

EDITORIAL

Robert Douglas.

The Capital Territory Caving Group Newsletter is intended to be a collection of interesting and topical material supplied by members of the club, and presented in a respectable format. Editions are published only once every three to four months, since in order to satisfy the above requirements involves somewhat more time and effort than that which would be necessary to produce a simple multi-page newsletter. Because of the infrequency of magazine editions, topics relating to the day-to-day running of the club have not been included, but are to be found in a separate news-sheet which is published monthly.

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THE BUCHAN COMMUNITY HALL
- AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

Greg Martin.

It was a bright summer day more conducive to lying in the sun than caving or "politicizing". As I approached the Hall, situated conveniently between the police station and the pub, I had no idea that before this day was done I would be confronted by the terrible truth - the A.S.F. was alive, it was kicking (the occasional government), and it would not be increasing its capitation fees! Ah, caught again!

During this January long weekend conference the following items were discussed:

(A) The A.S.F. (Australian Speleological Federation):

1. Annual capitation fees to remain at \$3.50.
2. A Sydney Speleo Society motion that the fee be divided into two separate components - an A.S.F. membership fee and a newsletter subscription - was defeated.
3. The incorporation of A.S.F. in the A.C.T. is to be investigated.
4. Membership as at 22/12/79 was 625.

(B) The A.S.F. Newsletter:

1. The convenors of all those mysterious and exotic committees which appear inside the cover of the A.S.F. newsletter are to be asked to justify their existence to members by submitting articles explaining their current tasks.
2. Despite the fact that the newsletter is seen as a sometimes scientific journal, members are encouraged to submit articles no matter what their academic background.
3. The editor is to purchase a new I.B.M. typewriter at an approximate cost of \$1100. Its predecessor was in action for 24 years.

(C) Fund Raising:

In order to assist such projects as the biennial conference and conservation research, the following fund raising suggestions were put to the meeting:

1. A speleo calendar which would feature a monthly photo selected from those submitted by members - feasibility to be investigated.

from the library of
canberra speleological society

2. The sale of the A.S.F. membership list to direct mailing contract firms - member clubs will be asked to express their approval via a postal ballot after all the relevant information is available - individual club members may request that their names be deleted from the list if sold.
3. A Sydney publishing firm which produces the Woman's Weekly Australian colour magazine has approached Phil Toomer asking if A.S.F. would be interested in supplying photos and text for a magazine called "Caving in Australia" - each club would be asked to submit 100 slides (originals).

(D) Conservation:

All members are urged to write letters of protest regarding the following caving areas to the relevant authorities:

1. Mount Etna - Queensland Government.
2. Franklin-Gordon River System - Tasmanian Government.
3. Potholes area near Buchan (includes Honeycomb Cave) - Victorian Government.
4. National Parks funding and staffing - Federal Government.

(E) Publications:

1. "A Checklist of Australian Caves and Karst" compiled by Peter Matthews (V.S.A.). This checklist is a simple register of the currently allocated cave numbers, cave names, and cave areas, together with the names of people at present responsible for allocation and recording. Copies at \$6.00 each are available from Greg Martin. (An "Australian Karst Index", which gives a more detailed description of each cave and area may be available in mid 1980.)
2. "Wilderness Caves of the Gordon-Franklin River System" - Produced by the Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania. Contains maps, Black and White photos and description of caves in the area. \$6.00.
3. "Quaver", the M.U.S.I.G. magazine with an excellent article by Dereck Hobbs on Histoplasmosis.

(F) Conferences:

1. Cavconvict - 27 to 31/12/80 - approximate cost, including full board and accomodation at International House on Monash Campus, is \$150.00. It was suggested that in future the conference be held near caving areas in a "tent city" format in order to reduce costs.
2. 8th International Congress of Speleology, Bowling Green, Kentucky, U.S.A. - 11th to 25th July, 1981. Provisional registration by 1st March 1981. Last date for payment 1st May 1981. See John Dunkly (C.S.S.) for further information.

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ARGYLES HOLE INCIDENT, CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND
SATURDAY 8TH MARCH

Robert Douglas.

I entered the cave at about 3.00pm with several other members of CTCG. After sitting in the entrance chamber for a few minutes I led a party of three through the squeeze, down the "Corkscrew", and into the Rift Chamber, pulling a drag stretcher. Whilst waiting for Chris Nicholls and Greg Martin to catch up, I noticed that I was breathing deeply but put it down to the exertion of struggling with the stretcher. Just then a member of Police Search and Rescue Squad from the simulated accident scene appeared out of the flattener. He was very out of breath and told me with some difficulty that there was "foul air" deeper in the cave. While he spoke he handed me a scrawled note and I interpreted the message as meaning that there was a serious oxygen problem in the Pitch Chamber, where there were several other people. Chris arrived and struck a match to test the air in the Rift Chamber. The match would not burn, indicating a carbon dioxide level of at least 1 percent.

