

# **ASF** **NEWSLETTER** **Summer, 1975-76 No. 70**



## **THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY**

Cover — "Devils Coach House", Jenolan. Photograph by A. Goede

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**AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION**

**P.O. Box 388**

**Broadway N.S.W. 2007**

**50c**

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# ASF NEWSLETTER

Number 70, Summer 1975

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## EDITORIAL.

As had been expected, the annual membership subscription to ASF was increased at the Committee Meeting which was held towards the end of January in Wollongong. The previous fee of \$1.50 has now been doubled! Undoubtedly, this will cause a number of growls, groans and cries of dismay. However, if you would be kind enough to pause for a moment and take into consideration other inflationary price rises over the last few years, you will find that you are far from being hard done by. Personally, I can't see where anyone, even a thick-headed caver, could object that this move was not fully justified.

The Committee have seen fit to extend the grant to the Newsletter Commission some \$500. This may sound quite a large amount but it must be realised that postage alone has doubled and the printing costs have also risen considerably. Regardless of this, with your co-operation, all efforts will be made to ensure that you will get your money's worth.

This is my fourth issue and throughout the past three, I have spent a great amount of time plus your money, literally begging for material to keep this magazine functioning. No more! ASF has over 700 members and if this apathy, for want of a better word, continues - my job is open to any taker - silly enough to take it on! No wonder the previous Editors "chucked" it in - I now see why! Finally, the Spring issue has just arrived in the post after a frustrating nine week delay. This, I must stress, was through no fault of mine! I have now been assured that this problem has been solved and will not occur again - I hope so!

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DEADLINE DATE FOR THE AUTUMN ISSUE IS - WEDNESDAY, 31st MARCH - LET'S HEAR FROM YOU BY THEN!

Editor: Laurie Moody, 13 Mason Street, Claremont. Tasmania. 7011  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The following letters were received by the Editor and are hereby published as they were received. The first concerns issue No. 68 of this Newsletter.

"I have just received my copy of the Winter edition of the ASF Newsletter and there are a few things that I would like to point out. This letter is not necessarily for publication - just a few gripes and some advice.

I. Re: - "Down Under All Over" - don't you receive copies of the SUSS Bulletin - your "D.U.A.O" in this issue of the ASF Newsletter only contains information which you have taken (incorrectly & inaccurately) from ONE issue of the SUSS Bulletin; if you are not receiving copies of the SUSS Bulletin then let us know. No wonder Andrew Skinner gets the idea that there is no speleology being done when you print the garbage that you do in "D.U.A.O". I suggest that you read the SUSS Bulletin a little more closely in future; the main inaccuracies include:-

1. - no mention was made of the fact that on our trip to Rho Hole we surveyed the entire cave - isn't that speleology - not worth a mention, eh? This report was a sub trip report, if you look at the previous issue of the SUSS Bulletin you will notice that we also continued our location and documentation of caves on the J41 Bluff (that's speleology too, you know) & some caves were surveyed on this bluff. Cave surveying & documentation was also done on the J98 Bluff (speleology too!!) and so it goes on. In fact that particular issue of the Bulletin (June) contained pages and pages of extremely well documented speleology.
2. - The only two items you chose to report in "D.U.A.O" from our 10-11MAY75 trip to Jenolan was the surveying of J88, and a photographic trip to Wiburds Lake Cave. Firstly, J88 is NOT Bushrangers Cave and this was clearly stated in the Bulletin - so let's keep our reporting accurate especially in a publication as widely read as the ASF Newsletter. Secondly, while there was a photographic trip to WLC, you chose not to mention that on this particular visit some digging was done - I would have thought that this was speleology - digging! You also failed to mention the trip to Wiburds Bluff when we pointed out entrances which we thought were meteorologically important - I thought that meteorology was a branch of speleology - so how about mentioning those items which are of a speleological nature? If you look closely at the text of that trip report you will notice that I referred to J88 as False Bushrangers Cave, so don't put your own interpretations on the written text of our trip reports. You also glossed over the find of a new cave at Jenolan - all you said was "and the location of a new cave". Now, fair go - I said it was a NEW MAJOR CAVE, and you also failed to report that a ASF Grade 3 survey of the cave was done & the find reported to the Senior Guide. The trip report concludes by stating that, "... about 9 caves were surveyed during the weekend". I would have thought that was speleology too! I think that the surveying of 9 caves in a weekend was fairly good for 7 people, two of whom were visitors from an interstate club.
3. - What about the trip report for Jenolan 10-13JAN75, in which the author sets out at the beginning that the purpose for the report was to detail the speleological work for the weekend - no mention of this trip in "D.U.A.O" - a bit out of date perhaps?
4. - What about the article appearing on page 63 of the SUSS Bulletin, this article was produced partly as a result of the very poor reporting in the previous issue of the ASF Newsletter. I suggest that you read this page very carefully, and I also suggest that you show it to your friend (who writes mis-informed editorials).

The amount of accurately reported speleological work included in this ONE issue of the SUSS Bulletin is some guide to the massive amounts of work that members of SUSS are putting in at Jenolan. I suggest that you put aside your bias, stop turning a blind eye to the SPELEOLOGICAL work that is being done around Australia, & get down to doing the job of editing the newsletter of the Australian Speleological Federation.

The second point I wanted to raise was the ridiculous editorial that appeared in the Winter issue of the ASF Newsletter. You are responsible for editorials too, you know. As editor, you should have told the writer to go away and do some research & come back with a rational, well informed editorial. In my previous complaints in this letter, I have shown that at least one society is getting on with the job. How many other societies are doing a lot of work - quite a few I think. I suggest that you instruct the writer of the editorial to write another article, and that he should endeavour to correct the mistakes he has made.

As I stated previously, there is no need to publish this letter in the ASF Newsletter, however, if the situation doesn't improve with the next issue, then I will write a similar letter & I will demand that it be published.

Bruce R. Welch.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Cont;

A reply to Bruce's letter was drafted explaining the difficulties, problems etc., and I have since received further correspondence from Bruce who agrees that all clubs in future, should supply their own brief news report. A letter dealing with this particular problem was then sent to all clubs including associates.

The second letter was addressed to the Secretary, who feels that all clubs should be advised of the following procedures relating to the Kosciusko National Park.

"Dear Sir,

Permits. It has been pointed out by visiting speleology clubs that difficulties arise in listing party members, together with arrival and departure times, months in advance. Also there has been a number of cases in which permits have been submitted and approved well in advance and subsequently the club has either not arrived at all or undertaken work for which they have not applied. In order to overcome unnecessary paper work, caving approval will be given on submissions of proposed speleology work together with a list of caves proposed to be entered. A new permit form is attached and it is essential that Parts 1, 3 and 4 should be completed and adhered to. Provided these activities are subsequently approved by the Kosciusko National Park, the date of arrival and departure may be given at a later date either by letter or telephone. A list of party members should be given on arrival.

Gated Caves. Those caves which have gates in place are:-

Tourist Caves

Y22 Jillabanan  
Y23 Jersey  
Y24 South Glory  
Y25 North Glory  
Y26 Harrie Wood  
Y30 Grotto  
Y31 Castle

Non-Tourist Caves

Y1 Western Eagles Nest  
Y2 Eastern Eagles Nest  
Y3 Eyrie  
Y5 East Deep Creek (Upper Level)  
Y7 North Deep Creek  
Y12 Coppermine  
Y50 Restoration  
Y58 Janus  
Black Range (Cooleman Plain)  
Fish Cave (Cooleman Plain)

The purpose of the gates is to restrict caving to those with permits and in some cases to restrict legitimate usage to an acceptable level. In the case of Y5 (Upper Level) some sections exist which have had extremely little use and remain in almost perfect condition. One permit per year will be issued to this upper level for the purpose of checking on the gate and that no alternative paths have been made around it. Attempts have been made to clean formations which were recently damaged and it is now hoped that no future damage will occur.

