



# FUSSI Newsletter

Vol. 28 | No. 3 | 2016



**TOP GANDALF (KEN SMITH) TRIALING NEW CAVE DIVING APPARATUS**

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## **A message from your Editor:**

Thanks so much to those who contributed to yet another successful newsletter, in particular to Supriya and Chris for a great effort, including some outstanding images from Supriya.

As with all Newsletters I struggle to find images for some trips, especially for those trips that I do not attend, and because I do not know who was on that trip that I can ask. This should not be the case because I often see others taking superb images that don't make it into the newsletter. This is your opportunity to see your images in print and to be able to share them with your fellow cavers, as well as other clubs and internet users that might access this Newsletter.

**I would like all Trip Leaders to email or SMS myself within 24-48 hours of a trip, with the full list of names of all people who went on the trip please.** This will help me enormously as I waste a lot of time creating the list of names from emails, telephone calls and newsletter articles, so that I can provide accurate records of those attending past trips. Thanks.

You will see the new programme is packed with events. I have also added the CEGSA (Cave Exploration Group of SA) monthly meetings. CEGSA have a variety of interesting speakers during the year and are happy to receive fellow cavers from other clubs at their meetings.

## **PAST TRIPS**

### **Sat 27th - Sun 28th Aug 2016**

#### **Naracoorte Caves – Victoria Fossil Cave, Brown Snake Cave & Sand Cave:**

Participants: Clare Buswell (trip leader), Thomas Varga, Aimee Leong, Neville Skinner, Mark Sefton, Jan Schmorte, Sarah Phillips, Janice Chan, Roshan Vasani and Supriya Lath.

### **Sat 1st – Mon 3rd October 2016**

#### **Naracoorte caves – Victoria Fossil Cave, S102 Cave, Alexandra Cave & Beekeepers Cave.**

Participants: Thomas Varga (Trip Leader), Dee Trewartha, Dan Dingwall, Aimee Leong, Jade White and Chris Terrington.

### **Sat 8th – Sat 22nd October 2016**

#### **Nullarbor caves:**

Participants: Clare Buswell (expedition organiser & leader), Heiko Maurer, Tania Wilson, Deb Hunter, Iain McCulloch, Deborah Craven-Carden, Barbara Lobben, Ken Smith, Ian Lewis, Thomas Varga & Neville Skinner.

### **Sun 20th November 2016**

#### **Kayaking trip – Rapid Bay caves**

Participants: Thomas Varga (trip leader), Dan Dingwall, Neville Skinner, Jade White, Steve Reynolds and Allan Horsfall. Many thanks to Dale Rawlinson for providing the kayaks on the day.

## Vale Ken Grimes



**This photo of Ken best shows the friend we all had. (Photographer believed to be Ken.)**

Ken Grimes was one of those people who believed that knowledge should be shared as in so doing knowledge grew and people's understanding and vision of what was possible increased. He was in charge of the ASF's Survey and Documentation Commission when I first met him sometime in the late 1980's during which time he went on to detail the development of the Lava caves at Mt Eccles with Sue White. We had a chance meeting on the Nullarbor in Abrakurrie cave when he and Dave Gillison were working on a book to mark the contribution that Joe Jennings had made to not only speleology in Australia but also worldwide. The resulting publication *Beneath the Surface* has become one of the seminal works on speleology in this country.

In 1991, in an act of political bastardry, Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave was blown up on the eve of the SA State Election. The ensuing political chaos led to the establishment of a selected committee to find out what had actually happened concerning this beautiful cave. Ken Grimes was invited to be part of that committee, which examined the evidence, presented by cavers, the mining company, and the Dep't of Mines and Energy. The committee met for 2 days and a report to the government duly arrived a couple of weeks later. Ken's knowledge was instrumental in placing fairly in front of the Government the enormity of the loss of this resource resulting in the matter being referred to the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment, Resources and Development.

My next memory of Ken is on the bus trip through Brachina Gorge in the Flinders Ranges during the 1997 ASF Conference. Brachina Gorge provides a wonderful geological time line and Ken, being a geologist was appointed the task of commentator on the bus. The task as it turned out was not an easy one as at numerous important points, some inconsiderate camper had pitched their tent covering the geological aspect that we had come to see. Ken would then date the age of the tent and describe its social importance: "Ah, yes, Kmart Special of the early 80s."

We had a trip into Sand Cave at Naracoorte a couple of years ago and in true Ken style, he would take photos of rocks, sand funnels, and items of interest. But if he wanted a photo of something worth publishing on, he would say, 'better get a scientific photo for this one'. Out would come the ruler for scale and an explanation of why such and such was important. As an individual he was dedicated to freely sharing his knowledge, thus his contribution to Australian Speleology is immense and I know we will increasingly miss him.

Clare Buswell for FUSSI.



# A WEEKEND IN NARACOORTE

Sat 27th - Sun 28th August 2016

By Supriya Lath

Trip participants: Clare Buswell (trip leader), Thomas Varga, Aimee Leong, Neville Skinner, Mark Sefton, Jan Schmortte and Sarah Phillips, Janice Chan, Roshan Vasani and Supriya Lath

After a particularly long and seemingly never-ending week at work, we were looking forward to a weekend of caving. Friday evening was upon us, and we set off at 6pm, bracing ourselves for the long drive. At Taillem Bend we decided to fuel-up our tummies, and the car (in that specific order of priority). The former was accomplished at the local pub (of course). For the latter we pulled up at the servo across the road, and guess who we run into. The usual suspects, cavers! Neville, Clare, Thomas & Janice were all huddled around Clare's car. It turns out there had been a crisis. Thomas had spilt his precious single-malt whiskey all through the back of Clare's car.