I then crawled through the flattener to the Pitch Chamber in order to assess the situation and provide assistance if necessary. As I reached the end of the flattener, a member of the Cave Rescue Group was de-rigging at the mouth of the flattener. I passed this caver, who was also out of breath, and took some SRT gear with me to the top of the 12 metre pitch in case I needed to descend. Another member of the Police Search and Rescue Squad was at the time prussiking up the rope. He was having trouble at the lip of the pitch and I assisted him by hauling him by the belt. He continued on through the flattener after de-rigging, passing the Cave Rescue Group member, who remained in the mouth of the flattener tidying up de-rigged SRT gear.

The remaining three cavers at the base of the pitch did not appear to be doing much. The answer to my question of what the carbon dioxide was like where they were, was that they were unable to get a match to burn. When I asked them what they were doing about coming up, they asked me if the simulated rescue exercise was still on. I told them that I thought they had better forget about the exercise and come straight up. At this stage the "patient", who I found out later was asthmatic, appeared to be still playing the part and no preparations were being made to evacuate. Between the three of them, they only had two sets of ascending gear, so while they started organizing themselves, I lowered some gear down the rope. During this operation one of the jumars was dropped and

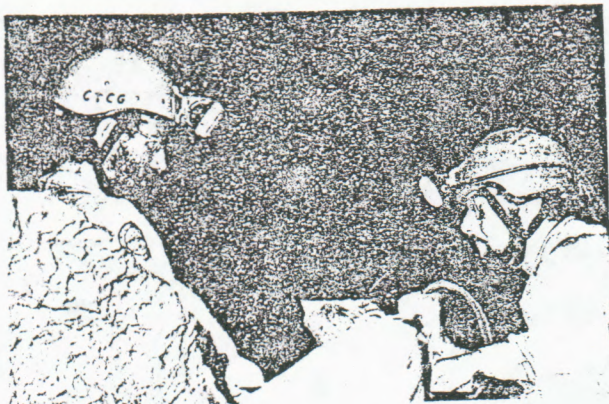


Greg Martin, using a 'Micky-phone' in Argyles Hole, Bungonia.

fractured on impact. Sufficient gear was however now at the bottom and the three were actively setting themselves up to ascend the rope. An offer of a ladder from Chris Nicholls at this point was turned down on the grounds that it would take longer to set this up than to proceed with the jumaring method. I heard one of them say he was shaking, so I told them to check each other's rigs before climbing. I was breathing deeply myself and was beginning to get a headache. For some reason they seemed to be more concerned about having their gear hauled up than actually coming up themselves. One of them jumared up and I used a spare jumar with a sling attached to help him over the difficult lip. I suggested that the remaining two prussik up, leaving their remaining gear tied to the end of the rope. They, however, preferred to have it hauled up first.

At this point the "observer" arrived in the Pitch Chamber. He checked the air with a cigarette lighter which refused to light. He and I then hauled up the heavy load of three packs, and while he remained to supervise the ascent of the final two, I crawled back through the flattener with one of the packs.

I arrived back at the Rift Chamber breathing very deeply after the exertion and accepted the oxygen being administered by John Masala of CTCG. After a few breaths I felt much better. I had a short rest, took some photographs and then headed out of the cave, checking my name off at the entrance.



<- Chris Nicholls and John Masala with Oxygen Equipment in Argyles Hole, Bungonia.

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TO DIG OR NOT TO DIG?

Russell Dempsey.

There are not many thrills like the one experienced when, after months of digging, one enters a new section of cave untouched by human hand. The reward of a large chamber or passage or even perhaps a small hole followed by a dead end is always well worth the effort. The knowledge that you have explored and been defeated, or explored and won, helps a digger to continue, with the thought that the next dig may be IT.

A digger is usually a loner, someone who disbelieves stories that a cave can go no further and is quite happy to spend long periods underground in order to prove the others wrong.

Tools used for cave digging vary in shape, size and power, ranging from hammers to explosives. The most popular tools are a three pound hammer and a cold chisel. To do a "dig" requires no great experience, only a caver's knowledge and imagination.

Deciding where to dig is often difficult. Possible dig sites may be very numerous, whilst good digs are far fewer. Rockpiles, sinkholes, dolines and solution tubes are by far the best places for digs, although at times a crack can be expanded and pushed to unknown limits. Mud of course is the easiest material to dig, although large volumes may need to be shifted. Chipping through rock on the other hand may be slow and laborious but usually only short digging distances are involved.