Cooleman Caves. In the case of Cooleman Caves only the gated caves will be restricted to A.S.F. Societies while the remaining caves may be entered by other groups or societies not recognised by A.S.F. These groups should register with the Park authorities before embarking on a caving trip to Cooleman.

C. WILDER,  
SUPERINTENDENT."

A list of regulations governing speleological activities at Yarrangobilly and Cooleman Caves was also submitted with the above letter. They appear below -

1. Accredited Speleological Societies only will be permitted to undertake caving explorations.
2. The Superintendent, Kosciusko National Park to be provided with a list of names of members of Society indicating office bearers.
3. The maximum number of members on any one trip is to be twelve (12).
4. The visiting party may include a number (not exceeding four) who are prospective members of an organised Society.
5. Each trip is to be under the guidance of a fully experienced leader whose responsibility will be to see that the members of the party observe all the tenets of caving ethics as practised by caving organisations throughout the world.
6. Approvals for permission to undertake a caving exploration trip to be lodged with the Superintendent, Kosciusko National Park at least three weeks before the date for the trip and to be signed by the Secretary of the Society.

Continued on Page 4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Cont;

7. Each application is to be accompanied by a list containing the names of the members making up the party and the purpose of the trip is to be stated: e.g. bat-banding, hydrological investigations, etc.
8. The trip leader is to report to the Ranger-in-Charge of the Reserve immediately on arrival. Gates have been placed on several of the non-developed caves and keys are obtainable here following permit approval.
9. Not more than one accredited Speleological Society will be permitted to visit any one cave for the purposes of exploration and investigation at one time.
10. On completion of a visit the trip leader will report his departure to the Ranger-in-Charge.
11. Two copies of a report of each exploration and/or investigation will be forwarded to the Superintendent, Kosciusko National Park within fourteen (14) days after the completion of each visit.
12. Two copies of any maps and publications produced at a later date will be forwarded to the Superintendent, Kosciusko National Park.
13. A Society shall make available to the Park, free of charge, copies of all reports, maps and other material prepared as a result of investigations in the area.
14. Application for vehicular access off the main road along any fire trails in the Yarrangobilly area should be made to the Superintendent.

Note:

In several cases, clean formations have been permanently damaged by the carrying of mud from boots or overalls. Although the traversing of clean formations is most strongly discouraged, boots and overalls must be removed. Tracks marked by plastic tubing are located in several caves where formations are likely to be spoilt. Please keep to these tracks in the interests of long term cave preservation.

Further information regarding the above can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent, Yarrangobilly Caves, Kosciusko National Park. 2697.

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## NOTICES & NEWS

### RECONNAISSANCE TRIP TO SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Brian McQuillan advises me that members of NSWIT will be undertaking a reconnaissance trip to the Solomon Islands area around the middle of 1976. The purpose of this trip is to apparently investigate the potential of a full scale expedition to the area in approximately eighteen months time. If you have any information on this area, John Weir, the organising officer, would be very pleased to hear from you. Mike Bourke - this is in your region. Can you be of some assistance? Ed.

### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM UQSS.

Glenn Pure advises that the following list of publications and extras are now available from - The Secretary, University of Queensland Speleological Society, c/- Uni. Qld. Union, St. Lucia 4067.

1. "Mt. Etna Caves" - - - \$2.75 plus 40c postage
2. "The Case Against Pike Creek Dam" - - - \$1.00 plus 40c postage
3. "Pike Creek Dam - A Preliminary Criticism of the Qld. Govt's Enviromental Impact Study" - - - 40c plus 40c postage
4. "Damn the Dam - Save the Texas Caves" Stickers - - - 20c plus 5c postage\* (For over 6 stickers)
5. "Stop Mining Mt. Etna Caves" Stickers - - - 20c plus 5c postage\* (For over 6 stickers)
6. Save Our Caves T-Shirts with Bat Emblem - - - \$4.40 plus 50c postage  
(Available from CQSS : The Secretary, CQSS; P.O. Box 538, Rockhampton 4700.)  
Please state size (SM, M, OS, XOS) and colour when ordering.

\* Is this rate correct? Ed.

Continued on Page 5

NOTICES & NEWS Cont;

## U.K. EXPEDITION TO NEW GUINEA, 1975.

This expedition was held to the Star Mountains area on the border between New Guinea and West Irian and proved to be more successful than the Australian expedition to this area, ten years ago. Andrew Eavis, a participant, visited Tasmania in January and showed local speleos some slides from the trip. One cave, Selminem Tem, was surveyed at C.R.G Grade 5 for a distance of 17 kilometres. Some 30 potholes were located, with several proving to be over 300m deep. The longest single pitch was 167m (descended).

Andrew Skinner.

## NEW ROUTE TO EXIT CAVE.

Throughout the last few months of 1975, Roy Skinner, aided by a number of others, succeeded in cutting a new all-weather route to Exit Cave. This new route bypasses the swampy section which was known to cavers as 'Reeces Bog'. Although slightly longer than the old way, this new section is a credit to those people who worked on it. The track still commences in the usual place but deviates to the south after a kilometre or so.

Laurie Moody.

## BUSHFIRES IN SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA.

Early in January, 1976, a large bushfire ravaged the Lower Gordon in South-West Tasmania. Due to the dry weather conditions of the previous months, thousands of hectares of rain forest and buttongrass plains were destroyed. Volunteer firefighters eventually succeeded in containing the blaze after several days. It is believed that this fire was deliberately lit.

Another area to suffer a similar fate was Precipitous Bluff. A large area of rain forest was destroyed and it has since been established that prior to this fire, no others have occurred in this area for between 600-800 years. Fires are a common danger throughout Australia in the summer months but a big number can be avoided. Make sure that fire is your servant - not your master!

Laurie Moody.

## NEW GUINEA.

Michael Bourke informs me that he will be writing an article on caving in P.N.G. for Australian cavers and it should appear in the next issue of the ASF Newsletter. Michael says, "The potential is very real - the cavers here can't handle the caves. Take our recent Chimbu trip - we got down about 250m in one cave but ran out of rope! In another, the stream was too big for us to negotiate; there are entrances everywhere and no-one has ever been down them!" How does that grab you? Interested? Pack your bags. Michael also informs me that Julia James is conducting an expedition to the Muller Range and Dave Gillieson of UQSS is off to the Lelet Plateau this year. Why am I always the last to know these things?

## CAVING ACCIDENTS - HAD ANY LATELY?

Apparently Australian cavers are immune to accidents - lately anyway! Lloyd Robinson has not had any reports for some time. If you know of any that have occurred recently, Lloyd would be very pleased to hear about them. His address? See inside front cover.

## CAVCONACT 76 - PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

The competition will be divided into the following categories:

1. Colour Prints - Scientific; Scenic; Other.
2. Monochrome Prints - Scientific; Scenic; Other.
3. 35mm Slides - Above ground - must be associated with caving or cave areas - Scenic; Activities.
- " " - Below ground - Scientific; primarily Scientific theme (e.g. Biological, Geological)
- Story Series; a group of 2 to 10 slides that tell a story. Each group counted as one entry.
- Humorous; predominantly humorous theme.
- Activities; for example rope or ladder work, digging etc.
- Open; for example Speleothems, passage/chamber shots.

