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Editorial.

PAST CONFERENCES AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE FEDERATION HAVE PRODUCED MAJOR CHANGES IN BOTH ITS CONSTITUTION AND EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THESE CHANGES HAVE BUILT A SOUND BASIS FOR THE FUTURE OPERATION OF THE FEDERATION.

AT THE 1965 COMMITTEE MEETING A DECISION WAS REACHED WHICH EFFECTIVELY CONSOLIDATED THE FEDERATION AROUND THE EXISTING MEMBER SOCIETIES.

THIS CONSOLIDATION WAS INTRODUCED WITH THE AIM OF INDUCING THE LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL, ILL ORGANISED SOCIETIES AND SPLINTER GROUPS WHICH EXIST AT PRESENT, ESPECIALLY IN N.S.W., TO JOIN EXISTING SOCIETIES.

THE RESULT, IT WAS JUDGED, WOULD BE GREATER CONTROL IN GENERAL CAVING AND CONSERVATION TECHNIQUES.

CERTAINLY THE OBJECTIVE TO INDUCE THESE GROUPS TO JOIN EXISTING SOCIETIES CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED BENEFICIAL TO SPELEOLOGY, HOWEVER, THE REACTION THESE MOVES HAVE PRODUCED AMONG THESE GROUPS, INDICATES ALIENATION RATHER THAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE FEDERATION'S CONSOLIDATING MOVES.

DOES THIS SITUATION REQUIRE RECONSIDERATION?

THE FEDERATION'S CONSTITUTION STATES-----TO FURTHER SPELEOLOGY IN ALL ITS ASPECTS --- TO GATHER TOGETHER AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGISTS ----.

CAN THE FEDERATION EMBRACE THESE GROUPS WITHOUT COERCING THEM INTO A SITUATION THEY DO NOT WANT? IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE FEDERATION TO SPREAD ITS INFLUENCE IN SOME OTHER FORM.

NOTICES

Member societies are requested to note the following address changes
BAT RESEARCH COMMITTEE, David Purchase c/o C.S.I.R.O. Division of Wildlife Research, P.O. Box 109, Canberra City. A.C.T.
HANDBOOK EDITOR, Peter Matthews, 54 Athelstan Street, South Camberwell, VIC
VICTORIAN CAVE EXPLORATION SOCIETY, Box 5422CC, G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic.

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Mr. V. M. Kinnear, Chillagoe, Qld. \$2.00
Univ. of N.S.W. Speleo. Soc. \$10.00
Metropolitan Speleo. Soc. \$10.00

Highland Caving Group \$2.40
Miss M. Gynther, Q'ld. \$1.80

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

BOOKS ON CAVING : Edmund Taylor, of Philadelphia, specialised in books for cavers. His current catalogue contains 160 books on caving. E. Hamilton-Smith, 17 Helwig Ave., Montmorency, Vict., has a number of copies of this catalogue and would be willing to mail a copy to anyone interested.

Elery would also be willing to receive orders and pass them on, as by combining orders, bank charges made on overseas payments can be reduced.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

You published in the June issue of the Newsletter a report of the activities of the Metropolitan Speleological Society. Our society would like to register their disapproval of the Federation publishing any report of the activities of non member groups since the printing of same is in effect providing defacto recognition to these groups.

We request that the Newsletter in future not be used to report the activities of local groups outside the Federation.

Yours faithfully,
for Sydney Speleological Society
(signed) R.J. Hawkins.
Hon. Secretary

The reporting of the activities of groups of cavers or speleologists not affiliated with the Federation plays two roles. It, firstly, brings to the attention of A.S.F. societies the projects undertaken by these groups and secondly, though no less important, it indicates to these groups the interest the Federation has in their activities.

On the basis of the above, I included the report on the activities of the Metropolitan Speleological Society.

In this issue, I have included the Metropolitan Speleological Society's report in with that of the University of N.S.W., the two societies being closely related at present.

