

2. Ian Lewis described a dive by Richard Harris into Piccaninny Ponds. A record depth of 114 metres was reached. Some samples of limestone containing black material – possibly flint – were brought to the surface for examination.

September 2008

1. Harry and Ken Smith presented a detailed report on their “flamin’ Nullarbor” trip. They all had a great time during their cave dives and WA team member Craig Challen had broken Chris Brown’s world record penetration by another 120 metres (using a hand-held scuba cylinder); the cave still continues but is extremely small and technically challenging (not to mention that it is more than 6 kilometres from the entrance and more than 2km from the nearest air chamber). John Dalla-Zuanna had driven all the way there from Victoria only to rupture an eardrum a few metres deep as he commenced the dive, and then he broke a tooth while eating a biscuit before driving straight back to Melbourne! Harry and the others successfully “pinged” some key locations and recorded them on GPS, and Ken left one of his pingers in the cave near the end before commencing their trip back to Adelaide. But as they approached Nundroo (about 150km west of Ceduna), Harry noticed smoke in his rear vision mirror and within a few minutes, as he and Ken stood by helplessly (and the local CFS fellow tried to get his fire hose working), Harry’s 4WD became a roadside inferno. They

managed to grab the GPS units, a camera and Ken's pinger-locator but they lost everything else in and on the vehicle (scooters, rebreather, drysuits, camera and two pingers etc...). At least they were able to save most of the gear in the trailer (including a G-sized cylinder filled with high-pressure oxygen which probably would have been heard in Ceduna if it had exploded!). It is believed that heavy-duty lithium batteries used for long-duration underwater DPVs and carried on the roof-rack had shorted-out and caught fire. Ken also managed to salvage a brand badge from the wreck, and Harry plans to get it mounted so it can serve as a new CEGSA award – "Caving Under Fire" – to recognise close-calls or "Harrising" situations!...

2. Grant reported on recent Fleurieu Peninsula activities; he had dug another couple of