Obviously there will be some overlap, choose the category you feel is most appropriate.

General Rules.

- . There is a limit of 3 entries per person per category for 35mm slides. A limit of 10 per category for prints.

# MASTER PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE JENOLAN CAVES RESERVE.

by Randall King

Submission to the N.S.W. Dept. of Lands by A.S.F.

This has now been released and copies may be obtained at \$1.50 from Mr. John Dunkley, Convenor, at - 3 Stop's Place, Chifley, A.C.T., 2606.

## Recommendations include

- 1) For planning purposes, the division of the Reserve into three zones of high medium and low intensity usage should be carried out.
- 2) Extensions of the Reserve Boundaries to include the whole catchment area of Blue Lake.
- 3) Further development should aim to improve quality and variety of tourist facilities, and not the number of visits since saturation point of the caves has already been reached.
- 4) No major engineering projects should be undertaken.
- 5) Studies should be undertaken on visitor usage of the individual caves.
- 6) Caves House should be retained.
- 7) Establishment of a visitor centre.
- 8) Greater consideration should be given to the organisation of tourist inspections.
- 9) One or more of the presently unused tourist caves should be opened to facilitate preservation of the other caves.
- 10) Consideration should be given to the construction of formed trails to important karst features.
- 11) Policies to reduce peak demands on the caves and the Reserve should be devised.
- 12) An ecological study should be commissioned on the Reserve.
- 13) The potential of the Reserve for scientific research should be recognised.
- 14) Permanent protection of bat inhabited caves should be considered.
- 15) Recognition in planning should be accorded views of groups who have considerable interest and experience in the Reserve.
- 16) The establishment of a "public" advisory committee and a 'technical' advisory committee.
- 17) The value of the Jenolan Caves as part of the National Heritage should be recognised.

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## NOTICES & NEWS Cont;

- . Photos must have been taken by the person entering them.
- . Prints must be mounted.
- . All photos must be labelled indicating category and entrant's name.
- . A photo may be entered in only one category.
- . The deadline for entries is 5.00pm Monday, 27 December 1976 - bring them with you or post beforehand.
- . All entries will be returned.

Prints will be on display throughout the Convention. Slides will be shown on the Tuesday night. Winners will be announced at the Caveman's Dinner. Judging will be by professional photographers who have also had wide experience in cave photography. Further queries and entries (if posting them) to John Brush, 149 Mugga Way, RED HILL, A.C.T. 2603.

## CARTOON COMPETITION.

- . Each entry must be on an A4 sized sheet . a limit of 10 entries per person . entries will be on display throughout the Convention . judging by the organising committee . deadline will be 5.00pm. Monday, 27 December, 1976 . post entries or bring them with you . all entries will be returned . all queries to the organising committee, CAVCONACT - 76, C/- 18 Arabana Street, ARANDA, A.C.T. 2614

Continued on Page 10

# AUSTRALIA'S DEEPEST CAVES - A SPORTING CAVER'S PARADISE - THE JUNEE-FLORENTINE

by Laurie Moody

It has been said that the era of deep cave exploration is now over in Australia. In all probability this is most likely correct. Most, if not all, of Australia's deep caving interest is now focused on the newly independent country of Papua New Guinea, where recent expeditions have discovered caves at a depth of over 400 metres. However, Australia's deepest caves are found in the island state of Tasmania, the deepest of which is Khazad-dum (pronounced Car-zad-oom) at 322 metres. The area which is renowned for its deep caves including Khazad-dum, is none other than the Junee-Florentine.

This particular limestone area is situated south and west of the Mount Field National Park and in central Tasmania. It is approximately 90 kilometres by road from Hobart. In geological terms, the limestone itself is described as being of strongly folded Gordon Limestone of Ordovician age. A fair majority of the caves are found in areas of high relief between a peak known as Wherrett's Lookout and the logging township of Maydena (Junee area) and along the eastern margin of the Florentine Valley. Recent exploration on the western side of the Florentine River has also revealed a further extension of the limestone and a few small caves, mostly of a horizontal nature, have been discovered. Caves often prove difficult to discover due to expanses of dense rain forest, particularly in the Junee area. The region itself is Crown Land which is leased to the Australian Newsprint Mills and a very high percentage of the caves are located within this lease. However, most of the swallets are located within the boundaries of the Mount Field National Park.

Although there is quite an extensive network of logging roads in both the Junee and Florentine areas, which assist greatly in the location and access to caves, permission in the form of a permit is required from the A.N.M. authorities before these areas can be entered for exploration purposes.

Most of the work in regards to location, documentation and systematic tagging are conducted by the members of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club, their Maydena branch and the Southern Caving Society. Cave exploration work by organised clubs began in this area in 1947.

Issue No. 53 of the ASF Newsletter featured an article by Kevin Kiernan which dealt with the caves and karst of this same region. In order to provide an insight for our newer members some information has been gleaned from this particular article.

"Most of the caves lie at an elevation sufficient for them to reach great depths without their entrances being adversely affected by frost shattering. However, between the Gap and Chrisps Road, the limestone reaches an elevation of perhaps 915 metres, not far from the tree line, and frost shattering is very evident with many of the large holes blocked and the limestone standing out as cliffs of broken rocks 30.5 metres high." (Kiernan)

The caves of this area have been described as being primarily of a vadose nature and serve as conduits for water off the mountain. Drainage from the dolerite and Permian is generally diverted underground upon reaching the limestone. Some of these swallets are very active while others are almost abandoned. The gradient of these caves is invariably very steep and Khazad-dum alone drops 305 metres in the first 800 metres. Many of these swallets are known but so far, few effluxes have been located, apart from a series of minor ones which are dotted about the Florentine Valley. In the Junee area, Junee Cave (JF 8) is the main efflux.

Searches from time to time have been conducted in the Florentine area, in an effort to locate a sizeable efflux which would account for the amount of water entering Growling Swallet (JF36). So far, this 'elusive' efflux has failed to materialise. Growling Swallet (171 metres) trends a long way south-east to a sump which adds support to the theory that it either deflects along the strike to join the river some kilometres to the north or it must flow east or south under the mountains of its catchment. This particular cave is truly an awesome sight especially after a heavy amount of rain. The roaring sound of water can be heard for quite some distance and henceforth its name.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE Cont;

Although the Junee-Florentine is an area which allows plenty of scope for the sporting caver, most of the caves in both areas are renowned for being muddy, wet and cold. Allowing for one or two exceptions, namely Welcome Stranger (JF229) and Cashion Creek Cave (JF6), both in the Florentine, most are also devoid of the decoration that one associates with most caves. The rugged terrain is often notorious for obstructing progress. Pockets of the dreaded horizontal scrub and large, fallen, moss-covered logs, amid dense rain forest frequently cause many a harsh word to pass an exasperated caver's lips. Nature has also formed man-traps in the guise of shafts, no bigger than a man-hole cover, that lay hidden beneath thick scrub. So far, they have yet to snare a victim but there is always a first time!