It is pleasing to see at least one society has been sufficiently motivated to voice an opinion on the matter.

Editor.

CONSERVATION ACTION

INSPECTION OF THE GLASS
CAVE, WOMBEYAN CAVESReprinted from Department of mines, N.S.W. report No. 28
by G.R. Wallis

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Wombeyan Caves is situated 40 miles west of Mittagong and 47 miles north of Goulburn. The Area is generally mountainous and moderately timbered.

Following representations by the Director of the Department of Tourist Activities and other preservation-conscious groups an inspection and survey has been carried out of the Glass Cave at Wombeyan Caves by Mr. Inspector M. Simmons and the author. The Glass Cave is situated in Portion ML 3, parish of Bouverie, county of Westmoreland, and concern has been expressed as to possible damage to the Cave by mining interests in the area.

Wombeyan Caves are included in the Reserve R43616/7 for the Preservation of Caves (Notified 24th February, 1909). A number of caves in the area have been developed as tourist caves and are very popular, while other caves are planned for opening in future years.

G E O L O G Y

The caves at Wombeyan are formed in limestone and marble outcrops of Silurian age. To the south of the Reserve granite intrudes the limestone.

Inspection of the limestone and marble on the mining lease reveals that it varies from white and cream to grey in colour. The most common colour appears to be cream. Iron staining is extremely variable, especially within short distances. The iron staining generally occurs in fine hair-line fractures and cracks and less commonly as surface staining.

The grainsize of the marble ranges from fine to coarse with the majority being medium to coarse. Coarse sugary patches of marble occur throughout the outcrops.

Jointing is a variable feature, varying from closely to medium spaced and is irregular in direction.

An area which has been prospected in the eastern portion of the lease suggests quantities of good quality, white crystalline marble.

Boring in various parts of the lease has been carried out but only one core was available for inspection. This core was from a borehole adjacent to the Glass Cave and revealed marble of a cream and an ironstained white colouration with medium-grained crystals. No other details were available from the boring. Elsewhere in the vicinity of the Glass Cave, surface examination indicates the presence of both white and cream coloured marble with ironstaining varying from absent to strong but generally present in minor amounts.

T H E G L A S S C A V E

The Glass Cave has been ascertained as being situated near the southern boundary of the portion ML 3. This mining lease is on the northern boundary of, and inside the Reserve for the preservation of caves referred to above.

A compass and tape survey was carried out with peg A(ML 3) as datum and check sights with a theodolite were made from peg D. The cave is positioned within one chain of the south eastern boundary of the mining lease and 18 chains from peg D (see accompanying plan P403).

The extent of the cave is approximately 4 chains to the west and 3 chains to the east of the entrance. One arm of the cave is 167 Feet deep and the other approximately 120 feet deep from the surface. Inspection of the cave showed it to be variable in character and accessibility. Some sections, though difficult of access at the present time could be opened up without much difficulty. For the most part, the cave is quite accessible, having wide caverns with high roofs. The construction of steps or ladders would be sufficient.

Decoration of this cave is variable and, while not rivalling some of the tourist caves in the area, could warrant opening up in future years. Some fine examples of cave pearls were noted. Many sections of the floor are somewhat muddy.

C O N C L U S I O N S A N D R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

(1) The Glass Cave has been ascertained as being in the area covered by ML 3, and adjacent to the southern boundary of the lease.

(2) With respect to the preservation of the cave it is considered that it warrants protecting since it possesses positive tourist potential in future years.

(3) It is believed that the lessee has no immediate intentions of mining the calcite on the lease in question. (See Mr. Inspector C. Harris' report of 9th March, 1965.) The marble at the eastern end of the lease appears from the surface indications to be of comparable, if not better, quality than that in the vicinity of the Cave. Therefore it is recommended that a five chain strip be revoked from the lease along the south-western boundary. This width would adequately protect the cave and its extensions.

