

ancient land tours

explore nature

We understand the demands of projects and expeditions and are able to provide cost-effective solutions with experienced accredited crew, and flexibility. We specialise in supporting scientists, filmmakers, explorers, and other groups in their investigation of remote places. Our expert eyes, considerable experience, and an eye on safety in the bush provides clients with a considerable advantage for their projects. Our expertise includes:

- 4WD transport capability and navigation - Nullarbor and the Far West of SA
- Remote area expedition-style camping and provisioning
- Vertical access into caves, route-finding
- Photography and filming support
- Location scouting
- Risk assessment, use of natural anchors, safety, and emergency management
- Research assistant support
- Sustainable and minimal impact exploration

Our capability includes:

- Depth of knowledge of the Nullarbor and Far West of SA
- Caves values assessment
- Speleology, archaeology, palaeontology, and entomology
- Mapping and documentation, photography and video
- Environmental monitoring

Ancient Land Tours Pty Ltd (ABN 94 616 968 300) operates in the Far West of SA, based in Ceduna. With five permanent and part-time employees, it offers private bespoke tours to small groups, provides tourism services, and leads specialist remote access services for scientists, experts, and filmmakers.

Recent Work

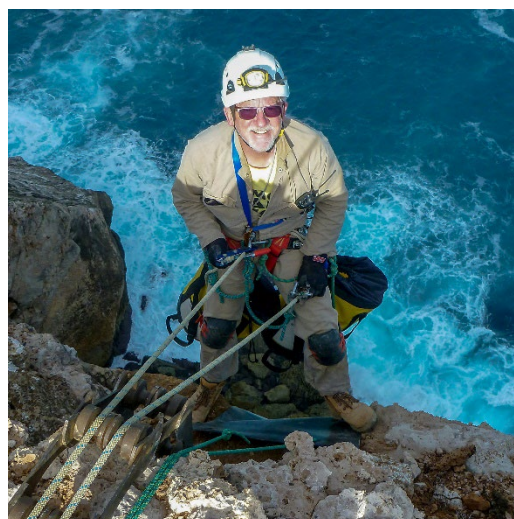
- **Great Southern Film and TV** – Australian Coast with Neil Oliver, 2020
 - Recreation of Nullarbor Bunda Cliff cave exploration
 - Aerial access and filming
- **National Parks and Wildlife Service (SA)**, Eyre Peninsula. 2021 – ongoing
 - Provision of cave guiding services, safety management, and heavy gear lifting for Koonalda Cave
 - Provision of cave safety personal protective equipment (helmets, lights, harnesses), and vertical access equipment (ladders, ropes, and minimal impact lifting equipment)
 - Development of interpretation information for the parks of the Far West of SA
 - Development of a risk-based approach for the safe access to caves of the Nullarbor
 - Assisting Elders and community members access culturally important sites in caves
- **Bush Blitz** – Far West of SA November 2021 – March 2022
 - Provision of cave guiding services, including safety management, remote vertical access support, and remote area logistics
 - Liaison with landowners and traditional owners
 - Technical support for collection of rare blind spiders, documentation and publication
 - Supporting film crew for underground sequences

- **University of Adelaide** – Assessment of World Heritage-listed Naracoorte Caves 2022 – 2023
 - Assessment of speleological, biological, and palaeontological inventories including reference sites in caves
 - Environmental monitoring, placement of data loggers in remote sites
 - Mapping and surveying underground places
- **Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation** – Repatriation Project 2023
 - Assisting Elders and community members access culturally important sites in caves for the repatriation of human remains
 - Provision of cave guiding services, and vertical safety management (15m pitches)
- **District Council of Ceduna** February 2023 – ongoing
 - Provision of tourism services at the Ceduna Visitor Information Centre
 - 363 days per year
- **Stranger than Fiction Films** – IMAX 3D in Weebubbie Cave 2024
 - Provision of cave guiding services, safety management, heavy gear lifting, for Weebubbie Cave
 - Provision of cave safety personal protective equipment (helmets, lights, harnesses), and vertical access equipment (ladders, ropes, and minimal impact lifting equipment)
 - Safe transportation of over one tonne of filming equipment, cranes, 3D film cameras, and cave diving gear deep into the cave system
 - Remote area catering and camping provisioning for 13 persons for 10 days
- **Australian Museum** – Land Snails Survey 2024
 - Liaison with landowners and traditional owners
 - Provision of cave guiding services, and safety management for multiple sites across the Nullarbor
 - Provision of cave safety personal protective equipment (helmets, lights, harnesses), and vertical access equipment (ladders, ropes, etc)
 - Remote area catering and provisioning
 - Technical support for the collection of punctids

Steve Milner, PhD – Caving Lead

Steve has expeditionary experience leading caving expeditions to places as far afield as Europe, Scandinavia, Central America, Asia, and Australia. His specialties include cave exploration, cave surveying, cave photography, environmental care, and vertical caving.

As well as over 35 major caving expeditions, Steve's experience includes discoveries in the UK, Ireland, Spain, Austria, Mexico, Vietnam, South Australia, and the Nullarbor. Discoveries amount to more than 60km of new passage, with archaeological discoveries in five countries. He has written dozens of caving articles, expedition reports, and published cave maps and photographs.



Steve has participated in research that has contributed to knowledge and understanding of the natural environment, and also for the successful listing of a World Heritage nomination in Vietnam.

Steve held office as president of the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia (CEGSA) for five years and is a current member of CEGSA. He has recently been part of the technical working group for the Australian

Adventure Activity Standard (Caving), advising on caving and conservation, and is Vice President for the Australian Speleological Federation, leading strategy, and governance.

Steve is part of the research team for ongoing and grant funded projects within the Cave Research Group led by Dr Liz Reed in the School of Biological Sciences. These include projects at the World Heritage listed Naracoorte Caves and also on the Nullarbor plain and other cave areas in South Australia. These projects involve speleological, biological, and palaeontological inventories and assessments of cave sites, palaeontological investigations of Quaternary cave deposits, environmental monitoring (installation of data loggers), and documentation of heritage values management of cave sites.

Recent activities have led to the discovery of new caves, new archaeological discoveries, and hitherto unknown populations of invertebrate species (Nullarbor Blind Spiders).

Steve is an experienced Project Director, an Honorary Associate of the University of Adelaide, and a Board Member of the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.

Andrew Stempel – Technical Expertise

Andrew is a keen outdoorsman with a passion for exploration, education, safety, and expedition leadership. After moving to Australia from the USA he switched his passion for mountaineering to cave exploration, survey, and science. Andrew has caved in every state and territory (except the ACT), logging over 1000 hours underground in the last 5 years.

Andrew currently serves as the Search and Rescue Coordinator and Training Officer for the Cave Exploration Group of South Australia. He also is an Executive Vice President of the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF), Australia's national caving body, comprised of 23 clubs across the country. He also participates in multiple caving expeditions each year, including an annual survey expedition documenting the longest cave system in Australia.



Andrew is certified in Wilderness First Aid and holds nationally recognized guiding qualifications in climbing, snorkelling / SCUBA diving, surfing, kayaking, and bushwalking. When Andrew isn't underground, he is employed in the outdoor education and adventure tourism sector, facilitating wilderness experiences for school groups, and the general public.

Contact Us

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