

SPRING 1982 : No. 97

# ASF NEWSLETTER

THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY



TAKING WIND SPEED MEASUREMENTS IN THAMPANA CAVE

photo Guy Baskin, Channel 9, Perth

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AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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	WESTERN AUSTRALIA SPELEOLOGICAL GROUP	PO Box 67 Nedlands	WA	6009	

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# ASF NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL

# THE FRANKLIN



IT'S  
UP TO



YOU



## NOTES ON THE ASF

### EXECUTIVE MOVES

President KEN LANCE has moved to Port Headland this year, about as far as you can get from the centre of caving. However, caving trips are still on, including a remarkable weekend round trip to Bungonia, where the beard and red hair created quite a stir at the Cave Rescue meeting in March, and Ken was able to entertain the troops in his inimitable style. He's also managed a quick visit to Tasmanian cavers, and had talks in Victoria, S.A. & W.A. in the last of which he maintains a continuing presence in the cave conservation advisory committee.

Vice-President JOHN DUNKLEY has responsibility for liaison with commissions and committees in NSW and ACT. He has managed two quick trips to Melbourne on A.S.F. matters in the last year, two to Jenolan and seven or eight to Sydney. Main concerns have been the "Jenolan Problem", A.S.F. Incorporation and two meetings of the NSW Speleo Council. He also visited Speleo Sports and is glad he's old enough not to feel obliged to do more than watch other fools! John has talked at several club meetings over the last few months. Finally, he is co-ordinating an A.S.F. submission to the National Conservation Strategy.

Vice-Presidents MILES PIERCE and JULIE MOORE liaise with commissions and ad hoc committees based in the other states. Miles is working on a new issue of the A.S.F.'s Administration Handbook and several other related tasks.

### SECRETARIAL NOTES - ASF APATHY

(With apologies to those that do reply)

CATHIE ROTHERY

Despite my grumblings in the last newsletter there has been only one further reply to the secretarial circular sent out in April regarding membership of The Hills District Speleo's. I am still waiting for correspondence from CTCG, NUCC, BCA, MBSC, MSS, SSS, UNSWSS, CQSS, UQSS, NC, TCC and WASG. If your club is listed here and you don't think you're defunct take the time to find out why your secretary isn't doing their job.

It is impossible for ASF to achieve anything when half of it's full members don't take the time and courtesy to respond to correspondence.

The vicious cycle of apathy must be broken and can only be done by you. If you don't reply to your mail then nothing is achieved - ASF achieves nothing - so why bother to reply to correspondence? Why belong?

Think about it.....

## WE NEED COPY SO PLEASE START WRITING

### ASF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Australian Speleological Federation are:

1. Formulation of national policies on caving standards and ethics, cave safety, documentation and survey standards.
2. Preparation of a national automated data bank listing all Australian caves, cave maps and primary sources.
3. Biennial national conferences and a biennial Conference on Cave Tourism and Management.
4. Sponsoring of specialist consultancy services for karst and cave management plan.

Publications include the Newsletter (quarterly), Conference Proceedings (biennial), Cave Management in Australia (biennial), and occasional ad hoc publications.

Government is by a Committee consisting of a delegate from each member society. Meetings are held annually with each alternate meeting in conjunction with the Conference which is open to anyone interested. Continuing activities are administered by permanent commissions and special aspects of policy are studied by ad hoc committees. Overall coordination is through the Executive Committee Officers.

The Federation has chartered the NSW Speleological Council to provide liaison among member societies in NSW and ACT.

The ASF library is administered by the National Library in Canberra, ACT. Members may obtain copies of all Australian and most major foreign publications by interlibrary loans through their state or local library.

The Federation is the representative of Australia with the International Union of Speleology, Vienna, Austria.

### SPELEO VISION - 14th biennial conference

#### THINGS TO DO AT THE CONFERENCE

1. Speleosports - each club may enter a team or amalgamate with another club to pit their skills in the outdoors against other "caving types".
2. Holograms - We hope that there will be a display
3. Movies - We intend that there will be some international caving films.
4. Meet other cavers
5. Make friends and contacts to encourage you to go on interstate trips.
6. Broaden your horizons.
7. See South Australia - exciting day trips and caving trips from Adelaide.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE

1. Snorkelling and SCUBA diving trips along the coast.



2. Walk along the spectacular reef at Port Noarlunga at low tide.
  3. Trips to wineries - Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, Southern Vales and Coonawarra etc.
  4. Day trips to local caves.
  5. Day trips to Burnside Mines including Weal Gawler, the oldest mine in Australia.
  6. Flights around the coast or wherever you like including where possible flights to caving areas or even to the caving localities if we arrange it!
  7. Relax on the beautiful beaches close to Adelaide.
  8. Visit the Constitutional Museum next to Parliament House - a worthwhile, stimulating and excellent presentation .....
- AND HEAPS MORE. We can help you organise the above activities.

#### THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

Papers and discussions will be held from 3rd to 7th Jan 83.

#### FIELD TRIPS (more details later about dates)

1. Kangaroo Island - caving, snorkelling, diving, walking, sightseeing on this paradise of preserved countryside, flora and fauna showing what some of SA was like before it was cleared for farming.\*
2. Nullabor - WASG will be coordinating a PRE-conference trip to the Nullabor from 23 Dec 82 until 1 Jan 83. Information can be gained by writing to:  
Mr R D Matthews  
76 Teague St  
Victoria Park WA 6100 'phone  
(07) 321 5916
3. Flinders Ranges
4. Mount Gambier Region - snorkelling in the sink holes or cave diving for those with appropriate qualifications. Those requiring details of testing and qualifications for cave diving should contact:  
Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDA)  
Mr Robin Garrard  
9 Winton Ave  
Warradale SA (08) 296 9148

We will help to organise these trips for interested people or provide information about how to plan them or make bookings.

\*The Kangaroo Island trip will be organised soon because of heavy bookings.

#### ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATION

##### CAMPING GROUNDS

- 1 Kingston Park Caravan Park
  - on the beach front
  - (08) 296 9907
- 2 Brownhill Creek Caravan Park
  - National Parks and Wildlife Service
  - Mitcham
  - (08) 271 4824

- 3 Marian Caravan park
  - between South and Marian Road
  - 323 Sturt Road, Bedford Park
  - on site vans available
  - (08) 278 6695
- 4 Belair Recreation Park
  - in the hills
  - National Parks and Wildlife Service
  - (08) 278 3540
- 5 Sturt River Caravan Park
  - walking distance from Flinders University (for conference)
  - Brookside Road, Darlington
  - on site vans available
  - (08) 296 7302

#### YOUTH HOSTEL

Adelaide - 290 Gillies Street, Adelaide  
(08) 223 6007

Please aim to stay at Flinders University, arrangements to ensure that accommodation is available have been made by the conference organisers (CEGSA). By being all in one place it is easier to get together than if you are spread out all over Adelaide!

The conference organiser's address is:

3 Harcourt Road  
Payneham SA 5070 (08) 42 2441

#### SECRETARIAL CIRCULAR

CATHIE ROTHERY (ASF Secretary)

A first and final call for agenda items for the committee meeting to be held in Adelaide in conjunction with the 14th Biennial Conference 3rd to 7th January 1983, at Flinders University. The agenda will be circularised early November so either write or 'phone me at 78A Balaclava Rd, Eastwood 2122 (02) 858 3524.

#### NOW

Attention all convenors!!!

I would like to circularise your reports with the final agenda papers. This would enable clubs to consider any action recommended as well as save time at committee meetings. If you can either neatly write or type your report I will make copies available. Recommendations should be clearly outlined in the conclusion of your report.

