

# *SPELEOTEC 1987*



*16TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE  
AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL  
FEDERATION INC.*



**SPELEOTEC '87**

**GUIDEBOOK**

**A guide to the 16th Biennial Conference of the  
Australian Speleological Federation Inc.**

**Edited by: Ian Mann**

**Published by: Speleotec '87 Organizing Committee**

**On behalf of: Australian Speleological Federation Inc.  
P.O. Box 388, Broadway NSW 2007**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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All NSW clubs for their assistance in supplying information

Macquarie University Sports Union and Macquarie University Caving Group for their assistance in providing the conference venue.

TIME	0900-0930	0930-1000	1000-1030	1030-1100	1100-1130	1130-1200	1200-1230	1230-1330	1400-1430	1430-1500	1500-1530	1530-1600	1600-1630	Evening
DAY	REGISTRATION AT CAVERS COTTAGE													
Sunday	Barbque													
Monday	Committee meeting registration (contd)			Committee meeting registration (contd)			The caves of NSW Development of Public and Private <del>periods</del> J. Dunkley		Field trip out-lines J. Williams					
Tuesday	Restoration of Yallingup Cave N. Poulter	E. Crabb	Conservation of Vic. Cave Fauna N&S. White	MORNING	Australian Speleological Expeditions to Thailand J. Dunkley K. Kiernan	Cave oxidation & occurrence of rainwater inflows K. Williamson	Caves & Cave exploration in N.Z. S. Cade	L	opening	Wilderness Myths & Aust. Caves (workshop) E. Hamilton-Smith <i>Chelvey - Stone Mount</i>	Cave photography (workshop)		slide competition	
Wednesday	Field Trip			Field Trip			Field Trip		Field Trip		Field Trip			
Thursday	Expectations of classification & management of Vic Caves N. White	What to do in event of a cave accident A. Osborne	Clean up of Weebie N. Poulter	THE AFTERNOON	The fight to save Mt Etna Caves from Mining J. Vavryn <i>11-30 Trail marking and cave designation N. Poulter</i>	Speleo-Sports	Speleo Sports	C	Speleo Sports	Speleo Sports	Speleo sports		Dinner	
Friday	Dinner recovery	1987 SUSS expedition to Mt. Anne P. Larkin & D. Hobbs	Vicarious caving through literature S. White	H	Cave Rescue and SRT workshop						Tropicon 1989 C. Parr		Close	
Saturday	COMMITTEE MEETING (Part 2) at Sports Centre - below Cavers Cottage & Campsite													

## FORWARD

This publication is prepared as a guidebook for Speleotec '87 the 16th Biennial Conference Inc., held at Macquarie University, Sydney during the period January 4 - 11, 1987.

The guidebook is divided into three sections:

- SECTION 1        contains everything you wanted to know but were not game to ask
- SECTION 2        contains field trip information which is intended as a guide only and as such does not attempt to document all caves but rather list further references where relevant information is available
- SECTION 3        contains all the abstracts (available at time of printing)

N.B. If you lose this guidebook or require further copies they will be for sale at the registration desk for \$8.00 each.

## SECTION 1

- Dates:** Conference - Sunday January 4 to Sunday January 11, 1987  
Field trips - see Section 2
- Registration:** The office will be located at the 'Cavers Cottage' (fig i) and will be opened at the following times:
- |             |                                       |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 4    | 1.30 pm - 7.00 pm                     |
| Monday 5    | 8.30 am - 12.30 pm; 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm |
| Tuesday 6   | 8.00 am - 8.45 am; 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm  |
| Wednesday 7 | 8.00 am - 8.45 am; 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm  |
| Thursday 8  | 8.00 am - 8.45 am; 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm  |
| Friday 9    | 8.00 am - 8.45 am                     |
- Sessions:** The venue for the committee meeting on Monday morning and for all Speleotec sessions will be the top floor of the Union building at Macquarie University (fig i). Enter via Culloden Road gate and park in parking area near gymnasium or park in car park E3.
- Speleosports:** This will be run in area around the gymnasium (fig i).
- Accommodation:** Camping at 'Cavers Cottage' (see registration desk before occupying site). Other accommodation as previously arranged. N.B. No open fires in camping area.
- Icebreaker Barbeque:** This will be held at 'Cavers Cottage' from 6.30 pm on Sunday January 4. The cost is \$4 (if you have not already paid) and BYOG applies.
- Conference dinner:** To be held on the top floor of the Union building on Thursday night. Cost is \$15/head (unless you have paid already). A licensed bar will operate opening at 7.00 pm, with dinner at 7.30 pm. Results of Speleosports and ASF Inc. awards winners will be announced. Guest speaker will be Janeen Grimes.
- Slide Competition:** Slides will be shown on Tuesday night and winners announced
- Proceedings:** As mentioned in earlier correspondence papers not handed in by the conclusion of the conference will not be published. The proceedings will be sent to all those that have ordered them. Orders at \$15/copy will be accepted at the registration desk.