(4) I also agree with Mr. Harris' suggestion that "consideration be given to restricting operations to mining marble as a dimensional stone in which no explosives are used and very little waste rock results".

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Bungonia

Several members of the Highland Cave Group have rendered repairs to a ceramic cross which had been broken down by vandals in the Church Cave at Bungonia. The cave was used to conduct Mass for Roman Catholic bush-walkers and cavers for many years by the Rt. Rev. Mon. Favier.

FURTHER COMMENTS
ON ROPES & KNOTS

by R.J. Lane
Glen Innes N.S.W

The article in the A.S.F. NEWSLETTER No.31, March, 1966 on ropes for caving purposes raised some interesting points.

The subject of rope and its application to specialised activities, is now quite involved, and will continue to become more complex with the increased use of new materials in rope manufacture.

Because of the many characteristics of each substance suitable for manufacture, and the multiplicity of desirable attributes required for each application, the combinations soon become quite numerous, and off-the-cuff evaluations of rope suitability becomes increasingly difficult. Among the new synthetic ropes there may well be some which are eminently suitable for caving, but only rational consideration combined with suitable field tests over long periods will point them out. The testing of unknown types of ropes should be done very, very carefully. As has been pointed out, many tried and proven working knots are suspect when used on ropes made of artificial fibres. The Bowline is particularly so, which is a great pity because it is perhaps the oldest, simplest and most nearly perfect artifice known to man. Furthermore, it is more or less the mainstay of the practised rope-user's repertoire - a veritable King of Knots.

The Double Bowline (Ashley No.1013, p.186) (not to be confused with the French Bowline) could be considered. This knot may prove worthy of investigation in its application to artificial fibre, as a basic single loop knot.

Regarding a bend for use in synthetics, one must consider that two ropes of different material, and therefore different physical characteristics, will eventually be bent together in the field, and most likely at a time when a knot failure could prove very undesirable. The Carrick Bend may well be adaptable to synthetics, but this knot is unsuitable for use in the field, because it is simply too easy to make a mistake when laying it up; and if only one of the eight crossings is incorrect, the resulting knot can be dangerous in the extreme, having a sound appearance, but in fact just awaiting sufficient tension to fall apart.

Since the Single Sheet Bend is identical in form to the Bowline, it should be used in synthetics with some discretion. The Double Sheet Bend is a much more worthy knot and deserves consideration for this application. However, the bend which has perhaps more advantages than all others for use in synthetic ropes is the Fisherman's Knot (refer Ashley Book of Knots No. 1414 p.259) This knot has a reputation for being one of those which cause a minimum loss of tensile strength in ropes, making it one of the strongest bends. It is also very simple to tie, is quite well known, and is not unduly worried by having to bend together two ropes of differing physical properties. It has a sister knot, the Barrel Knot, well known to fishermen for bending monofilament nylon lines, (Ashley 1413) which is also one of the "strong" bends, reliable and simple. However, both these bends suffer from being rather difficult to untie after use.

In the article in the March Newsletter no mention was made of the one natural fibre rope which has Ultimate Tensile Strength in the vicinity of that for nylon (in fact it may be higher) and a low elasticity, possibly less than manila. This is of course linen rope, made from refined flax fibres. Flax is the material that Xerxes' Egyptian ropemakers chose from which to lay up their cables for the floating bridge over the Hellespont (incidentally, they would hardly be considered "small cordage" even these days, reputedly weighing some five thousand pounds per hundred feet, no less) However, like all the natural fibres, one could expect some effects from water absorption, mainly a lowering of actual breaking strength. This is due to the expansion in cross-sectional area, when water is absorbed causing the well-known shrinking in length. This enlarged diameter, with the attendant shortening of length of lay increased the helix angle of the yarns and strands to the line of force, causing a loss of tensile strength for the rope as a whole. Why manila should be the one exception, reputedly increasing in tensile strength when wet, is difficult to conceive. However, one could note that the low quality of manila rope made in Australia at present would preclude any worthwhile tests in this regard anyway.