Sometimes a new section of a cave may be found without the need for digging; an example is in the Wee Jasper cave systems, where a party of cavers recently set out to finish a dig, and on completion they pushed a squeeze outside of the dig and added approximately 100 metres of passage and one chamber containing formations, to the cave. This is one of the rare occasions when a cave which has been well explored and surveyed, and visited by thousands of cavers each year, has been added to by the perseverance of diggers.

DIG WE MUST!

BUNGONIA RESCUE 80
8-9 March 1980

Greg Martin.

TROGLOXENES: Bob De Hann, Bob Douglas, Russell Dempsey, Ted Garnett, Ed Hodgson, Dawn Martin, Greg Martin, John Masala, Chris Nicholls, Arthur Walters.

Every year, for the last 6 years, the New South Wales Cave Rescue Group has organized a cave rescue weekend at Bungonia. The purpose of the weekend is to familiarize cavers with the current rescue techniques, first aid methods and equipment, and to plan and supervise simulated rescue situations in which cavers apply their knowledge to cave accident situations devised and set up by the Cave Rescue Group. Police rescue squads, the Ambulance service, and representatives from other rescue services also take part.

Following each cave rescue weekend the success of the lectures and simulated rescues is evaluated by the Group and efforts are made to update and improve the following year's effort. Rescue 80 was no exception, being well-organized, well-planned and supplying sufficient "excitement" to stimulate the interest of most "putrid armpit" cavers.

The weekend began with a series of lectures which included such topics as Rescue Organization, Communication, First Aid, Rescue Techniques, and Rescue Equipment. After lunch, the participants were divided into "rescue" parties, depending on equipment, experience and desires - yes, you guessed it - Dempsey, De Hann and Hodgson wanted to spend the afternoon wallowing in some obscure mud passage, Dawn wanted a "squeeze" session, and Masala and Nicholls and their cronies wanted a brothel-crawl of Bungonia township!

However....., insanity prevailed, and we found that CTCG had managed to have its members selected to attend a surface rescue demonstration. There was some disention amongst the troops, and eventually we were able to persuade the organizers that we be permitted to undertake and organize our own cave rescue in U.N.S.W.S.S. Cave.

Before we were able to organize this event we were sidetracked by the Rescue 80 co-ordinator who asked us to assist with an SRT rescue in Argyle's Hole. However, when we entered the cave we found that the rescue was no longer simulated; it had become a real rescue in which seven members of CTCG took a very active part. More details of this incident are published elsewhere in this magazine.

Saturday evening the group sat through an hour of safety films and then decided that the time, about 10.30 pm, was ripe for caving. Ed and Bob, still suffering the after-effects of the bad air in Argyle's, stayed to guard the campsite against wandering bands of bandicoots while the rest of the troops piled into the back of Ed's ute, and were given two wet, yet picturesque, circuits of the Bungonia camping ground by Dawn before our good lady friend found the right track to the Fossil Cave area. The next hour was spent walking in the rain looking for Fossil, collecting stragglers and eventually finding Fossil. (Dempsey down a wombat hole!) After an hour of sporting caving, we exited the cave at about 1.30 am, returned to camp, and woke to the sound of heavy rain falling on the tents. It was decided by the faithful that it was time to abandon Rescue 80, board the Ark, and head back home to our favourite fighting cougars.

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Some Observations of Terramobilus envirodestructus (4 Wheel Drives)

Rob Bischoff, Ian Morris,
Martin Robinson, John Womby.

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES: Member of the Fossil fuel digesting phylum. Has basically Commensal Relationship with human parasite (Homosapien subspecies resofanaticus).

HABITAT: Tends to be nomadic, free-ranging (high and low) often territorial, mostly social, but some rogue individuals, terrestrial with homesites in lower altitudes. Heavy rain causes inefficiency.

ENERGETICS: Host - liquid diet - octavore
Parasite - liquid diet - alcovore

BEHAVIOR: Locomotion - clumsy, erratic, tends to leave well defined tracks, knocks down small saplings and crosses small creeks in single gear changes, unusual low ratio cognitive functions. Is unable to resist the temptation of following the tracks of other individuals, may be fiercely competitive - frequently resulting in excessive speed and use of two wheel drive capacity, has strong territory extending tendencies.

MORPHOLOGY: Gross glabrous, metallic, axillary circular paired wheels, head-body length exceeds tail length, colour - parasite specific.

DEFENCE MECHANISMS: Extreme reversability in linear motion, parasite profficient in verbal discourse, exoskeleton impervious to predators, parasite not.

