

## SAND CAVE, NARACOORTE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Steve Bourne

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Habitat Recovery Team and the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) worked together on “Clean up Australia Day” on 4 March. The cave was added to the Naracoorte Caves National Park in November 2011 and despite it not being open to the public; it has generated immense interest from the caving community, paleontologists and researchers. It is hoped to add the cave and surrounding land to the World Heritage Area in the future.

Large amounts of fencing wire, old fence posts, drums and household waste that had been dumped in and around the cave over time, were removed, with progress only halted by a brown snake in the entrance.

The Sand Cave will continue to be an area of focus in 2012 as 30 hectares of land surrounding the cave has been approved for re-vegetation. This will increase habitat potential for the endangered Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo and provide food and shelter for many other native animals.

CEGSA and the Victorian Speleological Association (VSA) held their joint weekend at Naracoorte in September with two trips into the cave. Naracoorte Caves Manager Deborah Carden is planning to undertake an inventory of cave values with the assistance of cavers. This will be an important piece of work in building a better understanding of the cave's values and a better case for adding to the World Heritage Area.

*Left. Danielle Smith descending into one Sand Cave entrance, assisted by CEGSA veteran Kevin Mott.*

*Below. Entrance showing rubbish. Photos: Toby Read*