The treasurer, Lloyd Mill has moved to 11 Warner St, Essendon Vic.

The Endeavour Speleological Association has changed its name to the Endeavour Caving and Recreational Club.

The Endeavour Caving and Recreational Club and the Royal Australian Navy Caving Association have applied for full membership. Please ensure that your club has a representative or a proxy vote at the next Committee Meeting to ensure that the delay that has unfortunately occurred with the Hills District Speleological Club doesn't repeat itself. Any comments regarding these applications should be sent to the secretary.

It is not only good manners by a part of A.S.F. code of thics to notify a club when visiting an area with which they are familiar. I quote: "They will (A.S.F. clubs), when visiting an area frequently visited by another club, do all in their power to co-operate with that club." There have been complaints that this is not happening.



WE'LL NEVER FORGET WHATS-HIS-NAME

A few years ago, a distinguished Australian caver received the Certificate of Merit of the National Speleological Society (U.S.A.) for his contributions to the advancement of (vertical) caving techniques. He was not a member of the NSS although he is a member of an A.S.F. society and this was rather more formal recognition that Australia could muster for one of its most experienced and well-liked caving sons.

It seemed to the Canberra Committee Meeting of the Federation that, as the representatives of organised speleology in Australia, we need to look again at the way we go about giving recognition and thanks to those people who have raised both scientific speleology and recreational caving to such high levels in this country. The need was emphasised when it was revealed that the inaugural President of the A.S.F. received precisely the same recognition at home and abroad.

At present the Federation has two means of formally recognising major contributions to Australian speleology:

1. **Eddie Smith Award**

Named in memory of a distinguished pioneer of Australian speleology, a life member of TCC and the first woman President of an Australian caving organisation (CSS). This award recognises those persons who have made a truly outstanding contribution to Australian speleology. Recipients to date have been:

Mr E A Lane	(1972)
Dr Aola M Richards	(1972)
Mr E Hamilton-Smith	(1976)
Prof. J N Jennings	(1974)
Mr B S Nurse	(1978)
Mr J R Dunkley	(1980)

2. **Fellowship of the Australian Speleological Federation**

The only recipient to date has been Mr E Hamilton-Smith.

The essential difference between these awards is that the former is not restricted to people who have close connections with the Federation itself.

A third method of recognition has grown up more or less on an ad hoc basis and includes awards for contributions to the Newsletter, the photographic awards, and the Caving Equipment Awards for the most humorous article and the best cave map.

Now we do not for one minute imagine that all these worthies expect testimonial dinners or gold trog lamps for their services, but perhaps we should have a better means of saying thanks and well done to people whose contributions do not quite fit the existing criteria. What of those who have given years to karst and cave conservation issues, to editing and publication roles, to the development of equipment and so on? In a way, it is like conferring Life or Honorary Membership on a club member.

Your club is being asked for its views on these and related issues, and we would welcome individual thoughts, addressed to us direct or through your club as soon as possible so we can prepare recommendation for the next A.S.F. Committee Meeting.

## Letters to the Editor

### CAVE RESCUE IN NSW

With superb timing, a cave rescue took place shortly after Terry O'Leary's letter about the Cave Rescue Group, and in the light of that experience I would like to make a few comments on Terry's letter. Three points emerged clearly from the Jenolan incident:

- 1) there is no substitute for local knowledge
- 2) an effective search and rescue needs quite a large number of experienced cavers
- 3) non-cavers are not able to make effective checks of cave entrances.

At first glance this might seem to support Terry's call for more active cavers to join the Cave Rescue Group, and indeed I hope that many will. But, cave rescues are not very common (fortunately) in NSW, and by the time the next rescue occurs many of these cavers will themselves be "fossils". They are unlikely to know all the caves, in all the areas, where a rescue can occur. We should, I think, look at exactly what such a body should do. The Jenolan rescue showed clearly that the people who can - and therefore should - carry out a search and rescue are the active cavers who regularly work in the area. It also showed that several clubs were able to call out substantial numbers of cavers in a short time.

The conclusion to be drawn from all this seems to me to be that the Cave Rescue Group should see its function as providing facilities (stretchers, radios etc.) and organisation, and should not attempt to carry out rescues itself.

When they are called in to a rescue, their first action should be to initiate a call-out of club cavers. It follows that all members of ASF clubs should consider themselves as part of the cave rescue system. This is, of course, just how the cave rescue organisations in the UK operate - and there is no doubt that they are the most efficient cave rescue bodies in the world. The NSW Cave Rescue certainly has the ability to co-ordinate a rescue very efficiently, but at present it apparently has no call-out list at all!

The other function of the Cave Rescue Group is teaching cave rescue techniques, which they do very effectively at their annual Bungonia weekend. I would suggest that they could also borrow another idea from the British CROs and send an observer along to individual club's cave rescue practices. (Your club does have an annual rescue practice, doesn't it?) This would help the clubs to improve their techniques, and keep the Cave Rescue members in touch with the clubs. And keeping in touch should be what cave rescue organisation is all about.

GUY COX

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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## Conservation Column

### TASMANIA'S TWO RING CIRCUS

KEVIN KIERNAN

The Franklin Caves issue is now a major part of the dams controversy and Tasmanian Cave Conservation can no longer be extricated from state politics. In my last contribution to this newsletter, I foreshadowed the demise of the State Labor Government, which had pledged to destroy the Franklin caves. During the long holiday arranged for the Parliament by Premier Holgate, Democrat Norm Sanders framed a motion of no confidence in the minority government, with the assured support of cross benchers Doug Lowe and Mary Willey. After boasting to us at the Verandah Cliff campsite on the Franklin of his ability to outjump any opponent to receive the Speaker's call, Sanders suffered a knee injury in Franklin Cave, and on the morning the Parliament was due to resume could be seen in the not quite empty House "practicing a one-legged leap to his feet accompanied by an assertive cry of "Mr Speaker". It remained to be seen whether the Liberal opposition would support his motion of course, for their commitment to flooding the Franklin-Gordon area was such that the Liberals had indicated that they believed the dams were more important than the prospect of a Liberal Government.

Cynicism had to win, and of course it did. Have you ever tried to return a large black rafting barrel to someone at Parliament House on a day a government is likely to fall? Try to get through both the thronging demonstrators and police cordon with such a package?! Anyway, after the politicians had indulged in the usual ceremonies attached to the opening of a new session of Parliament - polite chit-chatting amid cream cakes and tea, churchgoing, pomp and niceties, - members slipped away quietly to file their teeth before taking their seats for the bloodbath. They sat patiently while the Governor read out the big legislative programme of a Government which would have to move fast to achieve it all in one day. Premier Harry Holgate was reported to have tears in his eyes as he wiped the last crumbs from his mouth. Even this practiced Holgate opponent could not deny a tinge of compassion for the man as he sat at the table signing papers and pretending not to hear as voice after voice cut him to ribbons.

The election which followed was not just any election. Under Tasmania's antiquated electoral act candidates are restricted to a maximum expenditure of \$1,500. For years no-one had bothered much about it, and simply perjured themselves if they bothered to submit a return at all. However, challenges to candidate's seats at the last election, and assurances of challenges should it happen again, meant that this election was wide open to less wealthy minority groups and individuals who appeared in profusion. With expenditure by their parties limited, politicians who had relied upon black and white television to hide the bloodstains had suddenly to take baby-kissing lessons.