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY: Asexually regenerates by means of replacement parts, no sexual cycle known. Reproductive behavior of parasite suspected, especially after feeding. Interspecific encounters brief and violent, often fatal. Does not regenerate after fire, parasite seeks new host.

HABITAT: Strong associations with bitumen surfaces, but has adapted well to forested areas with preference for recently cleared runways. A subspecies has demonstrated an alarming ability to penetrate wilderness areas. Sand dunes harbour another subspecies also capable of massive substrate modification.

IMPACT: Locomotion of T. envirolestructus destroys other species. Parasite also inhibits regeneration by adding large amounts of nitrogen and acids to soil.

MANAGEMENT: To retain wilderness areas, T. envirolestructus must be excluded. The following steps are suggested:

1. Examine off-road areas for recent activity.
2. If present, dig pitfall trap and cover with leaves.
3. If animal is captured, remove parasite and fill in trap. Preserve parasite in alcohol, if not already, and send to museum.

T. envirolestructus is incapable of climbing vertical obstacles greater than one metre high. Therefore, strategically placed fences, walls, boulders, large logs etc across runways may prove to be suitable deterrents. Such barriers are not always successful, due to determination and ingenuity of the parasite. T. envirolestructus can be successfully immobilized by placing C₆H₁₂O₆ (sugar) into its ingestion orifice. This causes metabolic malfunction (arterial sclerosis) of the host and severe irritation of the parasite.

Moisture in the respiratory, digestive and nervous systems of the host also cause malfunctions of body actions. Athrustus is common in older individuals and can be encouraged by the application of salt and water to the exoskeleton. Following death, many individuals are placed in a common graveyard, usually after parasite has transplanted usable parts to another host.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: (Predators)

1. Rangers (Homosapien sub.sp. enviroprotectus)

Very efficient predators, already existing in some areas frequented by T. envirolestructus. Acts by competitively replacing parasite and taking control of host. Experiments have shown that removing from wilderness and turning onto dorsal surface causes death of T. envirolestructus.

2. Farmers (Homosapian sub.sp. cockius)
Agnostic behavior is displayed on interspecific confrontation. Predator mechanisms include fences, locked gates and firearms.
3. Police (Homosapian sub.sp. constabulatus)
Recognized by blue uniform pelage and extremely aggressive response to deviant locomotive behavior. In cases of confrontation with T. envirodestructus, causes great distress and recoil in parasite.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS: (a) Terramobilus envirodestructus is not compatible with national parks. (b) Most biological control is achieved by attacks on parasite. (c) T. envirodestructus can be domesticated; this involves removing original parasite and replacing it with a more sensitive parasite (eg Homosapian sub.sp. enviroawareus).

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EXIT CAVE, TASMANIA

Robert Douglas, Feb. 1980

For most of us wishing to visit Exit Cave, the only real obstacle to be overcome is Bass Strait. Once in Tasmania it is relatively easy to get to the cave, which is situated in thick forest inland from Ida Bay, about 100 km south of Hobart. Before leaving home however, it is wise to organize getting the key to the locked gate at the entrance of the cave. This key is in the hands of the Ranger at nearby Hastings Caves. One does not require a permit for Exit, proof of A.S.F. affiliation being all that is normally required. To prevent any last minute problems a letter or telephone call prior to arrival may be a worthwhile move. Andrew Skinner, the present Ranger also happens to be a caver; he is a pleasant chap who is only too willing to provide helpful advice.

Getting to the cave entrance involves a 90 minute walk along a narrow foot track which winds its way through deep green temperate rainforest and swamps thick with tall razorgrass, over countless moss-covered logs and across a crystal clear creek with a beautiful little waterfall. By the look of the vegetation, I'd say it rains quite a lot; it certainly didn't really let off once while we were there. Even when it wasn't actually raining, everything was dripping wet, so we really appreciated having our wet weather gear. Finding the start of the walking track for the first time proved to be a bit of a problem, even with good directions and a detailed sketch map. However this very feature provides the cave with its best protection from undesirable visitors. Exit Cave may be "walk-in" cave, but a party of at least four, including experienced cavers, should definitely be aimed at for safety sake. Needless to say each member of the party should have basic caving gear, including spare lamps, plus additional warm clothing and food. I hear there are organized trips into the

cave, which mightn't be a bad idea, (contact Andrew Skinner). However, if you'd rather give these a miss, then be prepared to do some homework before setting off. Possibly contacting one or more of the Tasmanian caving clubs would be your best bet, especially if you intend to check out other Tasmanian caves such as Kubla Khan. Alternatively, talk to others who have been into Exit and obtain a large scale map of the cave. The latter is what our party of five chose to do, and we found this was adequate for our purposes, namely, a short introductory trip.