"The caves provide good sport. They are renowned as being deep, wet and grotty, physically exacting and occasionally dangerous. The danger arises mainly from the wet, cold conditions which expedite the onset of exposure, and the unstable nature of some of the caves. This looseness is occasionally structural and due to piles of non-limestone rocks, including large dolerite boulders, littering many of the streamways." (Kiernan)

As was mentioned previously, permission must be obtained before entering the respective areas and visiting cavers usually take the precaution of notifying TCC or SCS before undertaking a visit to these regions. Failure to do this, can and has, resulted in dire consequences. An example of this occurred in 1969 when a married couple and another man who claimed to have had both rock-climbing and caving experience, arrived at the entrance to a cave they were supposed to have located on a previous excursion.

The cave in question, is now known as Rescue Pot (JF201) and is 107 metres deep. It is located about a kilometre from the nearest logging road and in dense, wet, rain forest. A small stream flows into the entrance which is located at the base of a large cliff.

The trio apparently arrived at the cave early in the afternoon, laden down with manilla rope and a bulky home-made ladder. They duly descended several short, steep drops before arriving at a shaft which was estimated to be about 30 metres deep. The rope ladder was made fast and the 'experienced' caver descended - only to find that the ladder was not long enough to reach the bottom. The trio then headed back towards the surface but whilst ascending a steep, rocky slope, one of the party happened to dislodge a key-stone and this caused a considerable amount of debris to fall. The ribbed aluminium safety helmet that the husband was wearing, undoubtedly saved the man's life. Even so, he was knocked unconscious and his wife was in severe pain from the injuries that she too, received. The 'caver' had been extremely fortunate and had escaped injury. He was able to reach the surface and set off for help. Eventually, the manager of A.N.M.'s timber operations was notified and he immediately rushed men to the area. On arrival, the men set about cutting a track to the cave using chain-saws. This proved to be a remarkable feat in itself and through these efforts, the task of removing the injured couple, was made that much easier. In all, the couple spent some 7-8 hours in the cave before they were brought to the surface and rushed to Hobart, late that night. The husband received head injuries, a broken collar bone and broken ribs. His wife suffered a double fracture of the shin bone.

This may serve as a warning that any cave, no matter where it is, should always be treated with the respect that they deserve. The above mentioned accident could have happened to any caving party, however, with training and experience, gained through a recognised caving club, it may have been avoided.

Another interesting point about this area is that it contains ten (10) of Australia's 'top 20' deepest caves. They are as follows:- Khazad-dum (322m), Cauldron Pot (264m), Tassy Pot (231m), Dwarrowdelf (220m, part of the Khazad-dum system), Sesame Two (219m), Growling Swallet (171m), Niagara Pot (149m), Satans Lair (143m), Rift Cave (131m) and Gormenghast (128m).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

1975 proved to be quite an interesting year as far as caving is concerned in this region. Early in March, a party led by myself, explored several kilometres of the Florentine River by rubber raft. The main reason behind this was to establish whether or not any large streams entered the river on the eastern side, thereby adding support to the theory that an resurgence could be that of Growling Swallet. We were unsuccessful. However, a number of small caves were found along the river-banks. In April, Max Jeffries located a number of small caves in the Florentine, one of which (Beginners Luck (JF79-82), proved to be a quite extensive horizontal system. Furthermore, it was found to contain bones of an extinct species of large flightless bird, plus bones of an extinct species of giant kangaroo. Rumour also has it that this may not be the last that you hear about this cave. Mid-year also saw further discoveries on the western side of the river and towards the end of the year, exploration of a high relief area on the Maydena side of Wherret's Lookout, resulted in the discovery of a numerous amount of shafts. Subsequent exploration failed to produce anything below a depth of 55 metres. Although there is still sufficient scope in this area for a deep cave, chances of locating anything to surpass Khazad-dum are grudgingly considered extremely remote. Regardless of this, the search will continue but indirectly, of course. Insignificant caves exceeding 60 metres in depth will no doubt be found for years to come. Decent horizontal systems lay hidden, waiting to be discovered. So far, this area has only been 'scratched' and as long as there is an interest in caving, the Junee-Florentine will remain a significant name in Australian speleology.

In regard to Khazad-dum, the following article appeared in Speleo Spiel early in 1975:-

JUNEE-FLORENTINE Cont;"K-D. Is it REALLY Finished??"

To bottom Khazad-dum is a regular tourist trip for North Island hard core cavers these days - just to be able to say that you've been at Australia's lowest point. Everyone knows that it ends in an impenetrable sump, so when you get to the bottom, the one thing to do is to get out again, as soon as possible. But just suppose --- there's a way on somewhere down there. Have we really investigated every possibility or is K-D one day going to be another Tassy Pot or Herberts Pot, where cavers from another society and perhaps a future generation are going to make another major break-through?? Perhaps to discover the most extensive cave in Australia - the elusive Junee River System. A little paragraph published in a trip report in Nargun (March, 1973) by Lou Williams (VSA) makes me wonder. Here I quote:

"At the top of the sand bank above the sump is a passage leading on - small by Tassie standards - where Phil Robinson had been down a couple of hundred feet. There were three leads going off from this, and Rudy pushed one and Brian and I pushed on past some formation and up a short climb, most of the going was fairly tight up till this stage (and my trog suit began to fall apart), it then opened out but not for long. I kept going until I came to a small chamber, some 50ft past here it closed down to a mud-filled flattener with a good breeze - would have to be dug to get anywhere and may be a way round the sump, who knows. I built a cairn back in the little chamber and moved back to the others. On reaching them, my trog suit had completely been torn to shreds."

Well, has anyone been back there since?" (Goede)

Can anyone answer this one? It certainly is food for thought!

## CAVES NUMBERED SINCE 23/8/71.

The following list of cave numbers are a carry-on of those listed in the ASF N/L No.53, Sept.1971. They are current to January 18, 1976. (J) indicates Junee (F) Florentine

- JF34: RIFT CAVE: Inflow cave with small stream; depth 130m; first discovered 1948; rediscovered and named 1962. (J)
- JF35: GORMENGHAST: Small swallet; tight steeply descending stream passage; dangerous talus; good formations at downstream end; stream siphons; aquatic fauna; surveyed passage length 582m; depth 128m. (F)
- JF36: GROWLING SWALLET: Large swallet 171m deep; subject to flash flooding; noise of water makes speech inaudible at times; glow-worms; survey now believed complete. (F)
- JF37: PENDANT POT: Small cave; 9 m high entrance; in large doline; small chamber; narrow joint-controlled passages; near JF36. (F)
- JF38: TRAPDOOR SWALLET: Entrance doline with fair-sized stream; explored for 10m to narrow passage; exploration incomplete. (F)
- JF39: Small pothole 9m deep; 50m SE of JF36. (F)
- JF40: Small cave near Khazad-dum campsite; 30m deep; 90m of muddy narrow passage. (J)
- JF41: Pothole; dry 21m shaft; blocked at base; two entrances 3m apart; only one entrance numbered; located near JF3. (J)
- JF42: Tube sloping down at 60-70deg.; one metre in diameter; depth 18m; also near JF3. (J)
- JF43-44: Small cave; two entrances at base of low cliff; steeply sloping passage to small chamber followed by short drop; further north on same ridge as JF1. (J)
- JF45: Small dry cave with approx. 60m of passage; beside road NW of JF6. (F)
- JF46: QUARRY HOLE: Hole 30m deep; two entrances; bottom one is too tight to enter; 'moon-milk' decoration on lower walls. (J)
- JF47: SUICIDE POT: Hidden pothole 30m deep; little decoration; continuation choked. (J)
- JF48-49: Muddy cave 120m long; contains intermittent streams; three entrances; may be an overflow outlet from JF7. (F)
- JF50: Small cave near JF48-49; side passage with draught has been excavated to large rock which bars progress; continuation possible by further excavation. (F)
- JF51: GONG CAVE: Small, dry cave off Gittus Road; first cave discovered on western side of Florentine River; some old formation; 25m of passage; two daylight holes. (W/F)
- JF52: 20m deep shaft with small active creek at bottom; stream sumps after short distance; beside Felix Curtain Road. (F)
- JF53: One of two small caves in cliff face; several small passages; close to JF52. (F)
- JF54: Small cave containing very deep pool of water; several small passages; dry decoration; east of JF53. (F)
- JF55: DEVIATION CAVE: Cave on side of river bank; former stream passage; takes water from ox-bow in flood conditions; some decoration; length 60m; impressive entrance. (W/F)
- JF56: Small dry cave close to JF55; small chamber. (W/F)
- JF57: Small but spacious cave in ridge west of JF55; some formation; two chambers; interesting passages. (W/F)
- JF58: Pothole on ridge east of Cave Hill; depth 20m. (J)
- JF59: Horizontal series of small tunnels beside road; some formation; subject to flooding. (F)
- JF60: Small cave near JF59. (F)

