Stakeholder meeting Naracoorte.**  
Saturday all day.

**Sat 27th - 28th Feb.** **Beginners Trip. Naracoorte** or the Lower South East.  
All welcome. Thomas, Clare and Aimee coordinating.

## *29th Feb - Semester Starts*

**Sun 6th Mar:** **Murray River Caves by boat. 9:30am – 6pm**  
Bring boots, overalls & knee-pads, if you have any.  
Clare coordinating.

**Thu 17th Mar:** **Social Meeting. 6-8pm, on campus**  
Guest Speaker: TBA  
A special presentation...

**25th Mar – 3rd Apr:** **Nullarbor Plains caves – the biggest chambers you've ever seen!**  
An extended Easter trip.  
FUSSI exec. coordinating.

## *MID SEMESTER BREAK: 11th – 26th April*

**Sat 23rd – 25th Apr:** **Wooltana Cave (Anzac long weekend)**  
SRT only. TBC  
Subject to cave being open

**Thu 28th Apr:** **Social Meeting. 6-8pm, on campus - TBC**  
Guest Speaker: Ken Smith  
A special presentation "The Caves of France"

**Sun 8th May:** **Corra Lynn Cave**  
One day trip. TBC  
Thomas coordinating

**Thu 12th May:** **AGM: 6-8pm, on campus**

**Sat 21st – 23rd May:** **Mairs cave, Clara St. Dora and Mt Sims caves, Southern Flinders Ranges.**  
**A great beginners trip.**  
Contact: Clare Buswell.

## *Gloom, Depression, EXAMS: 20th June – 3rd July*

## *MID YEAR BREAK: 4th – 24th July*