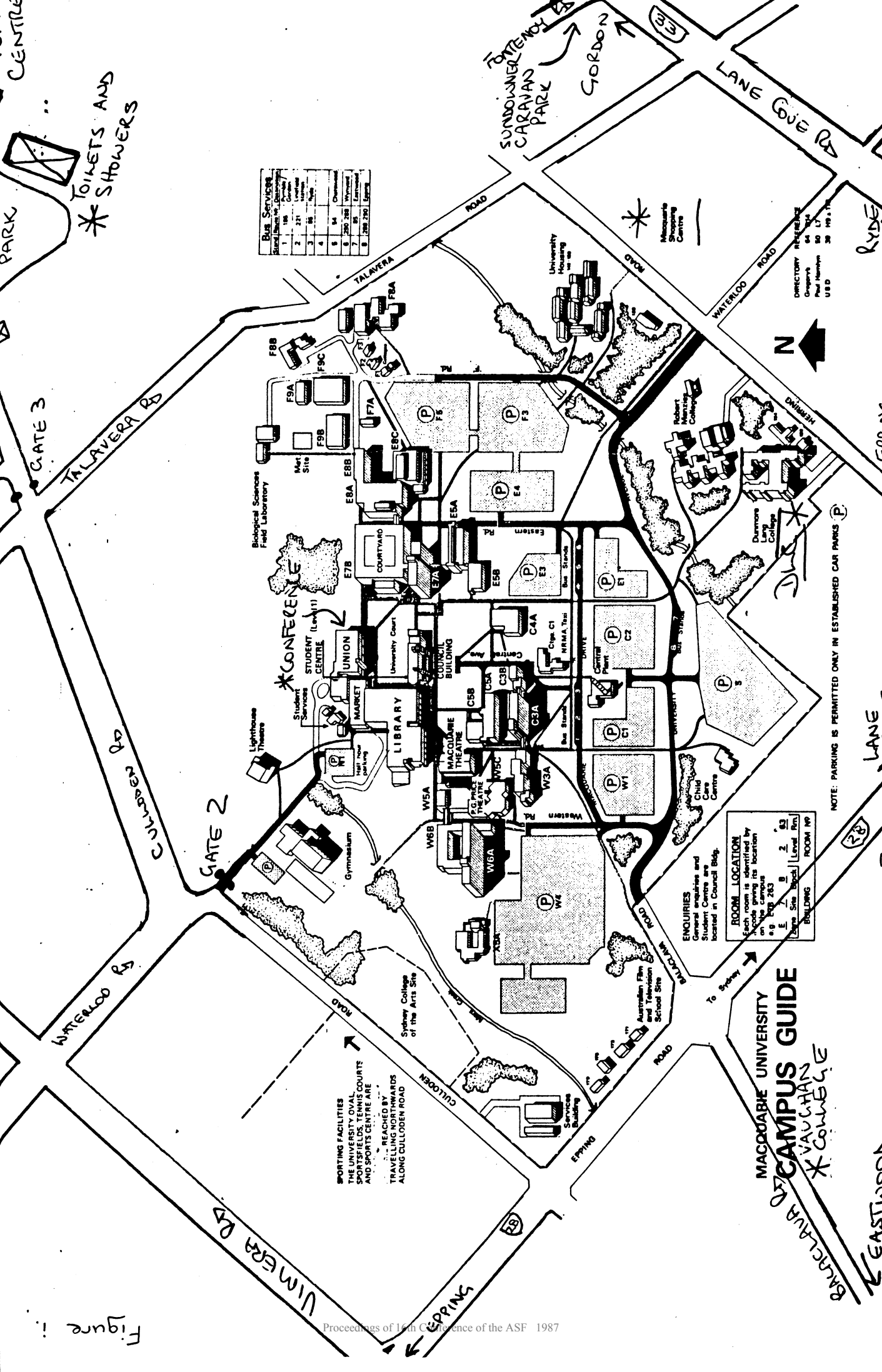


Figure 1



## SECTION 2

The field trip areas have been organized into six main regions and the caving areas split into these. The six regions are:

- i. Northern  
covering Yessabah, Kunderang, Stockyard Creek and Moparabah.
- ii. Central  
covering Cliefden, Abercrombie, Borenore, Wellington, Walli, Bakers Swamp, Canomodine and Limekilns
- iii. Blue Mountains  
covering Jenolan, Tuglow, Colong, Church Creek, Billy Creek, Canyoning and Wombeyan
- iv. Southern Tablelands  
covering Bungonia, Bendethera, Wyanbene and Marble Arch
- v. South West  
covering Wee Jasper and Narragullen
- vi. Snowy Mountains  
covering Yarrangobilly and Cooleman

During your visit to a caving area it is most important that you comply with all permit restrictions that apply (the trip leader can inform you of these). You are expected to provide all your own camping gear, caving gear and tackle.

The organizers will not provide any caving gear but Macquarie University Caving Group will be hiring out ladders, batteries and helmets. This can be arranged either privately with them or at the conference.

If you have further queries regarding the field trip contact the convener, field trip co-ordinator or the registration desk.

### Field Trip Organization

All trips are under the jurisdiction of:

1. Field Trip Co-ordinator: John Williams  
161 Hill End Road  
Doonside NSW 2767  
Home phone: (02) 6714365
  2. Conference Convener: Ian Mann  
28 Stephen Street  
Lawson NSW 2783  
Home phone: (047) 591890
  3. Area Co-ordinators: to be advised at conference
- A. **Pre Conference Trips: Monday December 29 to Saturday January 3**  
These will run to areas if the need warrants it. In order that the necessary arrangements can be organized the convener must be notified

2 weeks prior to the trip. He will then arrange for a trip leader and contact the local authorities. These will only be run if there are sufficient numbers to justify them.

- B. Mid Week Conference Trip: Wednesday January 7** Weather permitting, this will be a canyon trip to the Blue Mountains consisting of 2 trips (each having a maximum number of 30 persons).

Trip 1 Claustal Canyon: This is a moderate to hard canyon with 3 abseils (approx. 10 m). It consists of a relatively easy walk followed by the abseils and then a 100 m swim followed by an arduous walk out (total time approx. 5 hours). This trip will consist of 5 parties of 6 persons (1 leader and 5 others) entering the canyon at staggered intervals. As the canyon can be dangerous the following prerequisites are a MUST!

- i. ability to abseil and your abseiling equipment
- ii. ability to swim
- iii. a wet suit or warm clothing as the swim can be cold (even in mid summer)

If there are more than 30 people wishing to do this trip the participants will be chosen at the organizer's discretion.

Trip 2 Wollangambe Canyon: This ~~is~~ an easy to moderate canyon with no abseils. This trip will consist of 3 parties of 12 each (2 leaders and 10 others). For this trip a moderate degree of fitness is required together with the ability to swim. A lilo would be advantageous as there is a fair amount of swimming.

Both trips will leave Macquarie University at 6.30 am, by chartered coach, returning at about 6.30 pm. The cost for these trips will be approximately \$6/head (to cover the cost of coach hire).

- C. Post Conference Trips: Monday January 12-Sunday January 18** For these trips the following arrangements have been made:

- i. Northern: As for pre-conference trips
- ii. Central: Area co-ordinator will be based at the shearers quarters at Cliefden for this period.
- iii. Blue Mountains: Area co-ordinator to be based at Jenolan for whole week
- iv. Southern Tablelands: as for pre-conference trips
- v. South West: as for pre-conference trips
- vi. Snowy Mountains: as for pre-conference trips.

N.B. Owing to shortage of leaders and in order that better trips can be run it would be preferable for participants to attend field trips in the Central and Blue Mountains regions.

## D. Areas in Detail

1. **Northern NSW:** As this area is diverse in terms of caves available there will be no central base.

**Location:** the Macleay Valley is situated on the mid north coast of NSW. The most important town is Kempsey which is 466 km north of Sydney on the Pacific Highway. The limestone outcrops in an arc which commences about 16 km south of Kempsey and continues to 56 km west of Kempsey (Fig ii).

**General Cave Description:** Kunderang and Moparabah are in steep country with 4WD access only, the longest cave being 500 m. Stockyard Creek has about 30 small caves, mostly in thick bush, in steep country and hard to find without a guide. Yessabah has about 80 caves all of which take about 2 hours being mostly dry and dusty (access Saturday and Sunday only).