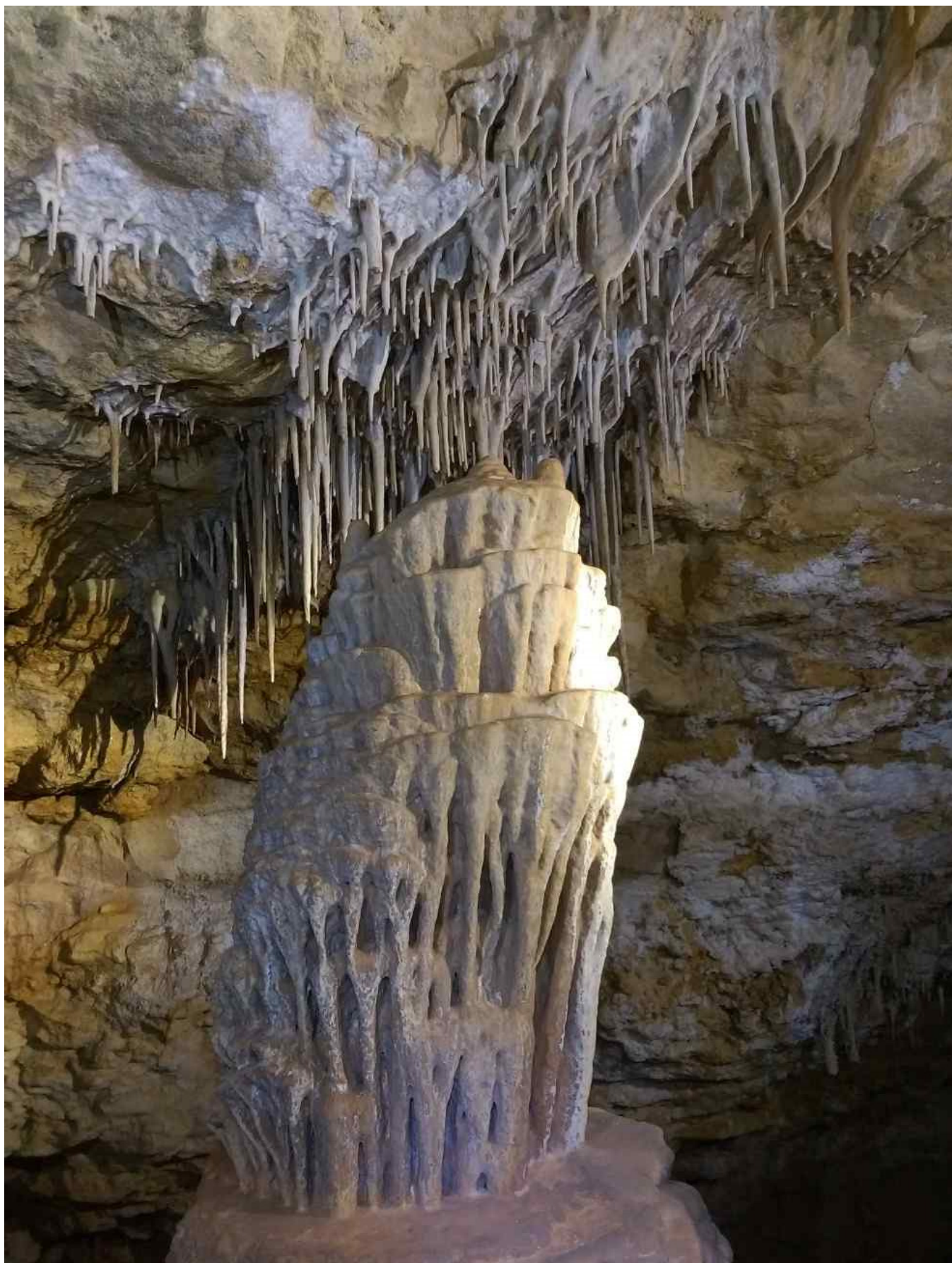
Apparently it isn't unusual to leave an unsealed whiskey bottle rattling around in the boot of a car. After an appropriate amount of time was spent agonising Thomas with whiskey related jokes & advice, everyone hit the road again. We finally arrived at the Wirreanda bunkhouse tired and ready to crash, but in true FUSSI fashion, managed to stay up another couple of hours over drinks and chats around the table (a distinct lack of whiskey was sensed) before calling it a night. Jan and Sarah had arrived before us at a more decent hour, and had wisely decided to call it an early night.

We awoke next morning to find that the bunkhouse was actually surrounded by a beautiful bush setting with plenty of birdlife. After coffee and breakfast we decided to get to business, and headed towards Brown Snake cave. We unloaded all the caving gear and decided to split up into 2 groups to get the most out of the day. Thomas, Janice, Sarah and Jan stayed at Brown snake and started on the task of setting up the ropes to descend into the caves.