Linen rope should prove quite satisfactory to grip with the hands, but a trial under field conditions would be necessary to determine this definitely. With regard to caring for the rope, linen rope would require the same loving care that manila demands, to keep it from the ravages of all its enemies, mainly moisture, chemicals, and sunlight. However, a few hours' exposure to sunlight usually has no effect on most ropes; prolonged exposure over weeks or months being necessary to do any real harm.

REPLY BY
E. HAMILTON-SMITH.

I was very interested to read Mr. Lane's recent comments on my paper.

I must say I agree with most of what he says. I have used the Double Bowline with success, and agree that the Carrick is no knot for cavers. I have also been trying out the figure of eight loop - by tying a loose figure of eight in the standing line and threading through the free end of the rope, then tightening. Time-consuming, but easy to teach and appears to hold well, although I have only tried it in nylon, terylene and manila.

I also agree about the doubtful qualities of the single sheet bend - even in manila and have used the double bend for many years and like the fisherman's knot but find it difficult to untie in wet rope.

I have no comment, however on linen. The mountaineering people used to recommend it highly along with the best hemp or manila. However, I wonder if it is worth the extra cost when it is probably going to suffer as quickly as manila. Still, it would be worth looking into. The mountaineers, of course, have dismissed it as nylon is suitable for them. This, as I tried to emphasize, is no criterion for cavers as our needs are different.

A FEW NOTES ON CAMOOWEAL Q'LAND

from letters
by B.T. Pratt

Camooweal lies in central Queensland some 100 miles from the largest copper producing area in Australia, Mt. Isa: The topography consists of low featureless scrub covered plains.

The plain is somewhat similar to the Nullarbor Plain of South and Western Australia, perhaps a little more rolling and certainly a heavier scrub cover.

Isolated dolines have formed in the flat lying Camooweal Dolomites to the east and south of the town. The dolines present a form similar to those on the Nullarbor in that they appear to be purely of collapse origin rather than solutional. The majority of dolines so far discovered have not given access to caves of any extent, however those that have, have taken the form of fissures to a depth of up to 300 feet, phreatic features being present in many cases.

One such cave investigated consisted of a fissure, containing several 60 feet ladder pitches, and reaching a total depth of 300 feet.

Another, again a fissure, has an entrance choked with boulders. Picks bars and block and tackle have been used in an effort to clear the entrance so far without success.

Several other caves have been discovered but to date are not fully explored.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1967-1968 CHRISTMAS EXPEDITION

The Tasmanian Caverneering Club has suggested that an expedition to the Mount Anne area of South-West Tasmania could be held in connection with the 1967-68 A.S.F. Committee meeting if it were to be held in Hobart.

Surface exploration of the area has as yet not been possible however an aerial surveillance indicates dolines of several hundred feet in diameter are present, all in the region of 2,800 to 3,500 feet above sea level, and located in a spur of Mt. Anne.

The area is extremely inaccessible - a small plateau indicates a possible helicopter landing site, the helicopter being considered the best means of transport at present.

The region not only offers spectacular caving potential but also has some of the most magnificent mountain scenery in Tasmania - glacial lakes and cirques, snow capped mountains - the lot.

CAVE NUMBERING SYSTEM.
COOLEMAN PLAINS. N.S.W.

by J.N. JENNINGS
Canberra Speleological Society

Although the responsibility for numbering the Cooleman Plain caves was devolved on Canberra Speleological Society some time ago, it has only recently been felt necessary to carry this out. Increasing numbers of clubs active on the Plain, especially since the building of the power line maintenance road from Brindabella, and increasing numbers of known caves have changed the situation so at a recent C.S.S. meeting a decision was taken to get on with this task. This note represents the first, easier part of the task, namely deciding on a set of numbers; it is hoped the chiselling or painting of numbers will follow soon. It is proposed only to number the caves, not to mark the letter on the rock also. This would be unnecessary work since no one will be uncertain as to whether he is at Cooleman Plain or Yarrangobilly.