### References and further Reading:

White, N. (1972). The Macleay River Limestone Belt J.Syd.Speleo.Soc. 16(9):239-50.

Holberton, P. (ed) (1985). Special Yessabah Edition 'Trog' 21(6): 1-57.

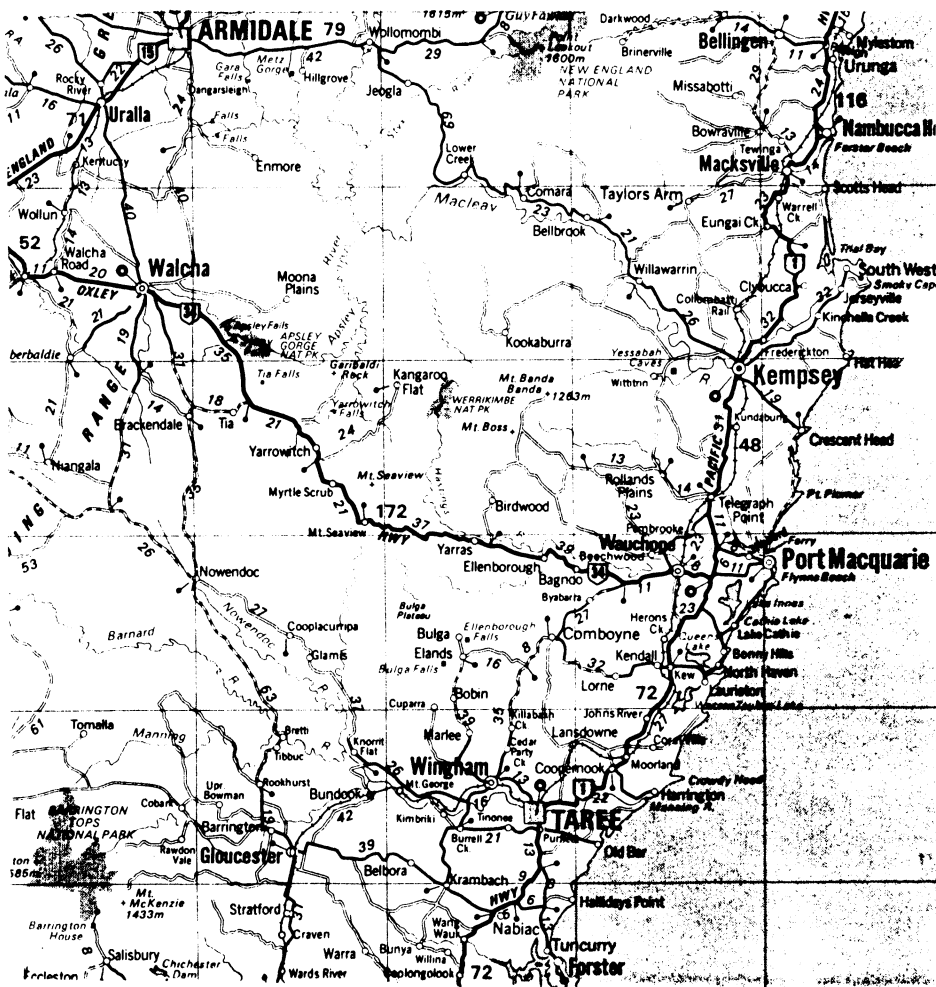


FIGURE ii

2. **Central Region:** This information applies to post trips only. For pre-trips contact the convener.

Base camp: will be the shearer's quarters at Cliefden (Fig iii). The area co-ordinator will be based here.

- a. Cliefden is situated approximately 300 km from Sydney, 65 km from Bathurst on the mid Western Highway. Drive through Blayney and turn off at Mandurama, travel 15 km and take Kalimna turnoff to the right. Follow detailed map to shearer's quarters. The caves in this area are on private property and access is controlled by Orange Speleological Society (Fig 111 and iv).

Facilities and General Cave Description: Cliefden is located on 4 properties. Camping will be around the shearer's quarters on Boonderoo property, owned by the Dunhill family. The caves generally are not vertical, although a few require ladders. Some of the larger caves, e.g. Main, contain nice helectites and dog tooth spur as well as excellent mud. They are generally not 'sporting' caves.

Some local conditions need to be observed:

- i. Check whether you need drinking water with the area co-ordinator.
  - ii. As it is mid-summer there is a total fire ban. Gas fires are allowed on the verandah of the shearer's quarters. Please do not smoke out in the paddocks.
  - iii. Accommodation is by tent camping around the shearer's quarters.
  - iv. All cars should be parked near the old wheat silo when travelling out towards Main, Murder, Lock etc. The road past here is easily damaged.
  - v. Camping fees are \$2 for the first night and \$1 after that.
  - vi. As it is on private property people are asked not to poke around where it may not be appreciated and to maintain reasonable road speeds.
  - vii. Blayney is the nearest Hotel/Motel accommodation. Mandurama has a general store.
- b. Abercrombie is located approximately 80 km from Cliefden. It can be done as a day trip from Cliefden or there is a commercial caravan park/camping area at the caves. The area is under the control of the NSW Department of Tourism and permits are required before going caving. The conference's permit only covers the duration of the conference trips (Fig iv).

There is a commercial caravan park with full amenities (fee charged). Again no open fires permitted and there are no stores nearby so bring your own food etc. Tourist caves are open for inspection (fee charged).