The rest of us headed off for Victoria Fossil Caves, along with Mark and Aimee who had just arrived. We stopped by the Wonambi Fossil Centre to collect the keys to the cave, where we met briefly with the manager, Deb, who seemed to be very passionate about the preservation of the caves in the region & promoting tourism. It was good to hear that tourists actually took great care to cause minimum impact to the caves while visiting. We heard a bit about Sand cave (which was on our agenda for the next day), which until very recently was on a private property, and had since been added to the group of caves as part of the National park. After an interesting chat, we decided it was time to get caving.

The entrance to Vic Fossil (VFC) was different from any other I had been to – it looked very 'built' and there were lights, but given that it is one of Naracoorte's main tourist cave this is understandable. We had to be careful to turn the lights out as we moved from one section on to another, to ensure all was in place for the next tour group that was to visit later in the day. We walked around the routes that the tour normally goes through, and there were many beautiful formations to look at along the way.

As one of the lights was turned on, impressive fossil displays of complete megafauna were dramatically revealed in one of the main fossil chambers. Apparently excavation work is still ongoing at the fossil dig, with many fossils just waiting to be discovered.



One of the many beautiful formations to look at along the way (Supriya Lath)





**Impressive fossil displays of complete megafauna (Supriya Lath)**

As we explored further, despite following a map, there was considerable deliberation over the navigation. Which one was the Great Hall? Is this Starburst Chamber? Where are we? Despite it all, we visited some spectacular chambers and enjoyed the crawl. The caves were very well developed for tours, while still maintaining the integrity of the caves.



**Starburst Chamber (NRS)**





**The Great Hall (NRS)**



**Mark & Aimee admire the formations  
(Supriya Lath)**



**Supriya & Mark watch as Aimee investigates  
more formations (Supriya Lath)**



After a quick bite, we went on to Brown Snake Cave to join the others. They were just about finishing up, with the last of them ascending back up the ropes – it looked like a tough climb, and there was a lot of pulling and climbing, and we heard stories about how it was definitely a tight squeeze. Thomas decided to stay on the ropes instead of climbing all the way down. Looking down the solution tube entrance, I had second thoughts about getting in.

The others headed off to Vic Fossil Cave and left us to our own devices. With Clare on the ropes, Aimee was the first one to descend. She made it seem effortless. Why not, I thought, and followed suit once she was off rope. Halfway down the tube, I realised, not quick enough, that if climbing down felt as difficult as it did, climbing back up was going to be a nightmare. However Aimee's encouraging "you're nearly there" and "I can see your feet" tricked me into getting down and out of that hole. Neville and Roshan were next to climb down. Roshan found himself getting stuck at the squeeze. It would be easy to slide down, but tough to get back out, so he decided to turn and head back instead.

I can't remember much about the cave, except for the fact that there really was a dead brown snake at the bottom and that I worried immensely about how I was going to get back out. We had a quick walk around the cave and saw a chamber full of black cave formations – stalactites, stalagmites, everything was black – it was really quite unique! It was getting dark, and time to head back out. Aimee waltzed up and out of the cave, just as easily as she waltzed in. Come my turn, and there was talk about some rope technique (trick) that was going to make things easier – my body weight was effectively going to be halved, making it easier for me to climb up (and for Clare and Mark to drag me out!).

I huffed and puffed my way up, audibly squealing and swearing (heard by everyone above ground and underground) as the harness got me in all the wrong places. It took forever, and when I finally got out, Clare and Mark questioned my body weight! Turns out we didn't do the 'magic trick' right – there was no halving of my body weight, and we were all indeed pulling my entire body weight. Jokes were made, but all's well that ends well. I vowed I'd never go down that hole again. The Vic Fossil crew were back, and we all packed up all the gear and decided to head to the pub for a well-earned dinner. Billy Mac's pub was great, and we were joined by Deb. Best meal ever! And even dessert. Back at Wirreanda, it was another late night of chit-chat around drinks. Was there whisky this time around?

Next morning, after breakfast, we packed up, ready to check out of the bunkhouse. Jan and Sarah said their goodbyes, and the rest of us went to the Café at the National Park to get some coffee. Clare and Thomas headed off earlier to Sand Cave to set up the ropes. Outside the café, there was a working bee group doing some gardening, and it was a beautiful day for it. It was nice to see how involved the locals were in the upkeep of the parks, and their sense of pride in the region was apparent.

We then headed to Sand Cave to join Clare and Thomas. Aimee and Mark decided to check out Bool Lagoon instead, while the rest of us harnessed up. The entrance to the cave was an inconspicuous hole in the ground – a concrete chute covered with a metal grating – that one would never guess was a cave entrance. I look down, and there's that déjà vu feeling – another day of vertical descent and ascent. Not again! We took turns going in, but it wasn't as constricted as Brown snake. I wasn't sure what to expect out of the 'sand cones' we'd heard about, but was amazed to see the massive almost-hills of sand that had formed in the cave from falling through holes over time. I worried that we may be disrupting the cone formations when we walked via the marked track over and around them, but we just had to be careful and it was fine.

As we walked on, Neville stopped suddenly in his tracks, and as we caught up, we saw he had found an Echidna alongside one of the sand cones – we'd have to rescue it on our way out. We entered a section where there were, I think, tree roots hanging down from the walls, and all the fine root hairs were covered with sparkling droplets of water, just like diamond necklaces – it was stunning!