However a letter index is necessary for writing purposes in order to refer quickly and without confusion to caves from different areas. CP has not been used to the writer's knowledge for any other cave area and this will be adopted for Cooleman Plain caves.

Caves from the Goodradigbee Valley below Cooleman Plain have been included as well as those from Cooleman Plain itself and from the gorges leading down to the Goodradigbee. It is hard to put a dividing line between Barber Cave and Fish Cave, yet this is where the boundary would have to be put if one were adopted. However including the caves from Fish Cave down does involve the likelihood that caves from two different limestones are being gathered together. N.C. Stevens (Proc. Roy. Soc. N.S.W. 83(1958) 251 - 258) takes the view that the limestone from Fish Cave downstream is Wilkinson Limestone of probable Devonian age whereas the higher caves lie in the Cooleman Limestone of Silurian age. However, it is to be noted that B.P. Walpole (pp. 35-39 in B.M.R., Geological Excursions Canberra District, Canberra 1964) maps only one Upper Silurian Limestone formation named the Wilkinson Cliff Limestone for the whole area.

No rigid limit as to what constitutes a cave worthy of naming or numbering has been adopted. The difficulty about adopting dimensional limits can be illustrated from Blue Waterhole Cave (CP 8). This is no more than a cave shelter and many speleologists would not deem it deserving of name or number. However biological collections which need to be recorded have been made there (A. Richards, personal communication) and this makes it advisable to be able designate it without confusion. The same difficulty could arise from the archaeological importance of a small cave or shelter.

Other small caves are known from Cooleman Plain apart from those listed here but these have not been thought important enough to be named or numbered in terms of present knowledge of them.

Another practice may not be so generally acceptable, but follows that adopted at Wee Jasper by Canberra Speleological Society to facilitate detailed investigation in connection with Dogleg Cave primarily. This is the practice of giving separate numbers to different entrances of the same cave system. This enables the newcomer to know exactly where he is starting from in any cave trip and facilitates description also. On Cooleman Plain there is the case of Cooleman and Right Cooleman Caves (CP 1 and CP 2 respectively). For a long time it was not known that these two interconnect and if the caves had been numbered then, two numbers would inevitably have been given. This demonstrates the impracticability of keeping one number to one cave. However this practice must not be carried to absurd lengths; for instance the unnamed cave CP 29 has only been given one number although it has several entrances; these are, however, all close together and inter-visible. There will be no need to mark more than the one which provides easy access to the cave.

No attempt has been made to make the numbering follow any strict geographical or historical pattern. Future discoveries will make nonsense of any system based on the present distribution of known caves and it is already impossible to put them in an historical time sequence of numbers.

In accordance with good cartographic practice no genitival constructions have been incorporated in the cave names. Perhaps it is worth drawing attention to the fact that the official spellings are Cooleman for the Plain and Coolamine for the homestead on the Plain. At least one person has looked for caves at Coolamon, New South Wales, as a result of our bad spelling habits!

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COVER

The cover of this Newsletter represents a selection of the many designs submitted in the search for an A.S.F. Emblem. Further designs will be presented with agenda of the 6th Biennial Conference.

Further designs should be submitted either to the A.S.F. secretary or Mr. E.G. Anderson, Box 90, The Union, Sydney University.

SAFETY NOTES

Recently, the Highland Cave Group re-opened the Cave, B11, at Bungonia, N.S.W. The cave was originally sealed by the N.S.W. department of mines as it considered the cave dangerous.

H.C.G. re-excavated the entrance and recent rain has undermined the collapse doline. A large boulder dropped whilst H.C.G. members were in the cave. H.C.G. wishes to advise societies that the floor of the doline is in a dangerous condition.

DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

KEMPSEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Willi Willi

Having worked for some time on an efflux at Willi Willi without success, the chance to hire a bulldozer to remove boulders and mud was firmly grasped. After 3 hours hard work bare rock was visible and an opening 24" x 15" exposed. The next trip to the area will attempt to widen the opening with the use of explosives.