In the 1972 state election campaign, contested by candidates of the United Tasmanian Group (UTG) who were pledged to save Lake Pedder, the dams issue was ignored by the major parties. The

Hydro Electric Commission - a government authority - covered for the major parties with a series of full page advertisements condemning the UTG and threatening to raise electricity prices if UTG candidates were elected. The HEC had a series of TV advertisements ready to run this time but the advertisements were delayed and Tasmanians had to wait for their brainwashing.

Naively translating the results of the one-issue dams referendum into prospective votes in a multi-issue election, and euphoric opinion polls which suggested a large vote outside the major parties, the Tasmanian Wilderness Society endorsed candidates in several seats. In doing so they split the vote, and the seat of the former director Norm Sanders, might well have been lost. Several dam opponents in the Labor Party lost their seats, as did Mary Willey. Sanders and current TWS Director Bob Brown polled second and fourth in the seven seat electorate which includes Hobart, Brown becoming probably the highest polling candidate ever to miss out on getting a seat under Tasmania's "Hare-Lip" voting system. Perhaps there is a lesson in Sanders' success, for he had spent much of the campaign indicating that while he felt obliged to recontest his seat after bringing down the Government, he would be relieved if he was not re-elected because it was his worst job since cleaning toilets in Utah.

The Liberal Party was swept into office. Federal Labor president Neville Wran succinctly observed that the Tasmanian government has self destructed while Mary Willey put it more simply: members of the new Parliament "haven't got enough grey matter between them to make a headache". Within days of the election Holgate was dumped as State Labor leader in favour of former Senator and Federal Minister Ken Wriedt. As a would-be Federal colleague observed: "there's one thing you can say about Ken - he's tall. Very tall". Only days after the state election Tasmanian Conservation Trust president Peter Thompson topped the poll in his attempt on the Upper House seat of Hobart, but again missed out when preferences were distributed. A few more days and State Parliament had passed the legislation to flood the Gordon-Franklin caves.

### What Can You Do?

One is left to ponder whether the sort of circus I have described is an appropriate forum to unilaterally decide the fate of part of Australia's Natural Heritage, and an area on the World Heritage list. While Tasmania's high proportion of Parliamentarians per capita brings a closeness to the people, it also demands mediocrity and worse to fill all the seats from a small population. The focus of the campaign has now shifted to the national sphere - even Premier Gray is planning a pro-dams promotion on the mainland. In the Victorian state election, a "No Dams" endorsement was made by about 7% of voters. In the Australian Capital Territory election in June the "No Dams" vote was 41%.

In June the TWS and two tourist operators sought a High Court injunction to prevent the Prime Minister and Treasurer from voting in the Loans Council to make funds available to Tasmania to construct the Scheme. The Court rejected their contention that federal funds should not be made available until obligations for an Environmental Impact Assessment had been made under the Environment Protection Act. At the Loans Council the report of the Grants Commission which advocated a larger proportion of funds being allocated to the larger States was rejected.



Instead the new Liberal Government of Tasmania received a handout \$60 million greater than the Commission had considered the state entitled to, whereas New South Wales received only 2.6% of its extra entitlement. Energy authorities were given the all clear to seek overseas funds for the scheme. Treasury approval will be needed if funds are secured, hence another court action can be anticipated at that time. In addition to temporarily letting the Federal Government off the hook, the situation looks like a recipe for Tasmanian bankruptcy.

The latest figures show an HEC debt of \$865 million before it starts borrowing for the Gordon-Franklin dam. The total debt burden amounts to \$2,045 for every man, woman and child in Tasmania. The HEC's own figures indicate that it is already paying 43.4% of its revenue in interest payments on loans. The HEC Commissioner has told the Senate Select Committee on SW Tasmania that it is building the new scheme, as always, "on spec". No contracts exist with buyers. The Senate Committee is yet to report. While the numbers appear to be firmly against the dams its chairman is strongly inclined the other way and is reported to be impeding final preparation and release of its findings.

There was a significant development at the Federal ALP conference in June when the party adopted a policy position against further dams on the Gordon or Franklin, and compensation to Tasmania for any additional costs in alternative methods of energy generation. One wonders to what extent this decision was an attempt to placate environmentalists after its decision on the uranium industry the previous day. The no-dams policy is contrary to a proposal put by State Opposition leader Wriedt. While the state branch is technically bound by the decision, the man who did so much to sabotage Federal ALP attempts to save Lake Pedder in the early 1970's, is now spearheading attempts to sabotage the federal no-dams policy in Tasmania.

By this time the reader may be wondering just why I have filled the pages of a newsletter devoted to caves with the nonsense which masquerades as the governing process in Tasmania. The answer is simple. When we look at cave conservation issues it is wishful thinking to believe that logic must triumph. Lake Pedder was not drowned by logic but by the pride of old men. A similar fate may well be in store for the Gordon-Franklin caves. In politics black is white if it is expedient to powerful forces that it be so. When the future lasts no longer than the time between elections and the Australian nation can be relied upon to bail-out provincial Tasmania from the results of economic lunacy, anything is possible. Don't look for rationality, look for the facts. You will see that they are increasingly grim for the Gordon-Franklin caves.

#### Postscript

An intention by conservationists to blockade road construction towards the Gordon-Franklin damsite has been announced in Hobart. While a peaceful protest has been planned by the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, the Tasmanian Premier Robin Gray has sought to scare away support with talk of a "bloodbath" and a comment that he "could not guarantee there would not be any fatalities". Despite his inflammatory remarks, conservationists are working towards a very large scale, peaceful obstruction of the project and are urgently seeking active

involvement by concerned people from outside as well as within Tasmania. It is intended that the blockade will be established within the next couple of months. If the Gordon-Franklin caves and wilderness are to survive the Society considers it imperative that the issue is seen to be clearly a national one, with strong and active involvement by people from outside Tasmanian electorates.



#### Tasmanian Wilderness Society

Contact these groups for details on future activities and news of the future of South-West Tasmania. If you can volunteer assistance in the form of manual labour, money, goods or services, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

<u>Tasmania</u> 129 Bathurst Street HOBART TAS 7000 (002) 34 9366	<u>Queensland</u> C/-Qld Conservation Council PO Box 238 NORTH QUAY QLD 4000
<u>Victoria</u> 419 Lonsdale Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000 (03) 602 4877	<u>ACT</u> PO Box 1875 CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601
<u>Western Australia</u> PO Box 31 NEDLANDS WA 6009 (09) 299 6281	<u>New South Wales</u> PO Box N204 Grosvenor Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 (02) 267 7722

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please accept me as a member for 1982/83. I enclose \$ for the following category:

Regular member	\$15
Concession (student, unemployed, pensioner)	\$ 7
Household	\$20
Affiliation for Organisations	\$30

(NB. Concession Members receive the newsletter but not the journal)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode: .....

Signature.....Date: .....

If you do not wish to cut this out simply photocopy it and

SEND TO:

Tasmanian Wilderness Society  
129 Bathurst Street  
Hobart TAS 7000



NOW is the time to ACT  
for the caves of the FRANKLIN RIVER!

RUDY FRANK

Australia's largest area of temperate wilderness karst and caves, on the Lower Franklin River, is under threat of inundation by a "Mickey Mouse" hydro-electric scheme pushed onto the Tasmanian Government and people by their over influential Hydro-Electric Commission. Although upgrading of access roads has already begun, this Spring sees perhaps the best chance yet of the Federal Government honouring its obligations and acting to prevent this destructive scheme from going ahead and devastating yet another large slab of South West Tasmania's wilderness. The Federal Government has an obvious responsibility to act, having both placed South West Tasmania on Australia's register of the National Estate and nominated it for inclusion in the World Heritage Register. This latter nomination has been recommended and should be ratified within a month when the South West will join Kakadu National Park, the Great Barrier Reef and twenty six "natural" areas on the list. It is worth noting that since the discovery of Fraser Cave and other archeological sites on the Lower Franklin, the South West could well have been nominated for its international cultural values as well!