**Moments in the history and the making of something that is going to be around for a long time (Supriya Lath)**

Portions of the cave were really very wet, and you could almost see the crystal growth in action – drops that are hanging on to the end of a stalactite for dear life before dripping to the ground. It's like you've witnessed a moment in the history and making of something that is going to be around for a long time.



**From L to R: Janice Chan, Clare Buswell, Thomas Varga & Roshan's helmet (Supriya Lath)**



There were some really impressive chambers in this cave, and we had to be really careful not to disturb anything. It was a geological wonder, so say the least!

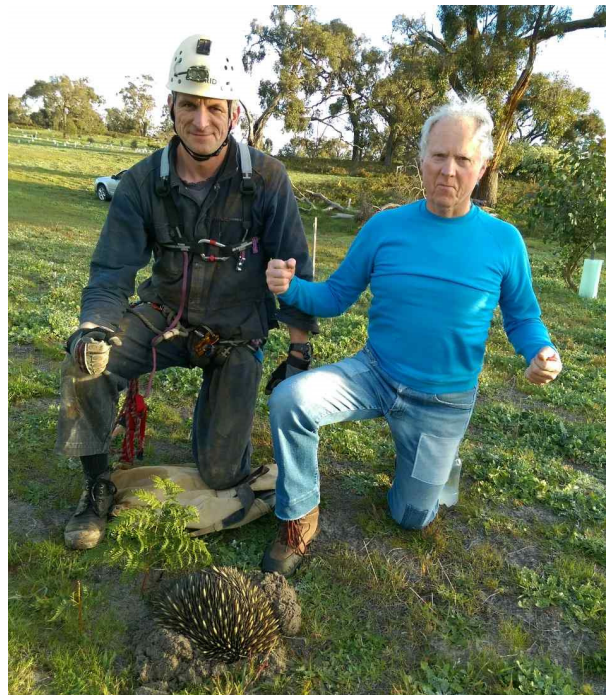


**Neville extracts an Echidna from the sand while Thomas prepares to get it into the bag (Supriya Lath)**

On our way back, it was time to rescue our friend that had probably fallen in through one of the holes onto the sand cone. Clare donated her caving pack to house the echidna. Thomas and Neville coerced it to get into the bag. The echidna hitched a ride with Thomas on the ascent to get out of the cave, halfway through which the echidna had 'wet' the bag! I'm sure things got up close and personal for Thomas. Once above ground, there was a cry of Hooray as we released the echidna, which instantly got to digging itself away into the ground.



**Clare belays the group up the 14m solution tube (Supriya Lath)**



**Right: The victors look on in pride as their terrestrial victim buries itself in defence (Supriya Lath)**





**Supriya helps Clare to roll up the ladders, while Janice & Roshan watch Thomas lock the gate (NRS)**

The trip to Naracoorte was a memorable one, and it was great to have been able to witness all the wonderful things that make the region a world heritage site.



(Ed – it's their defence mechanism. Animals cannot attack an Echidna from above, but on its underside it's just skin & flesh, with four tiny little delicate legs with webbed feet. If these get damaged, it's in trouble. That's why I was careful to get underneath of it and lift it up gently. It would have raced off to hide in the bushes very soon after we left the area, as it would have felt uncomfortable and exposed at being left out in the open.)



# BUNNINGS BBQ FUND-RAISER

Sat 17th September 2016



The FUSSI Happy Chappies at work having fun.  
It would not be as much fun if Aimee wasn't there.



We might only be a small group, but we had fun and trashed all previous BBQ profit records.

(Photos: Peter Horne)

# NARACOORTE CAVES TRIP

Sat 1st - Mon 3rd October 2016

By Chris Terrington

Trip participants: Thomas Varga (Trip Leader), Dee Trewartha, Dan Dingwall, Aimee Leong, Jade White and Chris Terrington

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October we packed our cars and headed out to the Southern Flinders Ranges make that the Yorke Peninsula, ok, to Naracoorte. Due to severe weather and thanks to plenty of 11<sup>th</sup> hour trip planning from Thomas, we were going to Naracoorte, and I to my first FUSSI trip.

By lunch time we were at the Naracoorte NP café (try the veggie burger), Thomas had organised a walk through the Victoria Fossil show cave, followed by a crawl into S102 cave. Aimee and Dan decided to skip the caves and to visit Bool lagoon instead, as it was full of water and teeming with life.

Victoria Fossil cave is a lovely cave with some nice decorations and an amazing deposit of fossils. It is a fantastic display of around 200,000 years of biological history that the discoverers in 1969, and subsequent explorers, had the presence to preserve for future generations to appreciate. The meander through Victoria Fossil Cave was enjoyable and a nice way to unwind from the early morning long drive before our 12 metre drop into caving proper.

After some time fending curious cows away from our gear while Thomas set up the wire ladder and safety ropes, Thomas, Dee, Jade and I made a comfortable descent into S102 cave. The 'real' caving began immediately as we followed Thomas and his 32% certitude up a tight, twisting ascending (and ultimately correct) passage. We were on our way. The main highlight of this cave was a large chamber with Circa 800,000 year old sea shells on the ceiling. There was plenty of clambering through passages and general exploring to ensure a great time by everyone.