Continued on Page 10.

JUNEE-FLORENTINE Cont;

- JF61: Horizontal cave with sloping entrance; small chambers; network of dry crawls and squeezes; some formation; approx. 60m in length; near JF59. (F)
- JF62: Tight entrance hole opening into two separate chambers via duck-under; moon-milk; possible extension by digging. (F)
- JF63-65: ROSS WALKER CAVE: Small dry cave with large chamber; three steeply downward sloping entrances; shallow pool of water at lowest point of cave; close to crest of ridge NE of Junee Cave. (J)
- JF66: PILLINGERS CREEK CAVE: Dry cave 99 metres deep; 52m pitch can be bypassed; dangerous talus; survey grade 4. (J)
- JF67: DEEFOUR POT: Pothole consisting of 40m pitch blocked at bottom; discovered 1960; rediscovered 1974; east of Cave Hill. (J)
- JF68: Pothole on eastern slope of Cave Hill; 30m deep; beside large dead tree; no continuation. (J)
- JF69: Small cave taking some water from Khazad-dum creek; on opposite side of doline from JF4 entrance; short slope to 4m drop. (J)
- JF70: Small dry cave; inclined entrance leading to single chamber; some formation; on eastern side of low hill off Leo Thornes Road. (F)
- JF71: Medium-sized cave with several chambers and narrow low-level passages containing deep pools; on western side of low hill off Leo Thornes Road. (F)
- JF72: Small dry cave; inclined entrance; small chamber; some formation; no continuation. (F)
- JF73: Small swallet at end of un-named road between Leo Thornes and Frizons Road; number on dry entrance 5m upstream from swallet; dry entrance too tight; wet entrance blocked by rockfall at 9m. (F)
- JF74: Small cave; 2m drop into small chamber; short crawl to second chamber; no continuation. (F)
- JF75: Small cave; inclined entrance leads to a maze of passages; length about 20m. (F)
- JF76: Tiny cave; inclined entrance peters out after 5m. (F)
- JF77: Small tight hole leads to fissure-type chamber; several tight passages; length 20m; off Settlement Road. (F)
- JF78: Small inclined entrance to small chamber; small extension to choke; on hill above JF77; length 30m. (F)
- JF79-82: BEGINNERS LUCK CAVE: Four entrances leading into an extensive system of passages; some good decoration in places; bone deposits found proved to be that of extinct giant kangaroo and also emu; length approx. 400m; further prospects. (F)
- JF83: Small cave in doline; takes some surface water; several small passages; some formation; 'dig' has been pushed to sump; length 60m; north of JF84. (W/F)
- JF84: Small cave beside Stan Murrays Road; active stream sumps; length 30m; another entrance 4-5m from numbered one. (W/F)
- JF85: Small tight cave with 30-40m of crawls; on same side of road as Beginners Luck; on low ridge. (F)
- JF86: Small pot on ridge towards end of Frizons Road; has 6m entrance pitch; little decoration; ends in choke; bone samples collected. (F)
- JF87: Cave in rift off Leo Thornes Road; NE of Beginners Luck; contains interesting series of mud-floored passages; not fully explored; fills with water in wet weather. (F)
- JF88-89: Not yet assigned.
- JF90: VANDALISATION CAVE: Cave with two vertical entrances 2-3m and 6-7m respectively; a short way above the Junee Road; approx. 100m of passages; previous to being vandalised extensively, would have had perhaps the best display of formation in the Junee area; many bones. (J)

CAVES LISTED- 181 Total.

## REFERENCES.

- Kiernan, K. (1971) Caves and Karst of Junee-Florentine, ASF Newsletter, No.53
- Goede, A. (1975) K.D- Is it Really Finished? Speleo Spiel, No.99

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NOTICES & NEWS Cont;

## CAVCONACT 76 - CALL FOR PAPERS.

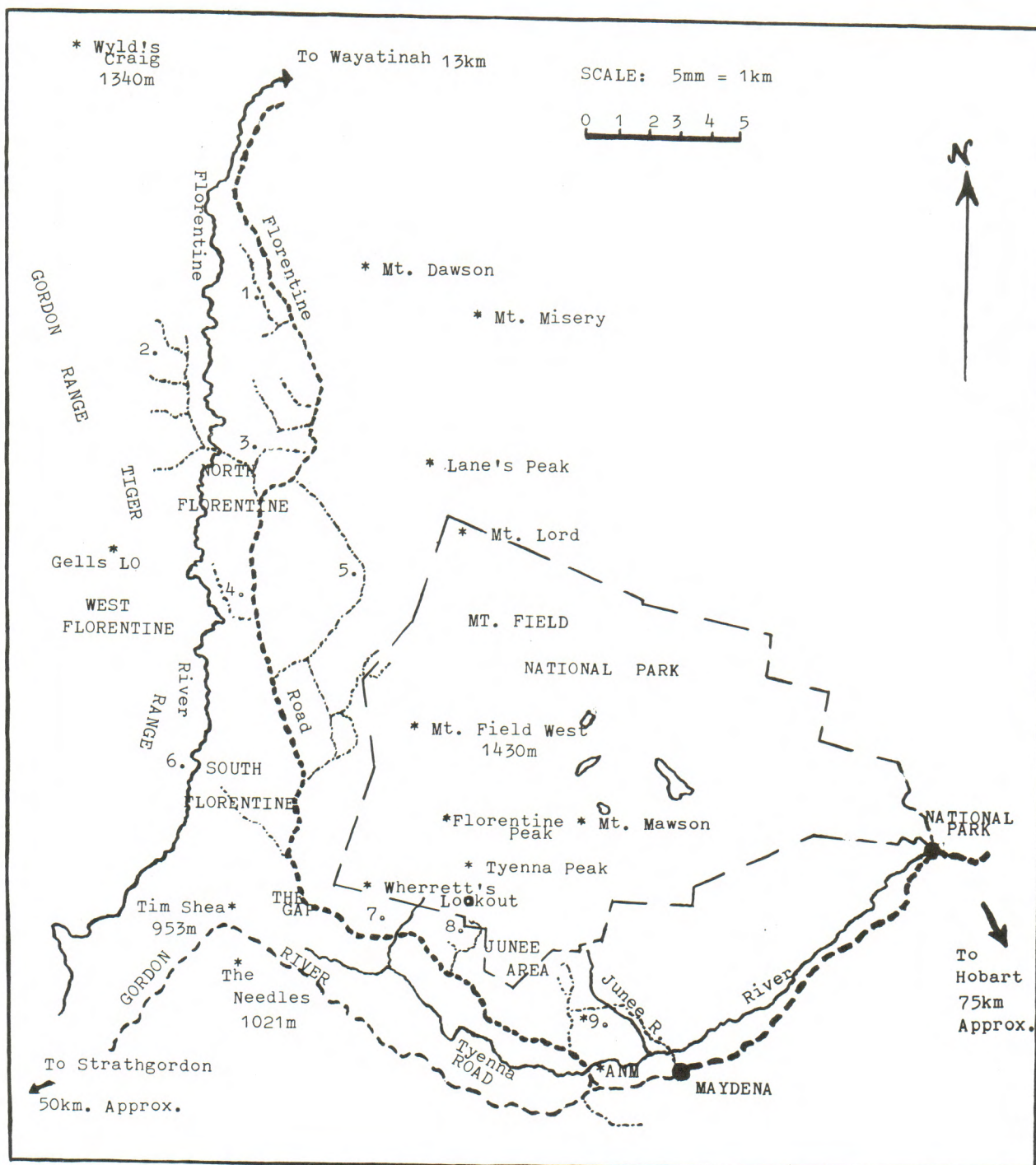
The Organising Committee is now calling for papers to be presented at CAVCONACT-76. We plan a total of 6 sessions and if response is great enough, we will run concurrent sessions by matching a "scientific" session and a "general" session. Topics of papers should be cave or karst related. General fields suggested include geology, geomorphology, conservation, biology, anthropology/archaeology techniques, photography and cave reports.