One should allow at least a full day to do Exit, and be prepared to be underground in "wet cave" conditions for more than five hours. If nothing else, Exit is a BIG cave. This fact becomes most apparent after one has been moving through the cave at a good pace for over two hours, only to discover that one is barely a quarter of the way along the main passage. One tends to become accustomed to not seeing, let alone touching the ceiling of chambers. Most of the time one is not even aware of the walls of the cave. Without a doubt, the best description of caving in Exit is "bushwalking underground".

Our party succeeded in reaching the base of "Mini Martin", an aven breaking through to the surface 620 feet (183 m) above. It had taken us four hours to reach this point, well over a kilometre into the cave, and it was near here that we stopped briefly for lunch (at 4.00 pm). We had allowed ourselves plenty of time for photography on the way in, and considering our lack of prior knowledge of the cave system, which necessitated frequent reference to the map we had for finding the route, we feel that we did a reasonable job doing a round trip in six hours. Progress in the cave ranges from easy walking along sand banks to tricky little scrambles and crawls amongst the extensive rockpiles and detours above the creek. There is, however, nothing terribly demanding. With a bit of luck one may even manage to avoid getting one's feet wet, although this depends on how much rain has fallen in the catchment just prior to the caving trip. It seems that the waterlevel in the stream passage does vary considerably, and our visit was fortunately made following a long dry period.

As far as cave formations are concerned, Exit has plenty to offer, including large areas of powdery, white "Moonmilk" (deposits believed to be caused by bacterial action) and spectacular "pendulums" (straws with blobs of moonmilk on their ends). Anyone keen on cave photography is likely to find chamber shots irresistible, and will certainly be glad they took the trouble to carry in a tripod, because multiple-flash techniques are often necessary. Another noteworthy feature of Exit Cave is the extensive and truly beautiful population of glow-worms. More than one member to our party considers the glow-worms to have been the most impressive aspect of the cave. Whilst making our way out of the cave we stopped several times to admire the glow-worms, some of which were clinging to the walls at eye level. It was the first time any of us had had an opportunity to study these fascinating creatures from close quarters and see for ourselves that they are just as their name implies - little (approx. 1 cm long) thread-like worms, with clear bodies and a portion of their internals giving off white light. I had earlier read that exposing glow-worms to bright

lights isn't good for them, so we limited ourselves to only a very brief close-up observation, spending a much longer period standing back with all lights turned off gazing at the Exit Cave equivalent of the Milky Way, and trying to find a Southern Cross on the ceiling. The return walk along the track was somewhat quicker than going in had been. A fear of leaches kept the pace brisk, and because the track is not easy to negotiate even in broad daylight, we made sure that we were back at the cars before darkness fell.

After such an initial "poke around" one is sure to want to return to Exit for a lengthier exploration. I for one am certainly looking forward to my next trip to this amazing cave.

WYANBENE CAVING TRIP

Dawn Martin.

At 7.00 am on Saturday November 24th 1979 nine eager cavers (Helaine Simons, Peter Hallahan, Chris Nicholls, Ralph Martin a novice Brisbane recruit, Jim Reid, Bob Douglas, Jeff Smith, John Masala, and Dawn Martin) made their way to Wyanbene.

Rain succeeded in making the Shoalhaven River crossing a little deeper than usual, not to mention the greasiness of the road from the river to the cave. But the mighty Subarus managed to carry the nine people plus gear from one of the more fierce bogholes (where we left the two 2WD vehicles) to the cave entrance. The comfort of this section of the journey left a little to be desired for some of the long legged passengers sitting on the seat - knees in mouth style.

The trip through the cave went particularly smoothly. While the last five were descending the first ladder pitch, the other four visited Helictite Chamber. The 'wet stretch' of the river passage was no less eventful than on previous trips - the first ones through being greatly amused by the entertaining sounds coming from Jim R. as he heaved and squeezed through the narrow stream section. At Far Ceasar's, after fun and games on the mudslide, five members of the party returned to the entrance, while Chris, Bob, John and Dawn continued on to Frustration Lake, where lunch was eaten. Soon after 5.00 pm the last of the party were back at the cars ready for the return trip over and through greasy, black soil, bogholes, and the "not too kind to 2WD vehicles" river crossing.

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CAVERNCAPERS OR LOW MOMENTS IN CAVING

Robert Douglas.

To some of us, the mention of January Long Weekends brings pleasant thoughts of Buchan. One might say that a tradition is becoming established within CTCG to head "south of the border" to spend Australia Day experiencing the delights of Victorian caves. This year was no exception, with Greg Martin, Dawn Martin, John Masala and Rob Douglas supporting CTCG's interests amongst VSA cavers and at the ASF's annual general meeting.