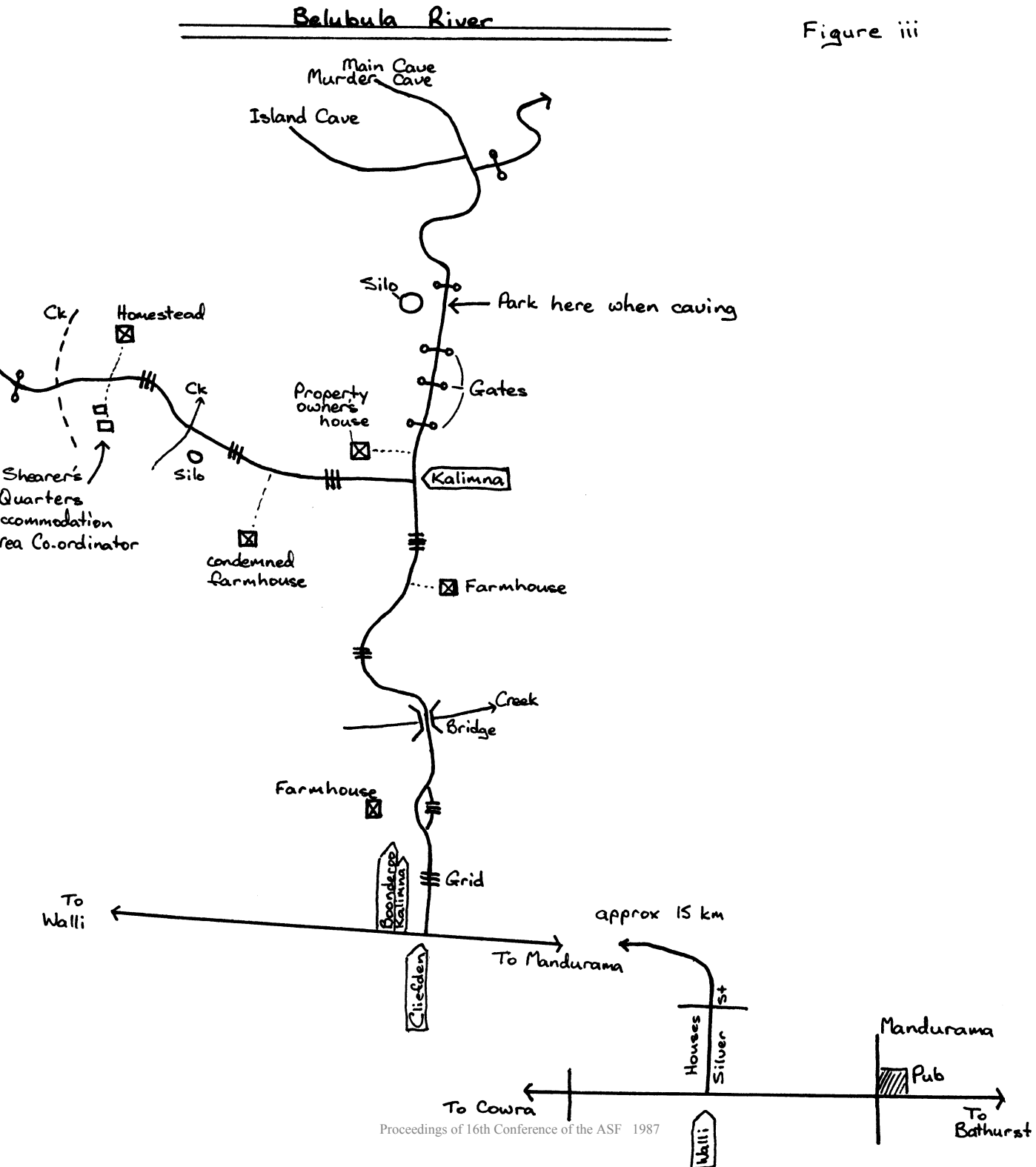
General Cave Description: There are over 60 known caves in the area, however they are small and mostly silted. As this is a permit access only area trips will be with experienced leaders only. Although this is not a major caving area it is a pleasant spot to camp with many scenic areas to visit within a short drive.

References and Further Reading:

Bates, G. (1982). The Abercrombie Caves

Frank, R. & Jennings, J.N. (1978). Development of a Subterranean Meander Cutoff: The Abercrombie Caves, NSW. 'Helictite', 16(2):71-85

- c. Other Areas: Within the Central region there are other small caving areas. These show no real development but could be worth a day trip from base camp and details may be obtained from the area co-ordinator. These areas are: Borenore, Wellington, Bakers Swamp, Limekilns, Conomadine and Walls.







3. **Blue Mountains Region:** This information covers post-trips only, for pre-trips contact convenor.

This region covers a vast terrain of caving areas and other activities. As such it is expected that this will be one of the most popular regions for field trips.

- a. Jenolan Caves and Tuglow Caves are located approximately 200 km from Sydney via the Great Western Highway. As well as caving trips several canyon trips will be run for those interested. The area co-ordinator for the Blue Mountains regions will be based at Jenolan (Fig iv & v).
- b. Colong, Billy Creek and Church Creek are located in the same general area as Tuglow but access is via Oberon (Fig iv). Trips to these area will be run from Jenolan if the need arises.

Facilities: Camping accommodation is available at all areas with only limited amenities available. The nearest shops are at Oberon so bring all your food etc. with you. Again as with other areas it is most likely that a fire ban will be in force so no open fires. The camp site at Jenolan has one cold shower but the other sites only have basic pit toilets.

General: The size of caving parties in the region will be 12 maximum (11 plus a leader) and as a result of this those participating will be at the discretion of the area co-ordinator. Examples of trips that may be run in this region are historical tours, Jenolan Caves familiarisation, surveying trips, Tuglow Cave familiarisation trips and canyoning trips in the Kanangra Walls area.

General Cave Description:

- a. Jenolan Caves are situated in a thin band of limestone approximately 5 km long and extending roughly north south along the Jenolan Valley. The caves are dry and mainly horizontal. The largest non-tourist cave is Mammoth Cave which has about 5 km of cave passage and contains all the ingredients for a great trip; nice climbs, interesting squeezes, good formations, a swiftly flowing and cold river and large caverns to behold.

Wiburds Lake cave is another extensive cave, however it is much easier than Mammoth with wide easy walking passages.

Exploration and surveying is still being undertaken at Jenolan and new extensions to caves are occasionally discovered.

The Jenolan Valley itself is also quite beautiful and a quiet day stroll to its northern end is very rewarding.

References and Further Reading:

- Dunkley, J.R. & Anderson, E.G. (1971). The Exploration and Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave Jenolan. SRC: Sydney 53pp.  
 Welch, B.R.(ed) (1976) The Caves of Jenolan, 2: The Northern Limestone. SUSS and SRC: Sydney 131 pp.  
 Dunlop, B.T. (1969) Jenolan Caves. Dept of Tourism NSW: Sydney (7th edition) 88 pp.



Hauard, W.L. (1934). The Romance of Jenolan Caves. J. Roy. Aust. Hist.Soc. xx(1): 18-65.

Trickett, O. (1899). Guide to the Jenolan Caves, NSW. Government Printer: Sydney 63 pp.

Cox, G & Welch, B.R. (1984). Spider Cave, Jenolan - a Fault Controlled System Helictite 22(2): 43-53.

- b. Tuglow Cave is located by turning off the Kanangra Walls road after Jenolan. Permits from the NPWS are required for entry. Pre-conference trips will be run from the Jenolan base.

General Description: Although relatively short the cave is well decorated with some vertical work required for entry. There is also one ladder pitch further into the cave.