One of the more sobering experiences for a newbie is trying to navigate back out of a cave. An experience Jade and I shared as we wandered around several chambers just trying to work out how we got into them. I realised this to be major development area for caving, I also quickly blamed smartphones for my death of spatial awareness.



Dee & Jade enjoying the moment

Fortunately, tomorrow was to bring more practice in the Beekeepers Cave.



We returned to our campsite at Black Cockatoo Bush Camp at around 8:30, exhausted and ready for dinner. Dan and Aimee had already set up camp, had the fire going and definitely had no more than one glass of wine each.

Black Cockatoo is a lovely camp ground, with plenty of space, a nice nature walk and very accommodating owners. It was a great night with beautiful weather, a few stories shared, some caving tips, and a few drops of wine and whiskey for good measure.

The next morning those of us without mysterious headaches left camp for an early walk through Alexandra Cave, another of the Naracoorte show caves. As with the Victoria Fossil Cave this was a perfect easy start to the days caving.

Alexandra Cave is a spectacular cave with an abundance of very pretty speleothems. Massive excavation works has opened the accessibility of this cave up to just about anyone. I think I had equal appreciation for the natural features as well as the enormity of building a family friendly path through the cave. This, to date is my favourite of the Naracoorte show caves.

Following Alexandra Cave, Dan and Aimee re-joined us and we headed out to Beekeepers Cave Aka Beehive (by Dee only). There we donned our caving gear, and Thomas prepped the entrance for our descent.

Although this vertical entrance was much shorter than S102 at maybe five metres deep, it was more of a challenge. As the last metre was a very narrow diameter a different tact was required, particularly on the way back out with chimneying seeming to be the best way. There also happened to be a (still living) brown snake at the bottom. It was the most current victim of the pitfall trap, just to add to the excitement.

Beekeepers was a great cave although, as with S102, it did not have the decorations of the show caves, but it was still a great adventure moving through it. We crawled through more passages that were more of a challenge than S102, and with a bit of climbing as well this cave was my favourite for the sheer adventure of it.



**Dan descending into Beekeepers Cave**



**Meeting to work out where we are (Beekeepers Cave)**

After Thomas exposed some of our questionable navigational abilities on day one, a concerted effort was made for improvement. Ably assisted by Dee's sometimes dubious memory cues we were much more successful and did ultimately find our way back out again.

This was an amazing trip, particularly given it was literally organised the day before leaving. Thanks once again Thomas! I genuinely felt welcomed and comfortable with all of the FUSSI members I met and am already looking forward to the next trip.

(Ed – The original trip was planned for Southern Flinders Ranges, but severe weather conditions meant the roads to the Southern Flinders Ranges had become impassable due to heavy rain in the area. This meant Thomas having to replan the trip to visit Corra-Lynn Cave on the Yorke Peninsula instead. However, just prior to leaving Adelaide they heard the roads had been closed just north of Adelaide with severe flooding in the Port Wakefield area (and Virginia, with the Port Gawler River bursting its banks) so another quick change to plans saw the group heading off in the opposite direction to the Naracoorte Caves area instead.)



**END OF YEAR BREAK-UP & TEE-SHIRT PRINTING DAY**  
**Saturday 3rd December 2016**



**L to R: Supriya Lath, Jan Schmorte & Sarah Phillips, Mark Sefton, Deborah Craven-Carden, Heiko Maurer, Clare Buswell (NRS)**



**L to R: Deborah Craven-Carden, Heiko Maurer, Roshan Vasini, Clare Buswell, Supriya Lath, Jan Schmorte & Sarah Phillips. Mark Sefton in front of camera. (NRS)**





**ABOVE: Clare demonstrates to everyone how to use the silkscreen template (NRS)**



**RIGHT: The front facing T-shirt image above, with the back facing image below it (NRS)**



**A selection of some of the printed T-shirts done on the day (NRS)**

## **FUSSI MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING 27 OCT 2016 7:00pm**

**Noel Stockade Room, Library, Flinders University of South Australia**

**Present:** Neville Skinner, Lucy Glocke, Chris Terrington, Ian Lewis, Clare Buswell, Tania Wilson

**Apologies:** Heiko Maurer, Aimee Leong, Thomas Varga

Minutes recorded by Tania Wilson.

### **Minutes of the previous General Meeting (July)**

Minutes of the July General Meeting were accepted. There was no meeting held in August due to the club library organising evening. The September meeting was cancelled.

#### **1. FUSSI Website pages**

Item 1 was not discussed as Thomas and Heiko were both apologies for this meeting.

#### **2. Insurance, trips and trip organisation**

A procedure for a backup safety person and late call in procedures was established and written up. This document needs to be uploaded to the FUSSI webpage.

#### **3. ASF**

- Need to know how many current FUSSI members we have and to update the ASF database.
- Tania to attend ASF meeting in January as FUSSI's ASF Representative. The meeting is in Adelaide and open to all to attend.

#### **4. Treasurer**

Clare proposed that FUSSI reimburse Tania for the cost of return airfare from Ceduna on the recent Nullarbor trip (\$303.00). Members present at the meeting agreed. Clare will submit a funding application to FUSA for the remaining \$300 available to FUSSI in club grant money to cover this expenditure.

#### **5. Training**

Refer to item 10.

