

DIVING AT COCKLEBIDDY CAVE

Ron Allum

Abstract

Cocklebidy Cave (Western Australia) lies 200 km west of the South Australian border on the Nullarbor Plain. It is mostly waterfilled and represents the world's longest cave dive. In September 1982 an Australian diving expedition had increased the known length to 4.3km. This was extended to 5.85km in September 1983 by a French expedition led by F. Leguen, using motorised underwater scooters and lightweight equipment. The French party regarded the prospects for further extension as poor, since the hitherto wide passage had become rather constricted.

The following month, October 1983, a team consisting of Hugh Morrison, Ron Allum and Peter Rogers with 11 supporting divers made a further attempt on the cave using only manual power. They established a camp at Toad Hall, a large air-filled chamber 4.3 km into the cave, and dived from there to the constriction which had stopped the French team. From this point Hugh Morrison continued using only one air cylinder, and continued a further 240m. He was stopped only by shortage of air. The explored length of Cocklebidy now stands at 6.09km, and the only barrier to further exploration is the logistic problem of carrying air cylinders through the constriction.

(The full text of this paper is in Australian Caver No.109, pp 2-5.)

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITION TO THE GUNNUNG SEWU KARST, JAVA, INDONESIA.

Wayne Tyson

Abstract

In August 1984, six members of the Western Australian Speleological Group joined six members of the Kingswod Caving Group (UK) in Java, and with the assistance of the Federation of Indonesian Speleological Activities explored and mapped approximately 20km of cave passage in a period of 3 weeks.

Many large river passages were found and a fair mixture of vertical and horizontal systems. The highlight of the expedition was the discovery of Luwang Jaran (Horse Pot) which was surveyed for 11km with many leads still going. This is now the longest cave in Indonesia. Six other caves over 1km long were found.

The potential for further exploration in Java is enormous, despite bureaucratic difficulties. A return expedition is planned for 1983.

BENUA CAVE, KERIACA PLATEAU, BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Ian D. Wood

Abstract

Benua Cave is situated in the Keriaka Limestone plateau above the west coast of Bougainville Island. It was first reported by pilots during World War II and first visited speleologically by Fred Parker in 1963. The North Solomons Cave Exploration Group made a three-day visit to the cave in order to make an accurate survey. The cave consists of a single chamber, 470m along its longest length, with a maximum width of 150m and height of 170m. A river estimated at 3m/s rises at the foot of a 100m sheer wall and flows out of the entrance. The cave contains an 18m tall stalagmite of impressive proportions. Side passages can be seen at high level but would require mechanical aids to reach.

(The full text of this paper will appear in the Australian Caver.)