The trip followed the usual pattern.....We had planned to leave on Friday afternoon at 3.00 pm, but at 5.30 pm we were still to be seen at John's place doing little last minute jobs, such as constructing battery chargers and fitting lamp brackets to climbing helmets. By 8.00 pm however, we were heading out of Jindabyne after a much-appreciated meal stop. As darkness fell the Subaru and the "Mighty Mini" were pushing south along the windy dirt road through the mountains. The road, which is reminiscent of the Rules Point and Shannons Flat Roads, leads through the Kosciuszko National Park, down along the Snowy River then up through Rocky Range, past Black Mountain (another one), directly to Buchan. The worst stretch of the road is on the NSW side of the border, where landslide problems in places have necessitated diverting the road. The Victorian part of the road is wider and better maintained, but there are some amazingly sharp corners which are exceptionally good value at night.

Right in the middle of a short thunderstorm the Mini suddenly cut out and refused to restart. Everything that looked even vaguely electrical was sprayed liberally inside and out with WD40 but still "no go". After much head scratching and fiddling, the fault was finally traced to loose spark plug leads, and the car restarted immediately, once everything had been reassembled. Fortunately this business only held us up ten minutes, so we still managed to arrive in Buchan by 11.30pm, at least an hour quicker than it would have taken by the highway. At Buchan we had arranged to stay in the "Top Hut", which was empty when we arrived. We drove back into town and obtained the key from "Homeleigh", then settled down in the front room. We weren't alone for long. At about midnight the Victorians arrived en masse. The place suddenly resembled a madhouse, with laughing and shouting and believe it or not, wood chopping, in the next room, continuing till about 3.00 am. Needless to say, we were not amused.

Saturday morning dawned sunny and everyone was up and about briskly preparing breakfast bright and early. Greg and Dawn attended the AGM while John and Rob joined a Monash University club trip to Slocombes Cave in the morning and to Mabels Cave after lunch. The main attraction in Slocombes was a long high ceiled chamber with high alcoves off each side like windows, these could be reached from fissures running parallel with the main chamber. Such alcoves gave the chamber a cathedral-like appearance - most impressive. Mabels Cave was located in a cliff and had several openings, like balconies, in the cliff face. At the base of the cliff flows a river beside which grows blackberry bushes laden with ripe berries. For some of us who had forgotten to bring lunch, these were most appreciated. After a hard day of caving, it was down to the river for a swim and then back into town for a feed put on by the ASF. The dinner was a great success - second helpings of everything, lots of noise and running about and the odd flying pea. The four of us returned to Top Hut, this time to spend the evening in a much more pleasant fashion, namely, sitting in front of an open fire, polishing off a flagon of Riesling and a bottle of John's rough Red between us, whilst enjoying the soothing sounds of guitar and flute music skillfully played by members of the Victorian club. None of us had the slightest problem getting to sleep that night.

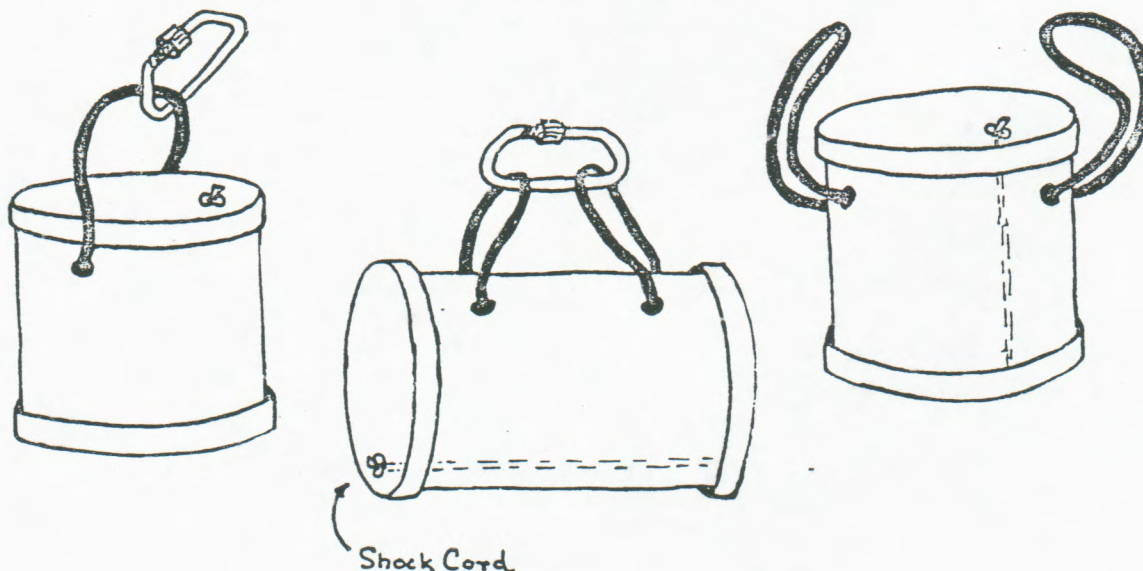
Sunday was another beautiful day, but things tended to take their time getting organized (gross understatement). Whilst Greg was occupied all morning at the second sitting of the AGM, the three of us remaining had a lot trouble stirring up some enthusiasm amongst the Victorians to do some caving. Eventually, totally disgusted, we set off with Dereck Hobbs from Sydney, in search of a cave to do at 11.30 am (after initially getting up at 8.30 am).