The cave descends steeply until it reaches a streamway. Proceeding upstream for a considerable distance will bring you to a spectacular waterfall and good decoration. Negotiating the streamway requires some wide bridging and a little climbing. Remember that the water is quite cold.

- c. Colong Cave is located in the Kanangra Boyd National Park and is reached by proceeding via Oberon and Mt Werong (Fig iv).

Similar arrangements to Tuglow Cave will exist for trips except trips to this area will be overnight camping trips.

#### References and Further Reading:

##### Colong

Middleton, G. (1967). An historical background to Colong Caves. In R. Ellis, L. Hawkins and R. Hawkins (eds) Communications Occasional Paper, 2:1-10.

Battye, B. (1964). Colong Caves. Anthodite, 2:18-29.

##### Church Creek

Battye, B. (1984). Church Creek Caves, NSW. Anthodite, 2:2-7.

Gibbens, A. (1975). Church Creek Caves. Kensington Rover Crew Sydney, 71 pp.

Middleton, G. (1968). Church Creek. Stop Press, 12(8):134-40.

##### Billys Creek

Kates, G. (1984). Report on Billys Creek Caves. Anthodite, 2:8-17.

Middleton, G. (1967). Billys Creek Area. Stop Press, 11(2):21.

Figure v.

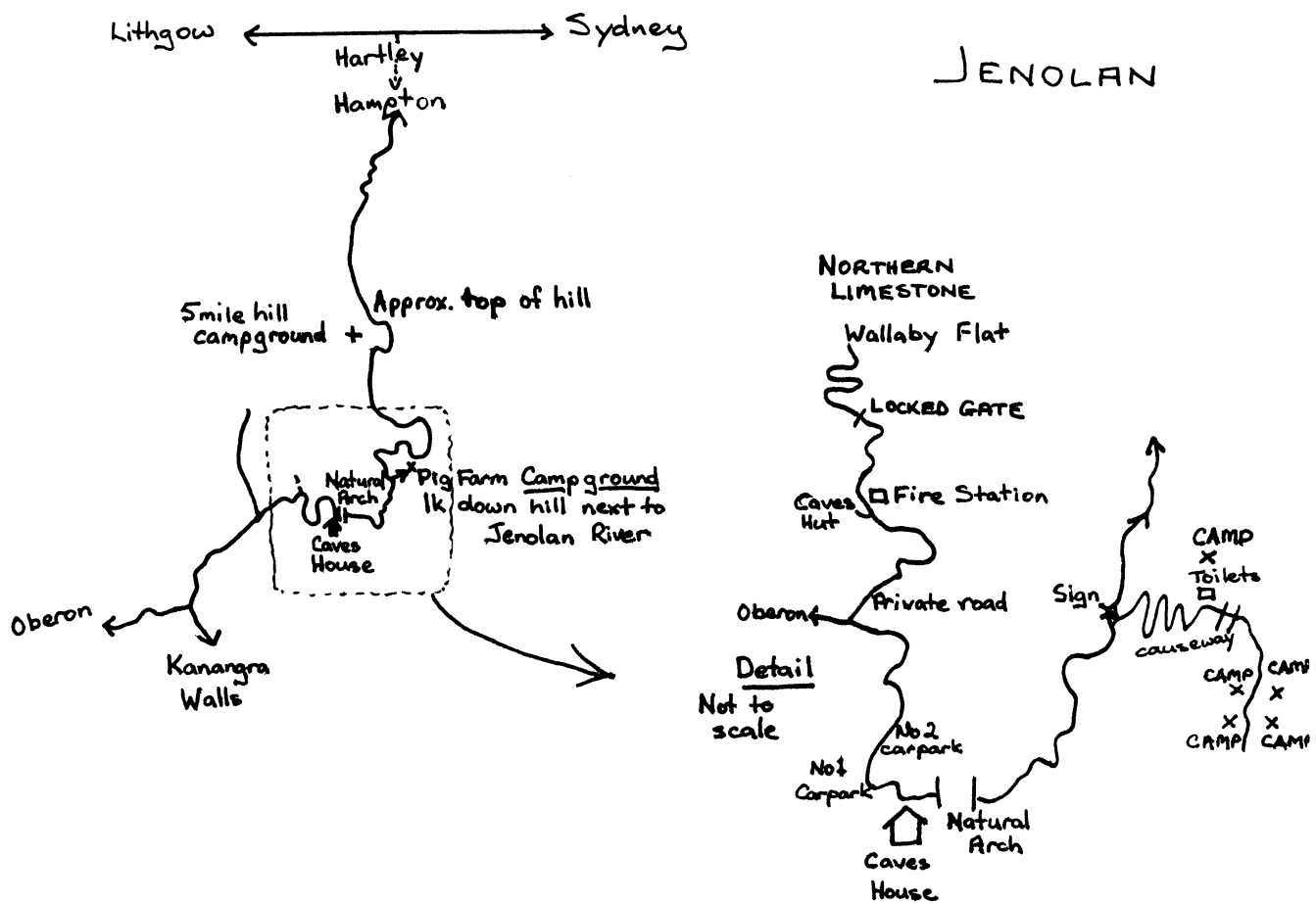
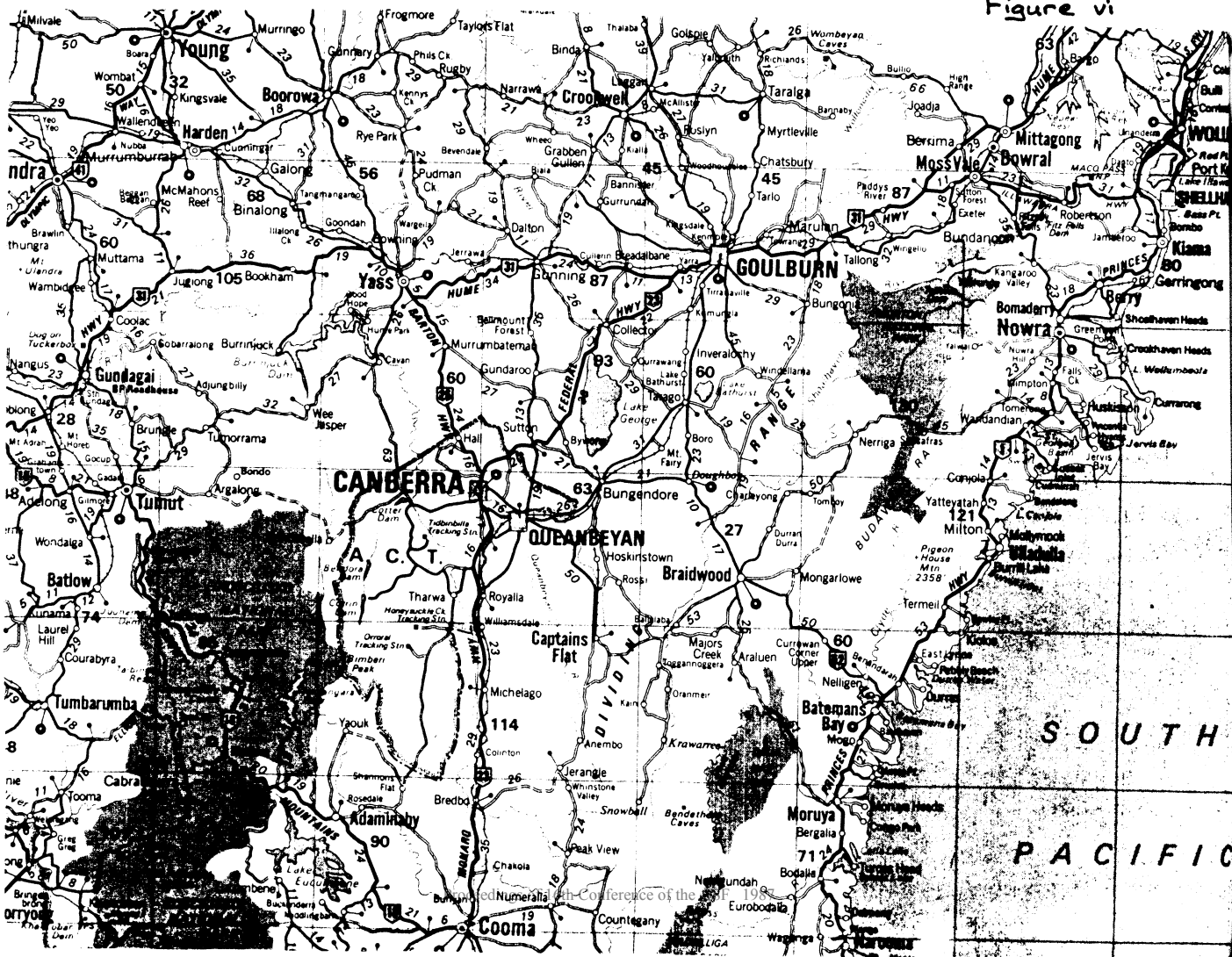