Five minutes of positive action NOW may well help to save the South West and its caves, archeological sites, magnificent gorges, millenia-old rain forest and untouched wild flowers forever!

What to do?

1. Most important is to send a brief hand written note to some or all of the following;

The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser PM  
The Rt Hon Tom McVeigh, Minister for the Environment  
Your Liberal/Country Party Senators  
Your Local Liberal/Country Party Member of the House of Representatives

Sincerely express your concern for the future of Tasmania's wilderness.

"...if a politician receives 100 personal hand written letters from their electorate they get very worried."

Senator Don Chipp

Note: Both the ALP and the Democrats have strong pro South West Tasmania policies.

2. Support the Tasmanian Wilderness Society's campaign, become a member, make a donation, run a film night, give an interest free loan or just offer physical help.

3. Write to the press and media, even if your letters are not published they create and reinforce an awareness of public interest and concern.

4. If you want further general information, films and speakers for meetings etc contact your local TWS/SWTCNSW branch. For cave information read Kevin Kiernan's excellent articles in this and recent editions of the ASF Newsletter. Alternatively I would be happy to help (03) 489 1447, c/o Prehistory, Latrobe University, Bundoora, VIC 3083.

5. We can win this campaign, but only if enough care to act NOW!

## Letters to the Editor CONTINUED

### JENOLAN CAVE RESCUE - a new perspective

The recent incident at Jenolan, NSW showed the value of training, for groups such as the NSW Cave Rescue Group. The group brought into operation procedures that had been rehearsed at rescue practice weekends at Bungonia, NSW (and other areas). The logistics and organisation worked out well because of this training.

The most noteworthy feature of this logistic setup was the response of ASF clubs. Once the NSW Cave Rescue Group had been on the scene for some time it was decided to expand the scope of the operation. Certain experienced cavers known to the NSW Cave Rescue Group were called in. The success of this tactic was shown by the rapid location of the young boy who had been lost for a considerable time. The capacity to liase with and draw on the general caving community is essential for such a specialised group as the NSW Cave Rescue Group. The small number of people in a group of this type make extended operations difficult if not impossible without outside assistance.

In the future more liason with the general caving community could be assured if the NSW Cave Rescue Group were made up of a wider mix of members than it has at present. Members are required from more speleo societies. This mix could be accomplished by just two or three members of each speleo group being members of the NSW Cave Rescue Group, thereby providing the necessary communication channels

TERRY O'LEARY

Ed. Note - SUSS were not called out by the NSW Cave Rescue Group. SUSS waited until Tuesday afternoon before contacting Search HQ and offering their services. One would have thought that the group responsible for much of the mapping at Jenolan, and the publication of two books on the area, should have been called out sooner!

## Twenty Years Ago

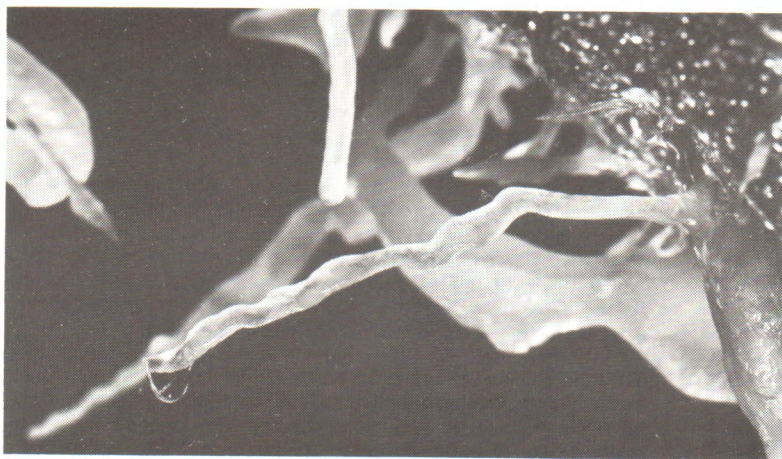
This segment is compiled by Jonathon Campbell. It is hoped that it will become a regular column. We would delighted to receive contributions for this column, so delve into your club library and see what you can dig up.

The September 1961 issue of The ASF Newsletter reported as follows:

### "BAT BOMBERS"

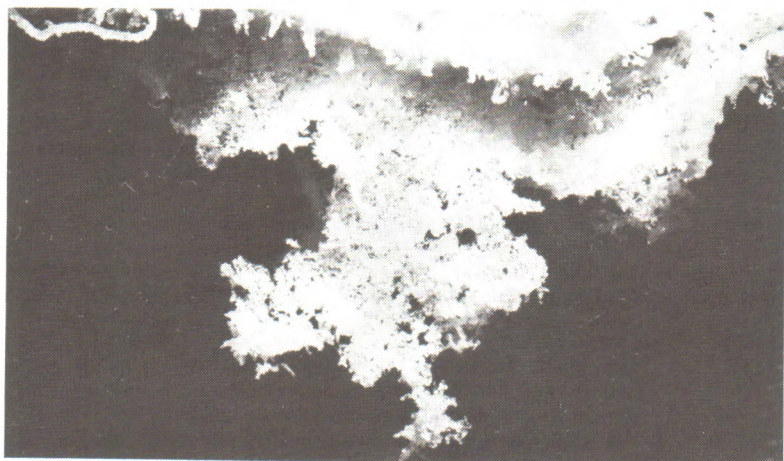
The August 1961 issue of SSS "Communications" refers briefly to a recent article in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The article tells the story of Dr L S Adams, who developed the idea during the Second World War, of equipping bats with small thermite bombs and releasing them over enemy cities in daylight. According to the theory, the bats would immediately seek buildings as hiding places, would chew through the string holding the bomb, and this would start a fire. It was believed that the scheme would be practicable if millions of bats were used, but the war ended before the idea could be tried." (!)





Helictite Christmas Star Extn., Crystal Cave, Wi62, WA.

It will be noted that the helictites in the background, although out of focus, tend to intrude on the main subject, until it is realised that the most distant helictite appears inverted and in focus within the water drip on the end of the subject.



Sheet halite Salt Cellars, Easter Extension, Mullamullang Cave N37

55mm lens and x 3 teleconverter

The decoration that stirred my interest in 'close-up' photography.



Gypsum flower Edie's Treasure, Exit Cave, IB14, Tasmania.

This decoration had formed under a ledge in a narrow fissure that prevented conventional 'close-up' attachments. This gypsum flower was therefore photographed from a distance using bellows and bellows lens. Lighting was oblique to obtain a black background, the ledge creating the necessary shadow.



Calcite Crystals Christmas Star Extn., Crystal Cave, Wi62, WA.

Photographed from a higher elevation using bellows with the flash at ground level, the decoration itself creating the black background.



# Close-up and Macrophotography

## An Enthusiasts View

NORM POULTER

In 1971, I bought an inexpensive teleconverter for my recently acquired Pentax SLR camera. The 'converter' had the effect of turning a standard 55mm lens into a 165mm telephoto of moderate resolution. During an expedition to the remote Nullarbor Plain several months later, I chanced to point that 'converted' lens at some delicate halite decoration in Mulla Mullang Cave (N37) and discovered the beauty of Nature that few cavers see and even fewer attempt to photograph.

