

MAPPING WORKSHOP

Ken Grimes

About 20 people joined the group, which was convened by Ken Grimes.

The main event was a presentation made by Don Glasco, comprising a slide show and discussion of the surveying and map production for an extensive maze cave system in the Northern Territory. The size of the cave and time limitations due to its remote location meant that field sketches were done at 1:1000 and this limited the amount of detail that could be shown. Rather than sketch numerous cross-sections they developed a classification comprising six typical cross-sectional forms found in the cave, and noted the closest match at each survey station. All stations were permanently marked with flagging tape. Access to Arc/Info GIS software and a large format ink-jet plotter had allowed Don to produce a regional 1:10,000 scale A0 map of the system, other outlying caves and surrounding contextual information such as hydrology and exposed karst. For in-cave navigation a multi-page "street directory" book of 1:1000 A3 maps was produced.

We also looked briefly at the proposed UIS cave map symbols, and compared them to the existing ASF symbol set. This proposal is up for comments, and will be finalised at the UIS conference in August.

The use of SUUNTO KB series compasses was discussed, with a warning about possible "lazy eye" problems that many people can have using the "two-eye" sighting method. A SUUNTO with built-in battery light was on display. I was uncertain about how water-proof this would be, but a Tasmanian user indicated that he had had no problems in wet Tassie caves. Comments on the Tritium lighted SUUNTOs suggested that this light source was a bit weak, but the intensity of the glow could be enhanced by holding it in front of ones helmet light immediately before use. Someone mentioned having seen SUUNTO compasses selling for about \$250 - which is excessive. The standard model (KB-14) can be bought for half that price from Prospectors supplies in Sydney (their 1996 price list).