Figure vi



#### 4. Southern Tablelands

Trips to caving areas in this region will be run only if the need warrants it, for both pre and post conference trips. If you wish to go to an area contact the convener and if there are sufficient numbers a trip will be arranged.

It is preferable if people concentrate on Blue Mountains or Central Regions.

##### Area and General Description:

- a. Bendethra Caves are located in the southern portion of Deua National Park between Deua and the Shoalhaven Rivers. A six hour drive is required to reach the area. The closest town to the area is Moruya which is reached after a four hour drive from Sydney on the Princes Highway. From Moruya a two hour drive west into Deua National Park is required.

A 4WD vehicle with low range capacity is required to gain access to the area. Permits must be obtained from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Good camping sites are available adjacent to the Deua River. No facilities.

The area contains approximately 50 caves with an equal division between vertical and horizontal. Worthwhile caves to visit include Windlass Pit, Main and River Cave.

- b. Wyanbene Caves are located near the western boundary of Deua National Park on the eastern side of the Shoalhaven River. The area is reached via a five hour drive from Sydney and is located approximately 50 km south of Braidwood near Gundillion on the Braidwood-Nimmitabel Road.

The area is readily accessed by 2WD vehicles. Good camping sites are available within Deua National Park. However, individuals should supply their own water. Permits from NPWS must be obtained.

The two caves that should be visited in the area are Wyanbene Main and Ridge Mine Pot. Wyanbene Main is a horizontal river cave with approximately 2 km of passage.

- c. Marble Arch and Big Hole are located 10 km north of Wyanbene. These areas are located within Deua National Park and the National Parks and Wildlife Service has provided camping sites near Shoalhaven River.

The Big Hole is a 2 km walk from the camp site and consists of a 120 metre deep hole in sandstone where large chambers in the underlying limestone have collapsed.

Marble Arch is a 2 to 3 hour walk from the camp-site. However, limited vehicular access may be possible. The area contains a through river cave with a limestone canyon and caves in its walls. Two caves worthy of visiting that are in excess of 100 metres in length are Moodong and Thermocline Cave.

- d. Bungonia Caves are located approximately 200 km (3 hour drive) south-west of Sydney. The area is located within a State Recreation

Area controlled by the NPWS. No permits are required but camping fees are charged. Most camping sites are provided with water. Toilet, shower and cooking facilities are provided.

The area contains in excess of 150 caves which range from sub-horizontal requiring little to no equipment to vertical requiring extensive SRT gear. Easy caves include Grill, Fossil-Hogans and Blowfly. Narrow, inclined technical caves include Phoenix, the B4/s Extension and Hollands Hole. Technical Vertical systems include Argyle Hole and Acoustic Pot. Drum Cave should not be visited at the time of the conference due to the fact that it is one of the principal bat maternity caves in the region.

#### References and Further Reading:

##### Bungonia

Ellis, R. et al (eds) (1972). Bungonia Caves. Sydney Speleological Society: Sydney 230 pp.

James, J.M., Francis, G. & Jennings, J.N. (1978). Bungonia Caves and Gorge: A New View of their Geology and Geomorphology. Helictite 16(2): 53-63.

James, J. & Montgomery, N. (1973). The way to Ithaca (Recent discovers in Odyssey Cave (B24), Bungonia). J. Syd. Speleol. Soc., 17 (11):299-306.

##### Marble Arch, Big Hole and Wyanbene

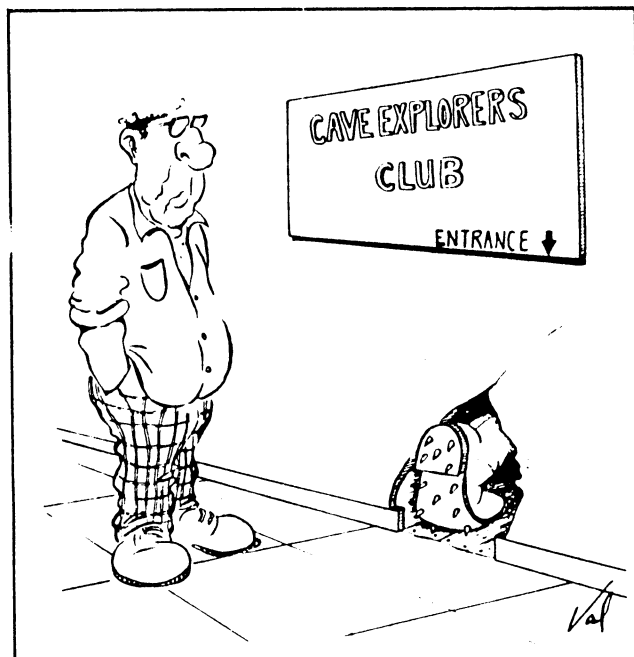
Bell, M.W.(1970). Wyanbene Cave. Speleograffiti, 7(2): 12-19.