#### **6. Gear**

- FUSSI gear used on the Nullarbor trip has largely been returned. There is still a large amount of equipment at Neville's.
- Satellite phone, club mobile, PLB, DistoX and rescue stretcher about to be returned to Tania. To be stored at Tania's house as it is reasonably central, accessible and unlikely to be burnt down in a bush fire.

#### **7. Bunnings BBQ Organisation for 2017**

Clare to ask Aimee to write to Bunnings regarding potential dates for 2017.

## **8. Newsletter**

- Latest issue has just been distributed.
- Neville needs trip reports from the October long weekend URGENTLY. He wants to get the next issue out ASAP.

## **9. Library**

Nothing to report.

## **10. Future Trips and Current Program**

- We need to come up with future trips. Any trips to either Naracoorte or the South East will need notice for permits and approvals.
- Clare will put together a training program for the Tassie trip in February 2017. Clare will also send Sarah to the Scout Shop with Tania to purchase gear for Tassie.
- Possibly join in with Scout trips – Clare to talk to Mathew.
- Next Nullarbor trip is 8-22 April 2017.

## **11. Promoting FUSSI on campus**

- Fairday dates are 20-21 February 2017.
- FUSA wants FUSSI to recruit more Flinders University students.
- Neville, Ian and Tania to work on artwork design for promotional banner. This banner needs to be ready for the second week of February.

## **12. Other Business**

### Forestry SA

The South Australian Government sold off the South East pine plantations to an American company, 141, but not the actual land. Due to the perceived risks of caving the company arbitrarily reduced the number of caves from eight to two that are able to be accessed. CDAA have permission for diving and have some access with restrictions for dry caving.

Discussions with the company have led to them being prepared to reconsider their position on caver access. CDAA uses an electronic booking system which the company would prefer is also used for dry caving. The company would also prefer one point of contact, such as the SA Speleological Council, of which, Clare, Thomas and Ian attended the last meeting. Ian will draft a letter to the company in the next month or so.

### FUSSI T-Shirt Printing Day

We need to have a T-Shirt printing day. It was proposed to hold this at an end of year get together. Suggested date was the second Sunday in December, which would be the 11<sup>th</sup>.



# MAYBE, PERHAPS, JUST POSSIBLY CAVING!

Heiko Maurer

Captain's Log Stardate: today ... and the word was ... "What cave did we go into yesterday, Bruce?" 'Ah, Brucedale, I think'. So settle comfortably and listen to a tale of horror and joy alternating with ... err. Some word beginning with, oh what's that letter ... 'B' ... 'A' ... apathy. What drive! It certainly was not! It was a day of little crawling, little falling, much drawing, (think loads of stonking Passage).

Was it exciting?

*Bien sur! Ganz bestimmt!* Absolutely! Well, probably. But one can't be sure, so better call it stimulating<sup>1</sup> (But see footnote<sup>2</sup>).

## Report 1

Arising at the crack of the zip of our tent, we set a new PB by breaking the 9am barrier via a whopping 50% hour. Expertly led by the indefatigable Bruce, our luck continued and we found our entrance (sorry: didn't pay attention), despite having been there a good dozen<sup>3</sup> times. I didn't pay any attention (cheap skate!!) either as we made our way to the South-Eastern part of the cave and started surveying: "Disto On", "On station", "Clino -3.1415", "What's the next station?" type noises. Soon to be followed by "too tight", "Horrid and nasty", "that really needs a professional Interior Decorator" type whining.

But what's this?

A rock!

Oh!

Or do you mean that long straight bit colloquially referred to (in common parlance) as a "Tree root"?

Yes!

Well, squeeze past it you fool! And thus, despite some difficulty for the larger persons, we entered BRUCEDALE HEAVING: large passage in all directions, promising new connections into as-yet-unnamed caves.

BUT: (Close your eyes if you're the least bit squeamish) (Now read on) it was time to return to Camp, finish packing and drive back home. Alas, leaving further mapping to those who come after us. Whimper....



---

<sup>1</sup> At least in the tight, grovelly, gravelly bits.

<sup>2</sup> Clare was excited by some beautifully formed avens

<sup>3</sup> Pure guesswork. Probably a lie. But you never can tell

## PINGING NARACOORTE CAVES

Clare Buswell

Following the head Gandalf, AKA Ken Smith, the rest of the fools, Kevin Mott, Deb Craven-Carden Clare Buswell and Heiko Maurer, armed with Pingers, poles, the odd marker rock and tinsel, (well it was close to Xmas) descended on four Naracoorte caves to try and find out how deep the rock is between the surface and the below voids.

The four caves involved were Blanche, Bat, Cathedral and Wet Caves. The idea was to ascertain the depth of limestone between the surface and the known cave voids to work out if it could carry the load of the proposed viewing platforms and the equipment needed to build them. Deb wanted to have a depth of at least 5 meters of solid rock to be able to carry out this construction work.

The process involved Ken's 'pingers', which consist of a radio location transmitter coil and a coil receiver. The transmit coil was placed on a fibreglass pole wedged between the floor of the cave and the roof, close to the cave wall. The receiver then located the antenna on the surface.

Numerous readings were taken, spots marked and calculations made to ascertain the rock depth. We established a number of spots on the surface correlating to the cave walls for each cave where we knew the viewing platforms were going to be placed.