Now, more than ten years later, I am still fascinated by the macro-world of Nature and wish to put forward my views on the various methods available to capture these images on film. I must admit though, that I am not a photographer in the true sense of the word. Through trial and error, with a vast array of failures to my credit (that persist to this day), I have gained the experience necessary to occasionally obtain some good pictures without knowing more than the basic principles about what takes place to make it all happen.

Essentially a creature of habit, I have assembled enough equipment to achieve the results that I want and so am biased towards one particular method and make no apologies for it.

### DEFINITION

There are two levels of 'close-up' photography;

1. Close-up Up to and including life size,
2. Macro From life-size (1:1) to ten times size  
(10:1 or 10x) (Keppler 1977)

Macrophotography appears to be a 'popular' term, as a definition by Kodak refers to Photomacrography, which states:

"making photographs of scientific or technical specimens, usually three-dimensional, whose details are too small to be viewed by the naked eye. Either a normal camera lens is reversed and used with a long bellows draw or specially designed macro-lenses are used to achieve magnifications from 1:1 to 50:1" (Kodak 1977)

### SUPPLEMENTARY CLOSE-UP LENSES

There is no increase in exposure necessary with the use of the three types described below.

#### BASIC

These single element lenses that screw onto the front of a camera lens are made in various powers, called diopters, and are commonly referred to as 'diopter (filter) lenses'. The most readily available strengths are 1, 2 and 3 diopters, the most popular being 3. These inexpensive lenses can be used in conjunction with each other to give a high magnification factor, the strongest diopter being placed next to the camera's prime lens. However, it is not advisable to use this type of lens, either individually or stacked, exceeding 3 diopters due to the resulting loss of resolution.

#### VARIABLE

Variable lenses use more than one optical element and are more powerful, often exceeding 10 diopters. Although convenient, these attachments are more expensive than the related basic lenses and often give lower quality results.

#### ACHROMATIC

Similar in operation to basic lenses but usually consist of more than one optical element. They are designed to avoid colour aberrations and colour fringing, which breaks down light to give a rainbow effect. Producing sharper than normal results, they naturally cost more than basic lenses.

#### EXTENSION TUBES

These are of varying lengths (usually in sets of 3 or 5), fixed to the camera between the film plane and lens. Extension tubes are usually employed either individually or in combination to obtain magnified images up to 1.25:1. More than one set is required to obtain higher magnifications. Fairly inexpensive, extension tubes are the most popular attachments other than the basic (diopter) lenses for close-up work. Due to the lens being moved forward from the camera body, compensation must be made for the subsequent loss of light, this is known as the exposure factor, and is explained later.

#### MACRO LENSES

A macro lens has the ability to focus continually from life-size to infinity. It is ideal as a copying lens, with an angle of view similar to that of most SLR standard lenses, but is an expensive item and does not seem to be popular amongst cavers. Allowance must be made for the exposure factor when using a macro lens.

ALL of the above attachments suffer from one common drawback, this being the need to move the camera very close to the subject in order to focus. In the caving context, this is quite often extremely difficult if not impossible. Ways of overcoming this problem are discussed below:

#### TELEPHOTO LENSES

Telephoto lenses, by their very nature, can be used to obtain 'close-ups' by their power of 'drawing subjects closer', although they are usually handicapped by their long focal distances, e.g. the minimum focusing distance of a Pentax 300mm x f4 lens is 5.5m. This distance can be halved however, to advantage, with the use of extension tubes or bellows, after compensation has been made for the exposure factor. Disadvantages of this method, apart from cost, is the weight and size of most of the larger lenses.

#### BELLOWS

It is here that my bias comes to the fore. When I started looking into the subject of close-up



photography in 1972, it became obvious that despite expense, weight and fragility, the versatility of a bellows and bellows lens far outweighed ANY disadvantage. Subsequently I purchased a Pentax Auto Bellows and bellows lens for the following good reasons;

1. It had a double track system that allowed either the lens or camera body to be moved along one track and the entire camera, lens arrangement to be moved across the tripod by means of the second track, without disturbing the selected magnification, and making the business of focusing the camera a dream.
2. Not being a mathematician, I was grateful that the Auto Bellows came with a comprehensive manual which gave exposure factor tables for every conceivable lens and magnification that can be used on the bellows.
3. Apart from the facility allowing a lens to be used in the reverse position (enabling even higher magnifications) the bellows has a camera mounting ring (on the screw thread type anyway) that allows the camera body to be moved through 360° meaning that to 'level' the subject through the viewfinder, the camera and not the tripod is all that needs to be adjusted.
4. My bellows lens has a focal length of 100mm, thereby giving the bellows the ability to obtain close-ups from a 'stand-off' position. For example, a 1:1 magnification is obtained from a film-to-subject distance of 400mm, an important feature when the subject may be 'buried' amongst other decoration. Since the lens is further away from the subject, there is less perspective distortion with three dimensional objects. Another consideration is that the bellows and (bellows) lens doubles as a 100mm telephoto lens.

The Auto Bellows, with lens, weighs 1034g and, coupled with the acknowledged frailty of the bellows cloth material makes for a component that is ONLY every bit as susceptible to rough handling and moisture as any other part of a camera system in the cave environment. The only other disadvantage a bellows has is the volume it takes up in the transport situation.

#### TRANSPORT

Transport of camera equipment through caves has never been an easy task. With a bit of juggling and liberal use of moisture-proof padding, I recently managed to fit the following into a 150 x 290 x 160mm waterproof ammunition case, after the fitting of a shoulder strap.

- Pentax camera, screw mount, uncovered with 55mm lens attached
- 28mm x f3.5 wide angle lens, uncovered
- Auto Bellows and 100mm x f4 bellows lens attached, uncovered
- set of extension tubes
- condensed magnification/exposure factor tables, waterproofed
- electronic flash gun with spare batteries
- 2m of flash extension lead
- cable release, pencil and notepad
- spare roll of film
- lens brush, in plastic tube
- flashlight
- individual cassettes, 3 diopter close-up lens, polaroid and skylight filters

All lenses have a UV filter permanently mounted to protect the lens and allow it to be cleaned underground without fear of lens damage. Overall weight of the case and contents is 5.7 kg.

For the occasion when I wish to take my 300mm telephoto lens underground, I use a 90 x 260 x 160mm waterproof ammunition case. Tripod and monopod are carried in a modified vehicle inner tube.

#### TRIPPING THE SHUTTER IS THE EASY BIT

It takes but a fraction of a second to trip the shutter of a camera. Much to the vexation of my caving companions, I have sometimes taken several hours to reach that simple stage. Considerable time can be expended in siting the camera to give the best picture composure. This is especially so in soft soil/mud or loose rock conditions. Many have been the times that I have made the final adjustment to the camera only to see the tripod sink further into the mud.

An equal amount of time can be spent working out the optimum flash-to-subject position. I have found that the most photographically pleasing results (with close-ups) are when the subject is the only object visible, i.e. the background is black. To achieve this result, the modelling light (flashlight) is moved around until a balance is struck between subject illumination and either total or partial obscuring of any background. This is easier said than done.

#### EXPOSURE AND DEPTH-OF-FIELD CONTROL

As previously stated, when extension tubes, macro lenses or bellows are used, some compensation must be made for the exposure factor. The exposure factor is the aperture increase necessary to compensate for the amount of light 'lost' by moving the lens further away from the film plane.

However, as the lens aperture is opened wider to compensate for the exposure factor, (so) the depth of field decreases.