We did get underground, but the hole we chose only went about 20 metres and other than an awkward entrance squeeze and a room-sized chamber, had nothing to recommend it. After the meeting finished, the four of us from Canberra, along with Phillip Toomer from Sydney were taken to the entrance of Canyon Cave. This proved to be a very interesting, although somewhat humid cave, named for the narrow rift-like chambers intersecting at right angles, that make up a substantial part of the cave. Phillip was lucky that his climbing helmet landed undamaged in a pool of water after it fell down the eight metre pitch above the sump. Once back on the surface another swim in the river was needed, because Canyon Cave is particularly muddy. Our last evening at Top Hut was very peaceful, everyone being tired after the active day. We were lulled to sleep listening to Pink Floyd cassettes. Our departure from Top Hut was made without a word being spoken. No-one else in the house had stirred when we drove out the gate. We had breakfast down in the township before setting off on the return journey to Canberra. Once again we chose the dirt road, which we were keen to see in the daylight. A most enjoyable lunch/swim stop was made at the Snowy River, where we were joined for a while by Judith Bateman and Phillip Toomer. Another stop was made at Jindabyne to indulge in some more freshly baked pastry (we had had some on Friday evening). Finally it was a quick drive down the highway back to Narrabundah. As expected, it proved to be a most enjoyable and productive trip.

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A RUGGED CAMERA BOX

Brian Sullivan, April 1980.



A useful and practical solution to the problem of carrying gear in a cave environment.

The box construction is simple and it is made from PVC sewerage pipe and fittings obtainable at most plumbers suppliers. Although the box itself is not totally waterproof, the camera gear may be enclosed inside a plastic bag before being inserted into the box along with the desired amount of foam rubber padding.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS:

The body of the box consists of a piece of 4" PVC sewerage pipe cut to any desired length and two standard PVC end caps. One end cap may be glued or pressed tightly onto one end of the pipe to form a base, while the other end forms the lid or top. In order that the lid may be removed easily the outer surface of the pipe under the lid may need to be rubbed with emery paper until the lid can be rotated and pulled off easily. Some types of end caps may have a second inner flange which will need to be removed in order to gain extra internal capacity. This can be done with a hammer and chisel.

When the lid is in position it is held by a length of 3 mm elastic shock cord which is passed through holes drilled in each end cap. These holes are positioned near the perimeter so that the cord runs close to the inside surface of the pipe, thereby not obstructing the internal box capacity.

The carrying handles are made from 17 mm nylon tape and are fixed to the box by means of knots located inside holes drilled in the pipe. This arrangement ensures adequate strength without obstructing the interior space. Several variations in the positioning of the handles are possible to cater for the different carrying methods as shown.

The advantages of this type of box are its rugged construction and compact shape. It is easily carried by hand or by attaching it to the waist belt with a karabiner. Due to the close fitting end cap lid and the tension of the retaining shock cord, it is impossible for the lid to be removed by knocking or scraping against rocks. The only way the lid may be removed is by twisting and pulling it by hand. Having the lid attached to the box by the shock cord eliminates the possibility of the lid being dropped and lost.

An important advantage of this camera box is that, when attached to the waist belt, a camera may be quickly removed, used and replaced without the necessity of removing a back pack or equipment bag and disturbing other gear.

Approximate material costs:

PVC 4" sewerage pipe	-	\$6.00 per metre (minimum length)
PVC 4" end caps	-	\$4.50 each, obtainable from E.C. DOCKAR PTY. LTD. Braddon, A.C.T.
Nylon tape and shock cord	-	Approximately \$1.00 per metre from PADDY PALLINS.