We ask that titles of proposed papers be sent to us by 31 May, 1976. This will allow us to organise the sessions. Abstracts will be printed before the Convention and should be submitted to the Committee at the time of the Convention for inclusion in the proceedings.

Further information concerning time limits, abstracts, projection equipment, final papers and some hints for slides can be obtained by writing to us - the Organising Committee, Cavconact-76, C/- 18 Arabana St; ARANDA, A.C.T. 2614.

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## JUNEE-FLORENTINE



## KEY TO NUMBERS.

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Frizon's Road area.         | 6. River section investigated by raft. |
| 2. Stan Murray's Road area.    | 7. The big landslide near Wherrett's.  |
| 3. Settlement-Leo Thorne area. | 8. Cave Hill.                          |
| 4. Felix Curtain area.         | 9. Junee Homestead.                    |
| 5. Westfield Road.             |  |

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# WHO'S WHO....

on the SPELEO SCENE?

## 13. geoff francis

Geoff is a Sydney man who went to Papua New Guinea in 1973 as a volunteer teacher. He is also a geomorphologist and his main interests are cave karst and geomorphology. At present, he is doing a M.Sc. on Manus Karst. Geoff has been involved in a lot of exploration work on Manus and has been mainly responsible for placing the island on the speleological map. His caving career started about 15 years ago and in 1969, he joined SUSS. Geoff also worked as a cave guide at Jenolan after finishing at University. He was born in 1947.

## 14. malcolm pound

This Queenslander came to Papua New Guinea in 1975 and he is an engineer by profession. He is about to join the ranks of the "young married". Malcolm joined UQSS in 1969 and has caved in various areas around Queensland as well as interstate. His main interests are hydrology, especially in the Kempsey area in NSW. Since arriving in P.N.G., Malcolm has caved around Port Moresby and was also a member of the 1975 expedition to the Lelet Plateau.

## 15. max jeffries

A native of Maydena, Max is self-employed as a contractor for A.N.M. His interest in caving began with the pre-Khazad-dum conquest and he was one of those who assisted in cutting the track to this cave. Although now 47 years of age, and a grandfather, Max is an extremely dedicated caver in his spare-time. Has been responsible for a majority of discoveries in the Junee-Florentine in recent years including Beginners Luck Cave. Was also one of the figures responsible for the founding of the Maydena branch of TCC in 1975. Max is also currently president of this branch.

(Editors note:) We need more caving identities for the next issue. Let's keep this series going.

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# DOWN UNDER ALL OVER...

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SOCIETIES.

Club news for this particular series is rather sparse. At the time of typing, only four clubs - NUCC, SUSS, MSS, and TCC, have supplied their respective club news as requested. No doubt things will improve in time for the next issue. The other news featured has been gleaned from club newsletter that have been received.

BSA : Bermagui Caver, Vol.3 NO.2 indicates that things have been very quiet and that caving is at an all time low. However, trips were conducted to Camooweal (August-Sept.), Chillagoe and various other areas. This was part of the North Queensland Expedition and quite a number of members took part. A trip was also conducted to Bendethera in mid-August where BD4 was surveyed. Another cave, suspected to be Snake Cave was also surveyed in the same hill as BD4.

Continued on Page 14

DOWN UNDER ALL OVER Cont;