With close-up or macrophotography, the depth-of-field is of the utmost importance and can only be maintained by keeping the aperture setting as small as possible, i.e. f22-16. This can be achieved by moving the light source (flash) closer to the subject while decreasing the aperture in proportion to the 'Inverse Square Law' (fig 1). In this way, the light source is sometimes much closer to the subject than the camera lens. If the subject is 'buried' amongst other, but reasonably separated decoration and a light source can be moved close to the subject without decoration damage, then, and with utmost care, I have moved a light source attached to a monopod into the desired position and triggered it by extension cable. A slave unit can be used by those who have one and wish to use multiple flash.

#### CONCLUSION

This has been my view on the subject of close-up and macrophotography and how to go about it. It is a rewarding facet of photography that demands time, patience and plenty of care. A passing thought relates to lenses. A camera is only as good as the lens in front of it. Low quality lenses usually give low quality results. Finally, if considering the purchase of a bellows, I would recommend the double track class as they are far more versatile than the less expensive, shorter, single track

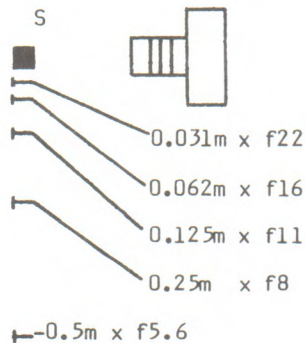


EXAMPLE

The camera magnification is 1.6:1.

From the tables, such a magnification has an exposure factor of 8.3, which is equivalent to an aperture increase of 3 stops.

The known output (o/p) of a given flash gun (F), is f11 when 1m from the subject (S).



cor o/p 1m x f4

↓ F std o/p 1m x f11

Three stops increase therefore means that the aperture setting becomes f4 with the flash at 1m.

To regain the Depth of Field, the flash gun (F) is brought closer to the subject (S) in proportion to the Inverse Square Law until the desired aperture setting is obtained.

INVERSE SQUARE LAW

FIGURE 1

varieties. The selected references listed below may be of assistance to those who are about to delve into this subject.

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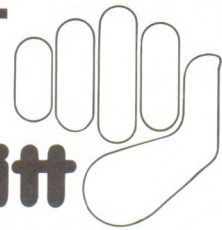
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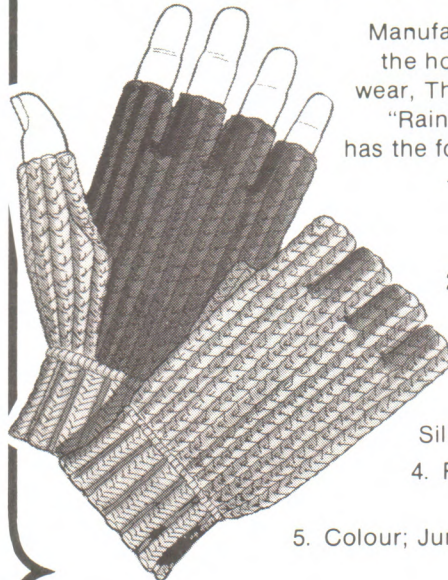
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# Thampana Cave Revisited

GRAHAM PILKINGTON

Max Meth and Graham Pilkington, CEGSA.N206 visited on 22-23/4/82; total 19 hours underground.

The first recorded entry to this cave was in 1975 by the local property manager Peter (Kelly) Nash. He travelled to the start of the drop down into the southern end of the entrance collapse series and also found the duck-under across the gravel bed and stopped at the 4 m drop at the end of the next chamber.

W.A. cavers led by R Webb accidentally found the cave in 1977 but did not have the tackle to enter. They returned in January 1980 and found the start of the coffee & cream on the south side end of the entrance collapse series but failed to locate the duck-under.

Last year, Easter 1981, Kevin Mott's party from CEGSA also accidentally found the cave. Its existence in the area was known but not its location nor entrance description. On that trip the coffee & cream was revisited and pushed for 20 m to a strongly drafting, impassable, constricted. The terminal chamber below but just off to one side of the final collapse was also noted. The cave finished in a dried-up pool with fine organic matter attached 3 m up the sandy bedrock walls BUT NO MUD. The duck-under was re-discovered, the TUBE found and the second collapse series discovered. Thampana was now an estimated 500 m long. During this time a very strong air blast was making use of the same 3 m diameter tube entrance that we were, necessitating belay ropes to be weighted to prevent whiplash to people on top attempting to drop them in.

The volume of moving air was much too great for the cave so far discovered, so I planned to spend two days down there on this trip. This was thought to be enough time to map the known cave and have a good look for the suspected extensions beyond the coffee & cream and off the 2nd collapse series. So much for mice and men.

Having visited Mullahmullang a few days earlier, I expected to see drastic water effects on Thampana cave. I was disappointed on first sight, as the track that crosses its feeder depression was almost unaffected, although scree from the higher side of the doline had washed a couple of metres onto the rock platform that surrounds the entrance pit. We started our survey below the entrance but left the north end with the intention of doing that just prior to exiting - it was a muddy mess, at least for the Nullarbor. After reaching the duck-under we called a break in surveying while I showed Max the end of the entrance collapse series where the water vanished. We took our hammer and jemmy bar. The puzzle was that the duck-under obviously carried a large quantity of water (when flowing) yet this was minor to the quantity that should flow to the south end of the cave. The puzzle was solved by Max who found a finger hole between two pebbles from which a draft emanated. Below was a 0.3 m deep pool in a small chamber.

Hidden under a large rock slab and under which

we and air went around, was a small waterworn pocket 3 m long, 1 m high and wide. Off the furthest end we felt a breeze blowing from a floor hole choked by three friendly rocks - they were leaning on each other. Five minutes of careful analysis and the removal of one rock later and we were through. This PLUGHOLE dropped alongside a large rockpile - part of the terminal collapse - into a 25 m diameter 2 m high chamber that lies beneath the entrance series but has a normal rock roof. There was evidence that it had been nearly completely filled by water very recently and it contained a large mud deposit. At the lowest point on the east we found another pool of water, this time with a cold breeze blowing over the top.

We could see at least 5 m over water and although the way on looked as though it was blocked we had to go on. And on. We travelled for an estimated 150 m of 1 m high, 2 m wide streamway I call THE DRAIN passing two side branches before reaching a collapse chamber 2 m high and about 20 m diameter. Beyond here we found about another 100 m of collapse and 50 m of streamway. We stopped partly because we had no survey gear, and partly because I, for one, did not like my memory of the rainy sky we had left to go underground and the 150 m of sump that would form again if a downpour occurred. The collapse areas at the end of THE DRAIN were not submerged during the latest flooding. These collapses are along old DRAIN tunnels as can be seen on the sketch map.

After exiting from the PLUGHOLE we both breathed a sigh of relief and suggested the next day was an ideal one to do surveying. To pass the time until dusk (did I mention the flies outside?), I took Max across to the coffee & cream blockage that for the last year I had dreamed of cracking. But after the DRAIN find, who cares? Still, we had the necessary persuasion equipment with us and leaving the DRAIN had somehow rejuvenated the idea that we might live to tell others. The rock roof and floor were hard, immobile and so near to being far enough apart that I hit out in frustration and demolished the right-hand wall. We went around and 10 m beyond, after a little gardening, another collapse was reached that probably goes on, on the far side of a tight, sharp, flakey mess. I think we also located another air path into the area. This group of voids consists of interconnecting conical depressions of sand. Maybe 50 m was added to the cave, which with the 330 m of DRAIN and previous finds made Thampana about 900 m long to date.