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FIRST AID FOR SNAKE BITE IN AUSTRALIA

Some Facts on Snakebite:

1. At least 95% of bites occur on the limbs. Perhaps 75% involve the lower limb.
2. Sometimes no venom is injected, even if fangs have made holes in the skin.
3. The venom is injected quite deeply. It was shown many years ago that very little venom is removed by incision or excision.
4. Recent research has shown that firm pressure applied over the bitten area significantly delays the movement of venom. When pressure is combined with immobilizing the limb very little venom reaches the blood stream.

Therefore rational first aid is:

1. Immediately apply a broad firm bandage around the limb to cover the bitten area. It should be as tight as one would bind a strained ankle. As much of the limb should be bound up as possible. Crepe bandages are ideal but any flexible material can be used, e.g. tear up clothing or old towels into strips.
2. The limb must be kept as still as possible. Bind some type splint to the limb - e.g. piece of timber, spade, any rigid object.
3. Bring transport to the victim whenever possible.
4. Leave the bandages and splint on until medical care is reached.

Do not cut or excise the bitten area.

Arterial tourniquets are no longer recommended for snake bite.

Don't wash the bitten area. The snake involved may be identified by the detection of venom on the skin.

If the snake can be safely killed bring it into the hospital with the victim.

How to Avoid Snakebite:

1. Leave snakes alone.
2. Wear stout shoes and adequate clothing in 'snake country'.
3. Never put hands in hollow logs or thick grass without prior inspection.
4. Always use a torch around camps and farm-houses at night - most snakes are active on summer nights.

[illegible]

capital territory caving group

PERSONAL DETAILS FORM.



NAME: (Surname).....
(Christian Names)
(Preferred Name)

ADDRESS:

POST CODE

DATE OF BIRTH:

TELEPHONE: (Home).....(Work)

NEXT OF KIN:

ADDRESS:

MEDICAL STATUS.

CONFIDENTIAL - In case of accident only -

Do you suffer from any chronic disease or disability?

e.g. (Epilepsy, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure etc.)

DETAILS:

Do you suffer from Claustrophobia or fear of heights etc?

Do you need to take any medication regularly?

DETAILS:

Do you have any allergies (e.g. to Penicillin)?

.....

Who is your Medical Practitioner?

Address:

What is your blood group?

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP

EXPERIENCE DETAILS

Caving Experience;.....

Previous/Present Club Memberships:

.....

Special Abilities/Skills:

.....

other comments;

.....

CERTIFICATION

I hereby agree to obey the rules of the Capital Territory Caving Group as outlined in the official Constitution. I also certify that the details given in this application are true and correct.

SIGNED

(applicant)

WITNESSED

(introducer)

CAPITAL TERRITORY CAVING GROUP
AUGUST TRIP LIST

Trip Co-ordinator : Bryan Sullivan (W476044 H864327) is the T/C and as such will maintain a list of trips and trip leaders so that if you are unable to contact a trip leader (T/L) , Brian will act as contact person.

August

- 2/8-3/8 - Wee Jasper : (T/L Russell Dempsey)(W485211) A visit to Dip cave in an attempt to push Russels dig, and a possible trip into Punchbowl. Be prepared for ladder/S.R.T. and don't forget your first aid kit and spare light sources.
- 9/8-10/8 - Big Hole : (T/L Ted Garnett) A combined ladder/S.R.T. assault on a collapsed chamber? about 50M in diameter and 110M deep, Located upstream from Wychibene. Bring all your gear, including the first aid kit. (more like a body bag).
- 13/8 - Bruce Lever : A meeting with the Regional Director NP who will discuss the new Kosciucko N.P. management plan and its impact on cavers - an essential meeting for all cavers who want to continue caving in N.P.'s. Venue and time to be announced.
- 16/8-17/8 - Yarrangobilly (T/L Jim Reid) And speaking of N.P.'s. Visiting saddle creek Dig, the pine forest series, Brusier Pot and Coppermine. Bring ladders/S.R.T. gear as well as your first aid kit and spare light sources.
- 21/8 - Monthly Meeting : To be held at Sandy Fristad's residence, 14 Brommell Crt, Wanniassa, at 8PM. Care and maintainance of wet cell and carbide lamps and control of haemorrhages will be discussed and Spanish caving slides shown.
- 23/8-24/8 - Speleosport : (T/L Greg Martin) W466174 H885861) Held at Macquarie Uni in Sydney - two days of cave sports and workshops with a Saturday evening Speleo dinner (\$6 for all the buns you can throw) A chance to show the Sydney experts what REAL CAVERS can do.

September

- 6/9 - 7/9 - St John Ambulance Certificate Course.
- ? - ? - Buchan : (T/L John Masala W652502 H959442) - A beautiful caving area about 5 hours south of Canberra in South Eastern Victoria - A "must Go" trip not to be missed - Vertical and horizontal caving.