Jennings, J.N. (1966). The Big Hole near Braidwood, NSW. J. and Proc. Roy. Soc. NSW, 98:215-219.

Jennings, J.N. (1967). Further Remarks on the Big Hole, near Braidwood, NSW. Helictite, 6(1):3-9.

Nicoll, R.S. & Brush, J.B.(eds) (1976). Guidebook to the Caves of Southeastern New South Wales and Eastern Victoria. ASF: Canberra 85 pp.

Nicoll, R.S., Spate, A.P. & Brush, J.B. (1975). Preliminary report on the geology and geomorphology of the Marble Arch Cave area, NSW. In A.W.Graham (ed) Proc. 10th Bienn, Con. ASF. ASF:Sydney 175 pp.



## 5. South West

There is no permit system operating in these areas and if you wish to go to them you should make your own arrangements.

- a. Wee Jasper is located in the lower reach of the Goodradigbee Valley and extends 8 km north and 4 km south of the Wee Jasper post office. The southern arm of the limestone extends up the Wee Jasper Creek for about 1 km.

North of Wee Jasper most of the caves are small, and many are joint or bedding plane controlled. Some larger caves are developed in small limestone reefs near the top of the limestone. Carey's Cave is a compact, well decorated, commercially developed cave located 6 km north from the Wee Jasper P.O. The cave is worth a visit.

South of Wee Jasper caves are concentrated in two areas, the Thermal Paddock and Wee Jasper Creek. Caves in the Thermal Paddock are mostly small and are not considered here. The Wee Jasper Creek caves include Dip Cave and the Punchbowl-Signature-Dogleg Cave System and show primarily horizontal development with interconnecting vertical passages. Descriptions of these caves are given below.

The two largest cave systems at Wee Jasper, The Dip and Punchbowl Caves, are probably as well surveyed and documented as any cave system in Australia (Jennings, 1963, 1964) and as such are well worth the attention of speleologists. They are also possibly the two most heavily used non-developed caves in the country and as such provide a useful training ground for scouting and other similar groups.

Accommodation and Provisions: Camping is available along Wee Jasper Creek near Punchbowl Hill. The Shire collects a small fee for camping. Bring your own water. Petrol and some supplies may be purchased at the Somerset Caravan Park and the Wee Jasper store but major purchase should be made in Canberra or Yass.

### References and Further Reading

Nicoll, R.S. & Brush, J.B. (eds) (1976) Guidebook to the Caves of Southeastern New South Wales and Eastern Victoria . ASF:Canberra 85 pp.

Jennings, J.N. (1985). Wee Jasper Caves. JRC: Sydney 46 pp.

- b. Narrangullen Cave is the largest cave in the Teamas and Warroo areas. It is an intermittent stream cave developed along a synclinal axis in tightly folded limestone. On the shores of Burrinjuck Dam, it can be reached either by boat from Goodhope, or by driving in through Narrangullen property. It is mostly a spacious stream cave accessible at both ends. Due to a number of sumps, a through trip is not possible, except perhaps in periods of extreme drought.

### References and Further Reading:

Nicoll, R.S. & Brush, J.B. (eds) (1976) Guidebook to the Caves of Southeastern New South Wales and Eastern Victoria . ASF:Canberra 85 pp.

## 6. Snowy Mountains

Accommodation and Provisions: Camping is available at Blue Waterholes and Yarrangobilly village. Cottrills cottage will not be used for sleeping accommodation (i.e. bring a tent). Some provisions and petrol can be obtained at Cabramurra and Talbingo, but major supplies should be obtained in Canberra, Tumut or Adaminably before reaching the area. There will be no water problem if it is a normal year but in a dry year water may be in short supply in some parts of the area. Remember that the Kiandra Pub is closed - no beer, no petrol.

- a. Yarrangobilly Cave area is located along the valley of the Yarrangobilly River in the northern part of the Kosciusko National Park. Access to the area is by way of the Snowy Mountains Highway from Cooma or Tumut. The caves are developed in the Yarrangobilly Limestone of Silurian Age.

The Yarrangobilly River has deeply entrenched itself in the southern part of the area where limestone cliffs may be more than 100 m high and local relief from the limestone plateau to the river is about 200 m. In the village area the river is entrenched only a few meters.

The entrenchment of the river has meant that the active stream caves also quickly seek the river level. Thus caves along the eastern margin of the limestone are characterised by steeply descending collapse filled initial passages and horizontal or near horizontal lower passages. The Eagles Nest System (Y1-3) is typical of these caves. This cave system, the largest in the area, is the deepest cave (174 m) on the Australian mainland.

Typically at Yarrangobilly there is a steep descent at or near the cave entrance followed by generally horizontal passage development. Streams entering the caves near the limestone contact rise as springs or cave streams along the Yarrangobilly River.

- b. Cooleman Cave area is located on Cooleman Plain, about 60 km SW of Canberra. Cooleman Plain is a broad valley developed on the Cooleman Limestone. The Plain at an elevation of 1260 m is almost completely surrounded by hills that rise 100 to 200 m above the limestone. the plain is drained by Cave Creek which follows the accurate shape of the plain and then flows eastward to joint the Goodradigbee River.

The northern part of Cooleman Plain, that part north of the abandoned Coolamine Homestead, has very low relief, is mostly soil covered, and only a couple of small caves are known. The southern part of the Plain contains the bulk of the caves with the exception of those located along the thin slivers of limestone along the lower part of Cave Creek and the Goodradigbee River.

Cooleman Plain, with its low relief, is characterised by horizontally developed caves and generally has vertical drops of only a few metres. Yarrangobilly with greater relief, has a greater component of vertical development than Cooleman Plain but less than areas such as Bungonia, NSW.

Accommodation and Provisions: Camping is available at Blue Waterholes and Yarrangobilly village. Cottrils cottage will not be used for sleeping accommodation (i.e. bring a tent). Some provisions and petrol can be obtained at Cabramurra and Talbingo, but major supplies should be obtained in Canberra, Tumut or Adaminaby before reaching the area. There will be no water problem if it is a normal year but in a dry year water may be in short supply in some parts of the area. Remember that the Kiandra Pub is closed - no beer, no petrol.