The next day, an early breakfast and we were ready to spend a good day surveying the second collapse series and maybe the DRAIN. What was that about mice and men? Charlie, the Mundrabilla Station manager roared into camp, screeched to a halt and asked if we were interested in looking into a blowhole he had found the day before.

It was noon before we re-entered Thampana. We continued the survey through the duck-under and down to the start of the TUBE at -34 m and stopped. A fascinating display of hydrophobia



was what did it. Max, the unknowing, was for continuing the survey. He could feel the wind howl, see the void ahead and had been indoctrinated on the wonders of the TUBE and the second collapse series, for the last six months.

A bit of clean water shouldn't have stopped me you say? Maybe, but I had been along that tube. It has an inverted syphon further on that must have remained flooded and this U tube has a muddy roof and is hollowed out, enabling air to bypass the flooded tube. It would have been silly to ruin our survey gear and my health by taking it though a duck dive when the sump should be dry for the next few decades.

So we explored instead. A strong draft was detected along the "powdered cream" west wall of the chamber after the duck-under, but a section

of wall I lent on lent on me and that stopped that. While I recuperated we located a bypass of the gravel bed in the duck-under - lower but sandy and half the length.

We did not have the time to do the cave the justice of an accurate survey and still reach the DRAIN so we did a line traverse with prismatic & tape, estimating horizontal and dropping verticals. The coffee & cream was about -33 m (same as the TUBE) while the DRAIN pool surface was at -45 m. Estimated maximum depth of Thampana found to date is -48 m in the DRAIN collapse area.

Next trip I hope to complete the survey of the known cave, then make another survey trip if necessary. It will be wise to familiarize some cave divers with this cave in case rescue of dry cavers trapped by floodwaters eventuates.

## GUANO

Reprinted from Descent No. 4

### Special Information for 4WD Owners

4WD vehicles are unique in that they are designed and manufactured along the lines of private vehicles but with the following modificationss.

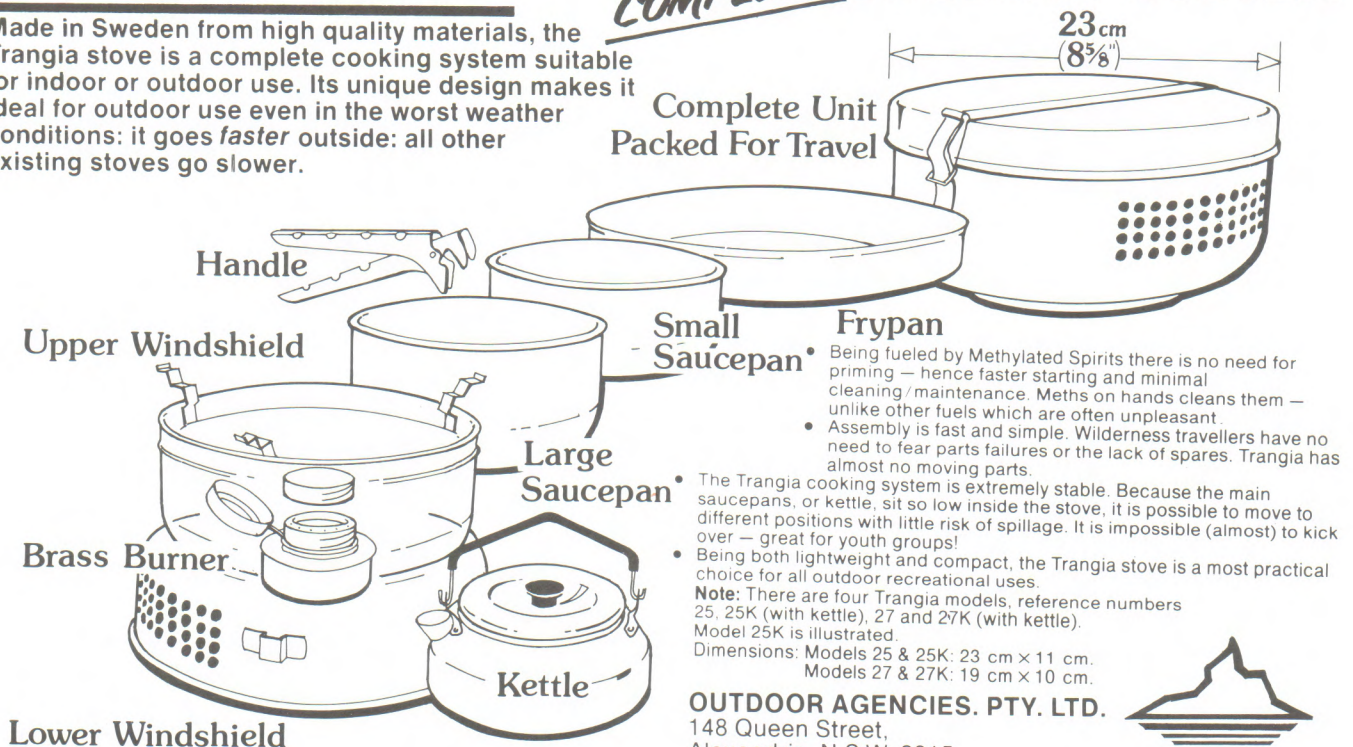
1. They travel faster in all gears, especially first and reverse.
2. They rev at a phenomenal rate.
3. They enjoy a much shorter braking distance.
4. Water, oil, battery and tyre pessures never need checking.
5. The floor is shaped like an ashtray.

6. They can be driven for distances of 200 km with the petrol gauge showing empty and the low oil warning light flashing.
7. They need cleaning less often, especially the inside.
8. The suspension is reinforced to allow for the carriage of many heavy club members, kegs and fridges.
9. The transmission is designed to allow for the selection of reverse gear whilst the vehicle is making forward progress.
10. The road wheels and special tyre walls are designed to allow for colliding with or jumping over gutters, rocks and stumps.
11. Unusual and alarming engine noises are easily elminated by the adjustment of the radio volume control.

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# Safety and Techniques

## JENOLAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CIRCUS

Media descriptions of the successful search and rescue of a 15 year old schoolboy at Jenolan after 30 hours were something of a circus. Reporting ? varied widely, some stories exhibiting an impressive creativity.

Here is a caver's account of what actually transpired, and the involvement of the NSW Cave Rescue Group and various ASF societies.

With school holidays looming and the mild winter weather, the Sima family of Blackheath set off for an exciting day's outing on Monday, August 23rd.

David Sima, 15, has always been an adventurer and according to his parents "has liked exploring since he was three". Up until his present tender age, he is credited with having been lost once in the Jamison Valley mines, involving a previous rescue callout.

Armed with his trusty box of matches and dressed in jeans and sweater, David set forth on his latest lone voyage of discovery. David's sisters had no indication of his whereabouts, although they were aware of his intentions to "find and explore a cave", and reported him missing at 4pm.

It was known David had \$2.00, but it was uncertain whether he had purchased more matches or other lighting at the Jenolan kiosk. David was described as long and lanky - 6 foot tall and very thin.

The reader is now familiar with all the facts known by searchers about David's disappearance.

David later recounted his following actions. Having been unsuccessful in purchasing a lighter, he headed off up McKeown's valley. Half a kilometre up the track from the Devils Coachhouse he espied a crevice in the cliff on top of the hill (Aladdins Bluff). This was a blind, but in the process he happened across the entrance to Aladdin Cave (J19).

Aladdin is a closed turn-of-the-century tourist cave irregularly visited by guides and speleos. It is protected with a single locked bar gate in the squeeze entrance. Not one to be daunted by such obstacles, David accepted the invitation, removed some rocks and squeezed under the bar, "The darkness of the cave seemed to beckon me on" he said later. Sweating from his journey, he then removed his jumper and proceeded on without it - match by match.