Kunderang

"An 8 day trip to the Kunderang area."

Large areas of limestone were explored but it was not until the 6th day that worthwhile discoveries were made.

Only two caves proved extensive, one ending in a formation-choked squeeze, the other, a vertical pot without horizontal extension. Many depressions were investigated, however only one other appears to have prospects.

Moparrabah

The Moparrabah Cave was attacked from both entrances; the main and the river. Banded bats were observed among the large colony present. Unfortunately, lack of equipment did not allow records of the bands to be taken.

HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP

Cooleman

H.C.G. combined with Canberra Speleo. Society to carry out further work in the recently discovered Easter Cave. The previously discovered dry main chamber was explored fairly extensively, although the wealth of formation hampers intense exploration. No further extension was found in this area.

The main stream passage was then traversed a further 200 feet before the cold and lack of equipment forced a return.

Bungonia

The society has built, and is in the process of testing, Radio Direction Finding Equipment. Practical experience was gained in the use of the R.D.F. Equipment by setting up transmitter stations at 2 sites in the Fossil Cave (B4), and using surface traverses to locate them. A check on accuracy was achieved by survey. Several recommendations and a calibration were made and an interim report prepared.

Further attempts have been made to explore the Junior Cave, foul air impeding progress on several occasions. One trip was successful however and a newly discovered high extension will be checked with R.D.F. equipment to assess its correlation with a surface doline.

A scout master was rescued from the Drum Cave, (see Safety Notes).

The Grill Cave was used to assess the suitability of aqualungs in caves filled with foul air. The report suggests that it is possible to use this type of equipment in open caves. Difficulties arose when climbing with the gear.

Wyanbene

Photography and general exploration in the new extension.

SUB AQUA SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Most of the society's activity has centred on the Pyramids district at Murrindal, near Buchan.

Work continued in an attempt to gain access to the river passages between the influx and efflux of a section of the Murrindal river.

Originally, cave diving gained access to a short section of cave containing an extensive rock fall.

All efforts to penetrate this fall both with the use of diving equipment and more conventional methods have failed.

Recent efforts using explosives have excavated a tunnel 30 feet into the rock pile, so far without breakthrough.

Diving and surface exploration at the influx have brought little success so far.

SYDNEY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The past three months have been active ones with trips almost every weekend, and on several occasions more than one. Successful trip leader training and general field days have also been held.

Jenolan

Interesting excavation work in J41 has been started. The 'dig' has progressed 6-8 feet and is 2 feet wide. It is passing through what appears to be a dry silted sump. Considerable draught is being encountered. A survey has been carried from the 'dig' to the gallery above 'The Pit of Babel'.

Scaling poles were used in the left hand branch of the Northern River section of J13. The high chimney however terminated unspectacularly in a small cavern.

Walli

Walli has received concentrated surface and underground exploration by the society, aided greatly by radio controlled coverage of the area: (ten 2-way radios between 13 cavers). One new cave has been revealed from the excavation of a sinkhole discovered during the surface search. The cave is quite small with branches in four directions. Only one shows promise, 2 or possibly 3 arms leading towards the surface.

Experiments involving cave to cave radio contact, using various frequencies were conducted between this new cave and WA 29.

Wyanbene

Great interest has been shown in this area since the discovery of a major extension to the river passage of the main Wyanbene Cave by the National University Speleological Society.

Several trips have been conducted, the cave being extended on every occasion. Beyond the large chamber the cave consists of rock piles, scree slopes and mud troughs to a point where a 50 feet ladder pitch (which halted the first trip through lack of equipment) leads into a large featureless cavern and the river level: a lake, 25 feet long and 12 feet deep. Crystal outgrowths, assumed to be Aragonite, abound in clusters.

Bungonia

The society continues to work consistently on the efflux with gelignite, jack hammer and wheelbarrows.