**Fools looking for caves: K. Mott, H. Maurer,  
Ken Smith, C. Buswell.  
Photo by Deb Craven-Carden.**



**Ken and Pinger with Deb looking on in Blanche Cave.  
Photo by C. Buswell**

The work took us two days and we even worked out the depth of the rock where the road goes over sections of Cathedral cave.



## NEWS & TITBITS

There are still a few wine glasses available – but you need to be quick:

Get in before it is too late!

Very special FUSSI wine glasses

Celebrate with one of these and be the envy of the caving set.

\$8.00ea or \$48.00 for half a dozen.

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Membership fees are now due:

Student: \$65.00

Introductory: \$40.00

Single: \$88.00

Family: \$119 plus \$20 per family member

Payments may be made directly into FUSSI Bank Account:

Flinders University Speleo Soc.

BSB No: 015-210

Blackwood Branch

Account No: 615000795

Membership is valid for one calendar year and includes \$68.00 membership (less for student and introductory memberships) of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF), who provide us with important services such as liability insurance, news about what's happening nationally, and a powerful organisation that can lobby governments on our behalf.

Please contact the FUSSI Treasurer if you require additional information.

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If you would like to join in on some of the advanced trips involving SRT (Single Rope Techniques), then speak to Clare or Tania.

What it's about?

It's all about Abseiling down into a cave and Prussiking out of the cave, where there generally are no ladders to climb. Often these caves are in isolated locations (for example, Flinders Ranges, Tasmania, and Nullarbor Plains).

What is involved?

Learning the correct techniques in a safe environment, and gradually building up on the skills learnt, so that you become competent in safely negotiating difficult cave access and are able to recognise dangers specific to each cave, and your own limits.

It will take a lot of practice, perseverance and discipline, but it will empower you and increase your confidence in yourselves.

This does not happen overnight – it will require a big commitment from you, but you will be rewarded with the skills to enable you to tackle any cave, cliff or other obstacle at any time, for the rest of your lives.

And you will be fitter and healthier.

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FLINDERS UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC.  
MEMBERSHIP FORM 2016

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBERS, Mob: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY STUDENT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF NEXT OF KIN OR EMERGENCY CONTACT:  
1) \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS:  
1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL INFORMATION:

DO YOU HOLD A CURRENT FIRST AID CERTIFICATE? Circle as appropriate: Y / N  
Expiry date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
Any other current medical/first aid qualifications: e.g. Nurse, volunteer with St. Johns or the SA Ambulance Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you have any medical conditions that require medication(s)? Circle as appropriate: Y / N  
If so please give details (use separate sheet if required):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Take your medication with you whilst underground on a FUSSI trip.  
Please inform the trip leader of your medical condition.**

Do you consent to have your photo placed on the FUSSI website, FUSSI Facebook site for PR purposes and general sharing amongst members? Circle as appropriate: Y / N

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***Note:*** *FUSSI holds a general get together/meeting on the Third Thursday of each month, except where notified otherwise. Programme subject to change.*

## **University Break: 21<sup>st</sup> Nov – 20th Feb 2017**

- Sat 3rd Dec 2016:** **End of year get together at Clare & Heiko's place. Noon onwards.**  
BYO T-shirt(s), something for lunch, eating implements, etc.  
RSVP by midday 1st Dec to [fussi@fussi.org.au](mailto:fussi@fussi.org.au)
- Sat 7th Jan 2017:** **9am-5pm ASF Council Meeting.**  
Somerset Hotel, Bridge Road, Para Hills.  
Combined cost of Lunch, morning and afternoon teas and Dinner is \$65 per person, to be paid on arrival.
- Sat 7th Jan:** **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ASF (formed in Adelaide).**  
6pm at Somerset Hotel, Bridge Road, Para Hills.  
Come along and meet cavers from all over Australia.  
Cost Dinner is \$45 per person, to be paid on arrival.
- Sun 8th Jan:** **Corra-Lynn Cave, Yorke Peninsula – a one day CEGSA trip.**  
Organised for the ASF visitors. Other cavers welcome. If you wish to attend, contact Neville or Graham Pilkington at [p-c-h@bigpond.net.au](mailto:p-c-h@bigpond.net.au)
- Thu 19th Jan:** **6pm FUSSI General meeting at the Second Climbing area of the Morialta Cliffs,**  
followed by a beer in the Scenic Hotel.  
Clare co-ordinating transport for those requiring it.
- Wed 25th Jan:** **7:30pm CEGSA General Meeting,** followed by supper, then talk by **Matt Smith (Scout Caving Group) on "Mt Eccles and Byaduk Lava Caves".**  
Royal Society Rooms, SA Museum. Enter off Kintore Avenue.  
Contact Neville for further information.
- Sat 4 – Sun 12th Feb:** **Mole Creek Karst area, Tasmania.**  
Clare coordinating. Trip is full.
- Thu 16th Feb:** **6:30pm FUSSI Photo night – venue TBA.**  
Come along and see the Tassie trip photos.
- Tue 21 – Wed 22nd Feb:** **Fair Day – FUSSI stalls on campus. HELP is needed.**  
Put your hand up to help your club get new student members.  
Contact: [fussi@fussi.org.au](mailto:fussi@fussi.org.au).
- Wed 25th Feb:** **7:30pm CEGSA General Meeting,** followed by supper, then talk by **Dr Mike Snow (SA Museum) on "Bat Shit – not boring!"**  
Royal Society Rooms, SA Museum. Enter off Kintore Avenue.  
Contact Neville for further information.
- Sun 26th Feb:** **Murray River trip.**  
A fun trip for everyone.
- Tue 28th Feb:** **You have until midday today to contact Clare, if you wish to go on the Naracoorte Caves trip on 25-26<sup>th</sup> March!**