#### References and Further Reading

##### Yarrangobilly

- Rose, P.V. (1964). In Introduction to Yarrangobilly Caves, NSW I. Cave Science, 5(36):203-216.
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### SECTION 3

#### In-Cave Oxidation of Water Borne Organic Carbon and the Occurrence of Large Rainwater Inflow Caves in the Seasonally Arid Tropics

Kerry A. Williamson

Recent theoretical studies have shown that in-cave oxidation of organic carbon can play a significant role in cave initiation and development. The production and flux of organic carbon through caves and surface karst in seasonally arid and perpetually humid regions is considered with emphasis on large particle size organic carbon. The model developed is used to explain the extent of rainwater inflow cave development in the seasonally arid tropics and the apparent scarcity of such forms in the perpetually humid tropics of South East Asia.

#### First Responder Care for Cave Accident Victims

R.A.L. Osborne

Although cave accidents are fairly rare events in New South Wales there is a need for Police, Ambulance and V.R.A. personnel to be aware of the problems presented by cave rescues and to be able to act should a cave accident occur. The NSW Cave Rescue Group is available to provide advice and training in cave rescue and, in the event of an accident taking place, can be mobilized through the Police Disaster and Rescue Branch. Like most members of the caving community, the Cave Rescue Group is a largely Sydney-based organization and its response time for an authentic call out is likely to be between 3 and 5 (or even more) hours. In the event of a cave accident there will be a delay of at least an hour before initial reporting, (members of the victim's party must leave the cave and summon help, or a party is reported overdue). As caving areas are some distance from major centres the first responders are not likely to reach the accident scene in less than two hours after the accident has taken place. With some NSW cave areas it is reasonable to assume that an accident victim may be 24 hours or more away from first responder care.

It is vital that the first responders to a cave accident are aware of the type of care required by cave accident victims and of the hazards that caves present.



## THE CAVES OF NEW SOUTH WALES - DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC & PRIVATE PERCEPTIONS AND ATTITUDES

John Dunkley

Nearly a century separates the periods of greatest official and private interest in the cave resources of New South Wales, and these periods coincide with the development of certain social attitudes to nature. Around the turn of the century our caves were vigorously promoted as symbols of the state and of the nation, in much the same way as koalas, Ayers Rock and Sydney Opera House now stand for Australia. This paper argues that the historical and symbolic significance of the caves of New South Wales has still not been adequately recognized in the recent renaissance of official interest.

### 1. Restoration of the Jewel Casket, Yallingup Cave.

Norman Poulter

During the September school holidays 1985, vandals extensively damaged the Jewel Casket, one of the centre-pieces of the Yallingup tourist cave. Some of the broken pieces were stolen.

This paper describes the restoration of the remaining pieces.

## THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL EXPEDITIONS TO THAILAND 1985-86

John Dunkley & Kevin Kiernan

Two expeditions of 6 and 10 persons plus local logistical support visited Thailand in May 1985 and April-May 1986. A total of 13km of new cave was discovered and over 20km of surveying carried out. The two longest caves on the mainland of South-East Asia, Tham Nam Mae Lana and Tham Nam Lang each reached 8.4km. These two caves aggregate 14km of superb stream passage, exploration of which required rubber boats and lilos. Further geological and geomorphological work was undertaken and some significant archaeological sites requiring further investigation were located.

ABSTRACT OF  
MOUNT ETNA CAVES  
THE FIGHT TO SAVE MOUNT ETNA CAVES FROM LIMESTONE MINING  
 JOSEF M.C.VAVRYN

This treatise is a record of the dates and events, heavily condensed, of the history of Mount Etna since The Caves area was first settled. I hope to show that since the fight to save Mount Etna was first joined, seriously, in 1964 or there about, that the Central Queensland Cement Company and the Queensland Government has had no intention to voluntarily release Mount Etna from limestone mining. Even in the event that conservationists took the Queensland Government to court, the Government had plans prepared to counter such. That was clearly shown when the Government rescinded the Recreation Reserve, R444, on Mount Etna and refused to give us a FAIT to prosecute the Government. The next event, the passing of a law stating that any mining lease inadvertently granted illegally will now stand and be legal, was aimed at Mount Etna and any other mining lease granted illegally. At this point in time there is very little that is being done to save Mount Etna. I hope that this paper will create new interest and revive the flagging " Fight to save Mount Etna", with input from ASF member societies and individuals. If the treatise does not have the desired effect of renewing interest in the fight, and if CQC starts mining the main cavernous northern face of Mount Etna, the next ASF conference, or possibly the following, will have a " Letter of Requiem" read to them. If the Australian public can save the " Gordon below Franklin" area and the "Lindeman Island National Park" surely something can be done for Mount Etna.      THANK YOU.

For many years Weebubbie Cave had been used as a water resource.

This utilisation ceased somewhere around 1984.

Although the active pump and piping were removed, the debris of previous exploiters remained. The description is given of the methods employed to remove the debris based on experience gained from an earlier cleanup in the Yallingup tourist cave.

#### 1987 SUSS EXPEDITION TO MT. ANNE

by

Patrick Larkin and Derek Hobbs

The Sydney University Speleological Society ("SUSS") is running a three week twenty man expedition to Mt. Anne, Tasmania, in January 1987. The expedition is due to begin on 4 January.

This paper outlines:

- 1 The funding and budget for the expedition.
- 2 The aims of the expedition.
- 3 The technical and organisational aspects of the expedition such as gear, rope, food, logistics, first aid, survey equipment and techniques and personnel.
- 4 The publications contemplated after the expedition.

If time and communications permit, a progress report from the expedition may also be presented.

#### WILDERNESS MYTHS AND AUSTRALIAN CAVES

Elery Hamilton-Smith

Beyond a preliminary discussion of some of the basic issues in the writing of any history, the paper looks in more detail at what might be called the 'Wilderness Myths' of Australian Caves. Any wild place generates myths, and Australian Caves have their share of these, which constitute the 'folk history' of caving areas (and often that of cave guides). It is argued that these are more-or-less systematic and are not simply the result of error, or even simple exaggeration, in transmitting the story.

Apart from bottomless pits, examples include myths about popular heroes and cave discoveries (along with the interesting result that non-heroes are neglected or even completely forgotten) ; about Aborigines and the murder of Aborigines by whites.

Wilderness myths present two issues to the would-be historian : what actual events contributed to them and what does their evolution as myths mean ?