Progress to date has revealed the bottom of the terminal lake.

An article on some of the hydrological aspects of the efflux and the caves has been presented in the August issue of the society's monthly 'Stop Press'

Cheitmore

Surface exploration and a visit to the marble arch. 4-5000 bats were observed, none of which appeared to be banded. Bones collected have been sent for identification.

Colong

Exploration of the northern extension of the Beach Cavern was carried out, the passage discovered terminating in a large lake named Lake B.H.

The Pulsating River section was mapped and the unusually dry river bed explored downstream from what is normally a siphon.

All major passages were mapped to CRG Grade 4 traverse.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Jenolan

Trips were made to the Mammoth Cave in conjunction with Orange Speleological Society, the accent being on scaling pole work in the left hand branch of the Northern River sections.

Trips were also made to Wiburd's Lake Cave and Hennings whilst sections of the Serpentine Cave were surveyed for the society's current project of the correlation of surface stream meandering to underground conditions.

Yarrangobilly

The society has begun investigations in the North Deep Creek area with exploration in several caves.

The East Eagles Nest System was also entered in order to penetrate the recently discovered connection between the Lower Western Eagles Nest Cave (Y2) and the Upper Eastern Eagles Nest Caves (Y1). The party traversed an estimated 4000 feet of passage, taking 4 hours. Excavation was required to make the connection.

Timor

Primarily an entomological collecting trip, members managed to prepare a topographical map (C.R.G. Grade 2) and a grade 2 sketch of portion of the Belfry Cave as well.

Although wet weather marred the trip somewhat, a comprehensive collection was made from the sizeable insect colony.

Tuglow

Connexion has been made between the surface and the river passage by a 200 feet deep cleft near the main entrance.

Cliefden

The Main Cave was entered for the purpose of checking the bat colony, collecting parasites, taking blood samples and banding. Unfortunately the colony was absent.

Of interest was the 20° F temperature variation observed throughout the cave.

The entrance chamber of the Murder Cave was also visited with the aim of collecting ticks from the nests of Fairy Martins. This objective was thwarted as vandals had broken the nests down, however nests were intact in the Gable Cave where ticks and spiders were collected.

TASMANIAN CAVERNEERING CLUB

Hastings

Regular track-cutting trips to Exit Cave have provided activity for a consistent "few" over the past 3 months.

The track, now complete is approx. one mile in length, the greater portion passing through dense scrub 8 to 10 feet high.

Mid July saw the completion of the track. However, much to the disappointment of the cutting party, recent rain had flooded the entrance chamber to a depth of ten feet. A large volume of water was pouring from the cave.

The Exit Cave is considered to be a possible resurgence of a creek which enters Mystery Creek Cave nearly two miles distant. A proven connexion would indicate the existence of a major breach of surface divide as Mystery Creek rises in the drainage basin of the Lune River whilst the stream emerging from Exit Cave is a tributary of the D'Entrecasteau River.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
AND METROPOLITAN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Tuglow

Surveying at Tuglow continues with wall and floor details carried along the river passage to the base of the 30 feet water fall. In the upper section work has progressed through to the river passage above the water fall.

Jenolan

M.S.S. has made its first trip to Jenolan. As the visit was purely one of introduction to the area, caving was confined to familiarization under the guidance of a Jenolan guide.

Wyanbene

The main river passage was surveyed to CRG Grade 2 over a distance of 917 feet. Of interest was the 100°F stream temp. rise over this distance.

Trips were also conducted to Mudgee, Bungonia and Wee Jasper.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP

W.A.S.G. reports cave discoveries in the Stockyard Gully area north of Perth.

On the conservation side, the group have begun a cave nomenclature report for the Lands Dept. and a cave gating programme with the Margaret River Tourist Bureau.

Minerals revived from caves in the Nambung - Jurien Bay area have been identified as Brushite, Ardealite, Dahlite and Taronakite - first recorded occurrences in W.A.

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