## **START OF FIRST SEMESTER: 28th Feb**



- Thu 16th Mar:** **6-8pm Map & Compass training with Tania**  
Meet at the University Foot Bridge at 6pm, and prepare to get lost in the forest... on campus.
- Sun 19th Mar:** **SRT Training afternoon** – for the rope incompetent.  
Venue to be announced.
- Sat 25th – 26<sup>th</sup> Mar:** **Naracoorte Caves.** A trip for everyone.  
**RSVP 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 12 noon. Don't miss out, get your name down now.**  
Clare coordinating. Contact: [fussi@fussi.org.au](mailto:fussi@fussi.org.au)
- Sat 8th – 22nd Apr:** **Nullarbor Caves. Spaces are limited. (Incl. Easter 14th-17th April)**  
This is a (hard) working trip – Clare coordinating.
- Thu 27th Apr:** **6:30pm talk on Bats by our resident expert Terry Reardon from the SA Museum.**  
Noel Stockdale Room, Flinders Uni Library.
- Sun 30th Apr:** **Corra-Lynn Cave, Yorke Peninsula - one day trip.**  
A fun trip for everyone.

**MID-SEMESTER BREAK: 10-24<sup>th</sup> April**

- Sat 13th -14th May:** **Southern Flinders Ranges trip.** Great weekend. Suitable for all.  
**Refer next page for more information.**
- Thu 18th May:** **6:30pm FUSSI Annual General Meeting.**  
Yep, every club has them. Come along and add some impressive roles to your CV.  
New members needed on the Executive. Out with the old and in with the new.  
Noel Stockdale Room, Flinders Uni Library.
- Thu 15th Jun:** **6:30pm Library and Pizza night.**  
At the club store on campus, located under the Union Hub, entry from the southern end.
- Sun 18th Jun:** **Corra-Lynn Cave, Yorke Peninsula - one day trip.**  
A fun trip for everyone.

**MID-YEAR BREAK: 3rd – 24th July**

- Sat 8th – 16th Jul:** **Nullarbor Caves – a FUSSI fun trip.**  
See the Nullarbor in winter (the best time – 23-25 degrees, no flies).  
We may even have some international guests joining us, from the pending IUS Conference (see below) – Clare coordinating.  
  
(Ed – I suggest you put your name down at least 2-3 months ahead, as permits and logistics planning require long lead-times.)
- Sun 23rd – 29th July:** **IUS international Caving conference, Jenolan, NSW.**  
Pre and post conference caving trips around the country and New Zealand.  
See: [www.speleo2017.com](http://www.speleo2017.com)

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## Southern Flinders Ranges trips – what to expect!

We stay in a circa 1965 3-bedroom besser-block homestead, with the lounge room converted to a 4th bedroom (well, sort of...). If you can't get along with your room mates, or you snore, there is also a long & wide roofed front verandah you can sleep under. Or you can bring your swag and sleep on the oval adjacent to the house. Thomas, Dan & Dee usually do.

You only need to bring a sleeping bag and pillow, and clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. The ~~maid~~ cleaner left the area forty years ago, because the job didn't pay very well and the water to the kitchen sink from the sheep trough was sometimes green. Expect to get dirty!

We clean the house before we leave. Yes, I know it doesn't make sense to spend two days in a dirty house and then clean it as we are leaving, but we have always done it this way.



The salubrious accommodation (kitchen on left, singles bedroom on the right)

Neither the bathroom or the toilet are operational – you do it all outside. How you do it, or where you do it, is your choice. Just do not share it with anyone.

If you want to wash yourself, you can do it outside by the rainwater tank. If it gets cold, I suggest you wait until it is minus 5 degrees outside, then wash. That way the cold air makes the water feel warmer. Just ignore the people watching you out of the kitchen window as you get undressed.

We leave Adelaide around 6pm and arrive around 11:30pm. Google will tell you that it is a 3.5 hr drive. Google doesn't know about Pancho's Pizza shop (Tel: 8842 2912) at Clare, nor about the creek-beds and kangaroos along the way.

Your travelling schedule will more likely look like this:

Adelaide to Carrieton	3 hr	44 min
Pick up passenger, re-arrange load		20 min
Stop at Clare to eat/shop (<8pm)		20 min
Top up fuel		5 min
Meet others at Orroroo pub		10 min
Carrieton to the homestead		45 min
<b>TOTAL Travel Time:</b>	5 hr	24 min
If Departure time =	6:00	pm
<b>** ARRIVAL time ** =</b>	<b>11:24</b>	<b>pm</b>

Those arriving before Neville installs his generator, will need to provide their own torches so they can make their beds. Ditto, when tending to night business.

The caving is great. It will be the best, most memorable CAVING weekend you will have for the entire year! I promise.