- ESA** : Evil Sevac No.5 indicates that a training weekend was conducted late in May, 1975 and a large number of members were present. Previously, in April, trips were conducted to Tuglow and to Timor Caves plus Bendethera. Colong was also visited this same month and Wolfs Cavern was the objective. In June, a party went to Chillagoe where CH1 and a number of other caves were visited, including Big Hole.
- MSS** : Report that their 10th Annual Dinner proved very successful despite the weather. In August, a familiarisation trip to Walli was held. Caves visited included Piano, Deep Hole and Oolite. A trip was also made to Abercrombie and digging in Bushrangers continued together with a surface trog of the North West Outcrop. In September, another visit was made to Maiden Cave (J79) at Jenolan. Water in the lower chamber had receded permitting digging to be carried out. Due to the thick colloidal nature of the mud, progress was slow but they were able to ascertain that the cave continued downward following the roof dip line. October saw a combined trip with ISS to Wyanbene to carry out work in the Gunbarrel. MSS successfully lit the roof of this 130m high chamber, showing the large rocks of which it is composed. ISS continued work in photographing the upper sections using an ariel camera. Excessive moisture caused problems with the electronics of the camera forcing most of the work to be done in absolute darkness.
- NSWITSS** : Labyrinth 9 (Nov. 1975) contains office bearers reports for 1974-75 and information that a film night was held in mid-August. A Freshers Trip was conducted to Bungonia late in August and B3, B4-5, B51 to B16, B84 were entered while some of the more experienced members entered and pitched into Acoustic Pot (B22). Mid-July saw a trip to Wee Jasper where one group entered the Dip and another, the Punchbowl. A Field day was conducted a few days after the film night where ladder climbing and abseiling practice were carried out. A number of trips were also held to Canyonleigh between early August - early October. Digging appears to have been the main item on each of these trips.
- NUCC** : Frank Bergersen reports that he was elected President after Marge Coggan vacated the position. Club activities have been fairly quiet, however, some things of note have occurred. Perhaps the most significant was the continued systematic exploration and mapping of caves found in the little known limestone outcrops north of the town of Wee Jasper. A significant new cave was found on one of these trips and duly named, "Never To Be Seen Again Cave" (for good reasons). It has about 160m of passage and has been mapped and photographed. A trip was also held to a previously un-examined lens of limestone north of the Michelago limestones, also on the River. Nothing of any note was found. Other trips run by the club between March and the present were to - Marble Arch, London Bridge (National Estate Study) and Cliefden. NUCC are still playing a fundamental role in the preparation & organisation for CAVCONACT - '76.
- SSS** : The Journal (Dec. 75) contains a very interesting article on cave explorations in the Augusta-Margaret River region of Western Australia. It was written by Lloyd Robinson and mainly deals with the discovery and history of Harleys and Labyrinth Caves. A report on The Antro Di Corchia, Italy also appears in this issue and was written by Neil Montgomery. Maps of Crack Pot and Suicide Tower are also featured. In mid-September, a large party went to Wombeyan for the purpose of noting various items of speleological interest on the new Wombeyan Area Map and to do additional tagging. A Field day was conducted at Emu Plains early in October but was poorly attended. Future trips are planned to Jenolan, Bungonia, Wombeyan, Lannigans Creek, Tasmania and Timor over the Christmas-New Year period.
- SUSS** : Bruce Welch reports that SUSS has printed the entire NIBICON Field Book and this takes up the entire Nov. issue of the Bulletin. The Log Book, situated at "Hampton House" during the 9th Conference Field Trips, records all the work carried out at Jenolan during that time. Additional copies are available from SUSS for 50c, postage extra. JENOLAN - this area has been the centre of great activity, with trips almost every weekend. The major speleological project has been the surveying of all caves in the Northern Limestone in preparation for a publication on the caves of this area. On one particular weekend, 22 caves were surveyed, and all caves will be surveyed by the end of January. Two new caves were discovered in November. This task of complete documentation of all caves in the Northern Limestone has taken up most of the time since the Mammoth Book was published. Other work at Jenolan includes :- investigation of Spider Cave, a study of cave algae by Dr. Guy Cox, commencement of the complete documentation of the caves in the Southern Limestone, a study of the bird life at Jenolan by G. Smith and further hydrological studies. A comprehensive report on a recent flood at Jenolan; additional observations; and work done in previous years, form a sound basis for continued work in this field. Probably the greatest new cave discovery at Jenolan - Spider Cave - has received due attention, with continued digging pushing the cave further into the unknown. This cave also contains many bones and representatives from the Australian Museum have visited the cave as well as members of the Guiding Staff at Jenolan. Members of SUSS also visited Cliefden on a UNSWSS trip and digging and surveying work were carried out in one cave.

Continued on Page 15

DOWN UNDER ALL OVER Cont;

- TCC : Has been very quiet over the last couple of months and there is very little to report. Trips have been few and far between. The only news of any significance was that Andrew Skinner completed maps of Amateurs Cave at Gunns Plains and Malodorous Cave at Mole Creek. Further exploration of the Junee-Florentine is expected to start again shortly.
- UQSS : Down Under (Dec. '75) is mainly devoted to the office bearer's reports. There is also mention of a trip to Donna Cave at Chillagoe in January, '75. This was apparently in connection with the Chillagoe Post Conference Field Trip. Ryans Creek Cave was also visited on this trip. A trip to Mt. Etna (date unknown) is also mentioned with Elephant Hole (E8) and Speaking Tube (E7) being checked for bone breccias.

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## 7th INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Are you tired of exploring Australian caves? Do you want to see the dark side of the Old Country? Now is your chance! The Seventh International Speleological Congress is coming up in Sheffield, England in September, 1977. The first circular giving details of this coming event has just arrived. The Sheffield meeting will be held from 10th to 17th of September, 1977 at the Sheffield University Conference Centre. The congress aims to cater for both the scientist and the sporting caver. Short papers are invited from any intending delegates and the closing date for submissions is January 10th, 1977. If you have a lot to contribute please note that delegates will be limited to a total entry of three papers, each of 1200 words (This applies even to Elery Hamilton-Smith or John Dunkley, should they plan to attend!). Papers must be in one of the official languages - English, French, German, Russian, Spanish or Italian (Australian is not included).

Papers should be presented under one of the following headings:

- (1) Geology and mineralogy
- (2) Karst morphology
- (3) Speleogenesis
- (4) Hydrogeology and hydrology
- (5) Cave chemistry/physics
- (6) Cave biology
- (7) Archaeology/palaeontology
- (8) Documentation
- (9) Caving techniques/equipment
- (10) Conservation/tourism
- (11) Miscellaneous topics

In addition, there will be a number of special seminars that will bring together selected related papers on certain topics in order to stimulate informed discussion. Fees for the Congress are approximate at this stage because of rampant inflation in Britain (Australian delegates should feel at home).

- (1) Full members (receiving all publications) - £20
- (2) Accompanying members attending with a full member - £10  
(all rights except receipt of publications and guidebooks)
- (3) Young cave members, under 25 years - £13
- (4) Receipt of all publications (non-attending) - £13

Accommodation costs will be announced in the second circular; Conference Centre fees are likely to be £7 per day, full board.

Field meetings are to be held both before and after the conference and are to be of three types:-

- (1) Excursions consist of guided tours of the main karst areas to observe and discuss major surface and readily accessible underground features.
- (2) Camps are based on the main caving areas, giving competent cavers the chance to explore long and deep caves with local cavers.
- (3) Symposia mix paper sessions and indoor discussion with field outings. Numbers will be limited to 40 people with special interests in the topic.

There are two pre-congress excursions and five camps as well as five post-congress excursions, three camps and seven symposia. If you want to attend you must send a provisional booking form by 1st May, '76. This is in order to receive the Second Circular. The binding booking form with payment of fees and deposits must be returned by or not later than January 10th, 1977.

Copies of the provisional booking form can be obtained from the ASF Newsletter Editor by special request.

## BOOK REVIEW.

### CHALLENGE UNDERGROUND - Bruce L. Bedford.

Published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd., London, 1975. 192 pages, Price - \$16.25

As a newcomer to caving, I regarded this book with interest when it was handed to me to read. It seemed to me that I would qualify neither as an experienced caver, and therefore very demanding, nor as a general reader completely lacking in knowledge about caves.

Challenge Underground is interesting to read. Bruce L. Bedford has a lucid style of writing and the reader can rapidly become engrossed. He has a gift for recounting amusing incidents and also for evoking the tension of a cave rescue. The style of writing changes from a lighthearted approach in the early part aimed at the general reader, to a much more serious one as he goes on to talk of cave exploration, rescues and deaths. The change is not entirely due to the more sombre nature of the incidents being described but mainly, I feel, because the real caver is writing the second section.

After a rather melodramatic and floridly written prologue; supposedly an account of one's first experience in a cave, Bruce L. Bedford progresses through a brief outline of the formation of caves and an history of caving, to an analysis of caves and cavers clothing and gear, cave 'specialists', divers, hazards and rescue, some well-known cave accidents, experiments in living alone underground, the exploration of Mammoth Cave and Flint Ridge Cave, Gouffre Berger, Gouffre de la Pierre St. Martin and Ghar Paru. The Epilogue gives a brief summary of areas around the world, the types of caves found and explorations going on. Challenge Underground includes a short glossary, an index, 12 black and white plates and 12 line drawings. There is no Bibliography so one cannot find either his sources or other books on the subjects mentioned.

Despite the fact that the book made interesting reading, I found that it had some shortcomings. Bruce L. Bedford concentrates almost exclusively on British caves, cavers, cave techniques and cave politics. Apart from Mammoth, Flint Ridge, Gouffre Berger and Pierre St. Martin, the rest of the world's caves and cavers were only mentioned in the last seven pages in the Epilogue. This imbalance, I feel sure, would give anyone with no knowledge of caving a complete misconception about caves, that is, that they are all cold, wet and difficult and that you're lucky if you do not die of exposure.

The book is too expensive for what it offers. For \$16.25 the general public would be more interested in a book which had a generous number of colour plates. For the caver, it is not sufficiently rigorous a work to make it worthwhile buying. It is worth reading but only if you can borrow your copy from a library. Recommend that your local library obtain a copy.

Patricia Fullerton, TCC.

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### CAVCONACT - 76

I have received the following information as a result of the ASF Committee Meeting held at Wollongong end of January, 1976.

The cost of accomodation if the Conference is held in the Xmas-New Year period - 27 - 30th December, 1976 is \$18.00 per day or \$54.00 for three nights. This does not include registration, Caveman's Dinner or transport.

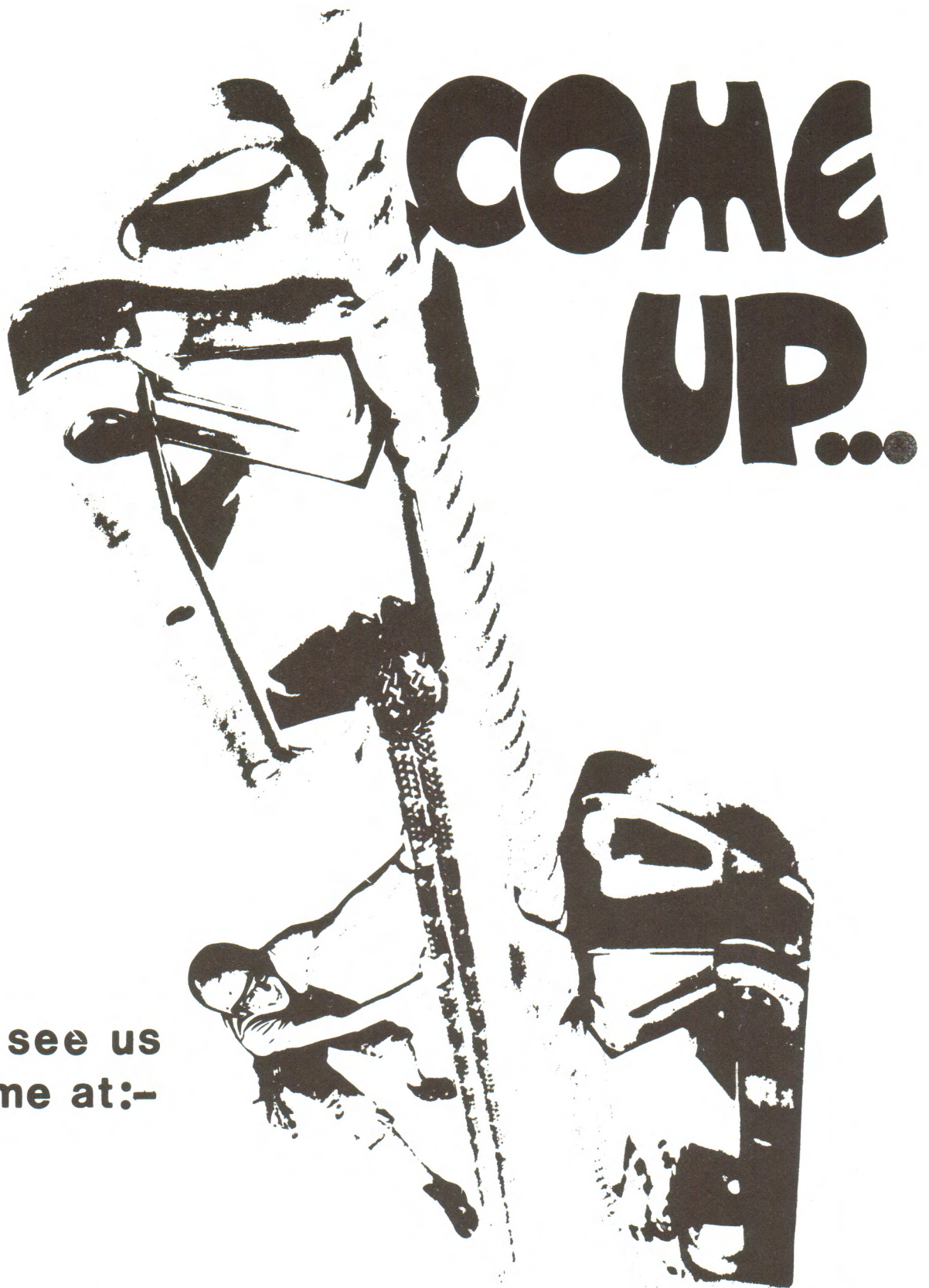
Some members have suggested that it be held commencing on January 3rd, 1977. At this rate, it would only cost \$14.00 per day or \$42.00 for three nights. How would you feel about this? If you think that this would suit you and your pocket - write to Andrew Spate immediately and let him know. I have also been informed that there must be 100 definite starters or no Conference! Andrew's address can also be found inside the front cover.

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### DOWN UNDER ALL OVER (Late Edition)

HCG - Have just sent me a copy of their Journal, No.1, January 1976. This well-presented Journal features an article concerning speleo-genesis at Bungonia, maps of The Bunny Room, Mendip, Phoenix, Pants-In-Tail and Solar Cave, plus an article on a new cave dwelling silverfish and an article on the conservation of the Boyd Plateau. There is also a cave listing on the caves at Jaunter. Also of interest is the Introduction. Congrats on an excellent production.

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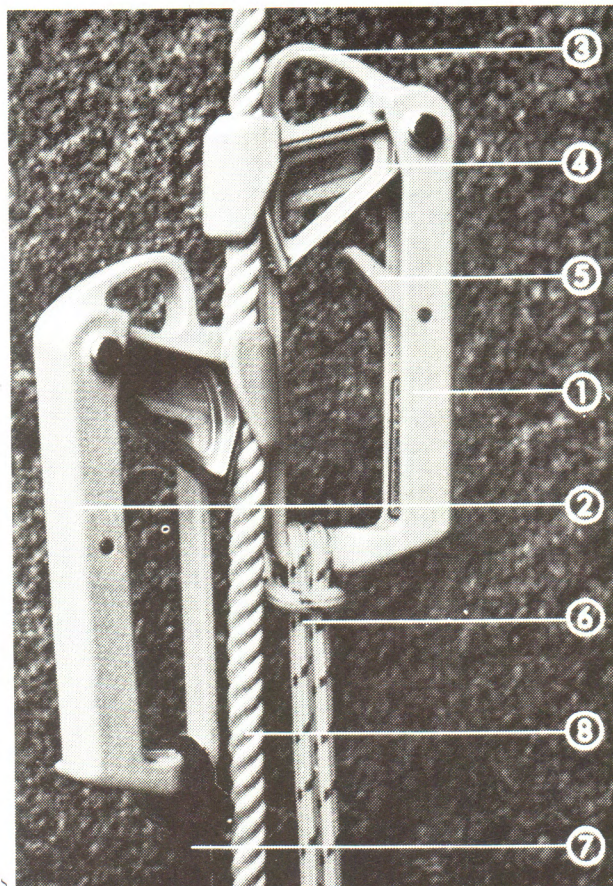


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