Ten metres in, at the top of a 6m drop and with a 4m climb behind, David found, remarkably, that his matches were exhausted. (CRG tests showed there is about 20 minutes light in a box).

David continues his story,

"I ran out of matches - I just sat down and waited for help. I had read about people in similar situations and knew it was dangerous to panic."

In the meantime, the Guides and local police had immediately begun an extensive search. The

Sydney Police Rescue Squad and NSW Cave Rescue Group were called out at 3.30 am Tuesday morning. Arriving at Jenolan at 7.30 am, a Field headquarters was set up in No. 2 car park. During the day a helicopter and ground search of the valley was accomplished, and the Devils Coach House and tourist caves exhaustively searched. An initial cursory sweep of the entrances to some of the most accessible and likely caves in the surrounding valleys was also performed by the 20 CRG members on hand.

By this time the media was rolling away in high gear. The Italian and Newcastle boy-in-a-borehole incidents and the Kanangra Walls abseil death must still have been fresh in editors' minds. Robin Steenson from the CRG commented that at one stage the car park looked like "a used helicopter sales yard", with five helicopters parked - four network news and one police!

AAP started the bandwagon by inventing that "15 new caves had been found during the search", which was then embellished upon as a danger by the print media. One television station subsequently managed to discover 600 new caves at Jenolan in the space of one sentence. Suddenly Jenolan was riddled with "tunnels". This followed the networks' filming a sequence in the Binomea Cut - an artificial tunnelled entrance into the tourist caves.

There was no shortage of advice either. A psychic from Newcastle phoned Search HQ, emphasising that he was "not a nut" and described the inside of the cave he had dreamed about. As it turned out this was reasonably accurate. But then any cave description interpretation lies in the eye of the beholder. Fortunately, the police kept this information to themselves.

Three underground scenarios for the missing boy existed. Firstly, he was injured. Secondly, he was caught in a squeeze. Or thirdly, he had run out of light. For all of these, the biggest risks were of hypothermia and shock. Mitigating factors were the mild cave temperature (16°C) and David was known to be warmly dressed and well fed.

By 2pm Tuesday, SUSS and SSS, the two groups with the most intimate knowledge of the wild caves at Jenolan had contacted the CRG and were approved to begin mobilising an underground night search.

Driving down from Sydney, radio reports were dramatising that "there was little hope of survival" and that the search "would resume at first light". The supposed night search call off has been, perhaps cynically, described as a media invention for the press to justify retiring for a drinking session at Caves House out of the cold. One of these days, the police and press will discover that you can search underground at night.

Thirty cavers with Jenolan experience, including 3 from MUCC with 20 charged lights and a portable charger, arrived at 8pm. Large scale entrance maps and multiple copies of the Jenolan Book for search parties were brought down. Bruce Welch from SUSS put in a crowning performance, in very quickly and competently organising a detailed and efficient search pattern for 6 groups of 4 people, covering 50 high probability caves, each with at least 2 leaders knowledgeable of entrance locations and underground layout. To the police and CRG's credit, we were given a free hand with organising this search.



At 10.15pm David was located only an hour after commencement of the speleo society initiated a night search, and just 15 hours after the CRG arrival. The efficacy of the Aladdin gate was an item of common knowledge amongst experienced Jenolan speleologists. Because of the closed gate and miscommunications, Aladdin had been given a low priority on the initial CRG/Police fast-check sweep.

David was unharmed, but feeling sad and sorry for himself. "I was very silly - I will never explore caves by myself again" he is reported to have said as he shambled to an ambulance accompanied by his father. "I love exploring but I never thought anything like this would happen." The press were universal in their disapproval of his actions.

The cost estimate of government resources used was \$40,000, and volunteer costs would probably take the total over \$60,000. Consideration is being given to charging David for illegal cave entry.

The CRG will be publishing technical articles giving a definitive analysis of the incident. Everybody has an opinion after any rescue. Here is my two cents worth as a non-technical participant.

1. Little can be said to detract from the "professionalism" of the CRG and the spirit of co-operation apparent amongst speleologists, guides and rescue services alike. The editorial in the Daily Mirror next day was devoted to thanking rescue services and summed it up in part with "How lucky we are to have crack teams of rescuers (sic) willing to risk their lives almost daily to save others .... These people provide vital services that give confidence and reassurance in human nature." Thankyou to all involved; too many to name here, but including NSWITSS, BMSC, RANCA, MUCG, SSS and SUSS.

2. The main lesson to be learnt is that a relatively small number of organised and experienced speleologists with detailed local knowledge can effectively and systematically search most caves in the contained, well documented karst areas common in NSW (and elsewhere), in a reasonably short period of time - say 8 hours. This should allow dual sweeps within 16 hours. I believe the "needle in a haystack" syndrome is far too prevalent and pessimistic an outlook, and should not dominate the thinking of our rescue people. The "hammer and tongs approach" with hundreds of people involved is certainly an important fallback, but takes time to organise and can distract resources from a faster, smaller and more effective search.

3. I only hope that incidents such as this don't lead to any kneejerk reactions from management authorities around Australia. The answer is not to gate every cave in sight, at least not without a properly debated management plan.

4. Finally, this exercise has demonstrated that there is a role for Cave Rescue Groups. The NSW group needs your support. Other states should consider what their response to such a situation would be. A warning - David has "pledged to join the societies that saved him so that he may one day rescue someone in a similar situation". Any takers?

RANDALL KING

TACKLE DESCRIPTION - CAULDRON POT  
June Florentine, Tasmania.

STEPHAN EBERHARD

Like the majority of deep caves in this region, the explorers need to be cautioned about the risk of exhaustion/exposure.

#### Entrance Pitch (41 metres)

The early ladder descents were rigged in the southern side of the hole, directly opposite the waterfall. More recent trips have belayed to the log on the eastern face near the number tag (JF2). Fifty metres of rope is adequate; one protector is required on the initial edge and a further three metres of rope protection is required on the sharp overhang 10 metres down. A technically easier, although possibly wetter, descent may be made by belaying to the northern edge.

#### Second Pitch (14 metres)

This pitch drops eight metres from Bill's Bypass into the stream, followed by two short cascades of two metres and four metres. Belay to the eyebolt at the top of the drop with a twenty metre rope. One rope protector on the initial edge.

#### Chute Pitch (15 metres)

Anchor a twenty metre rope to the eyebolt at the top of the drop. Two protectors are required for this wet pitch, one on the initial edge and another at the end of the chute.

#### Fourth Pitch (11 metres)

Tie off a fifteen metre rope to the bolt on the right hand side (hanger required for  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch bolt). There is another bolt on the left hand side and a tie back is desirable. No rope protection is required.

#### Diagonal Pitch (14 metres)

Belay to the eyebolt, two metres back from the edge on the left hand side. A twenty metre rope is sufficient. It is possible to partially avoid the water by hanging the rope over a knob at the top of the pitch (protector required) and following the ledges on the eastern side. Another protector is needed where the pitch becomes vertical.

#### Bolt Traverse Pitch (35 metres)

Belay to the eyebolt, low down on the right hand side, at the head of the pitch. Forty five metres of rope is adequate. Abseil several metres and tie off to a bolt on the western side. Descend several metres more and tie off to a second bolt. It is very important that the rope is well protected on the sharp overhang; the remaining thirty metres is free-hanging and provides an exhilarating abseil beside the crashing waterfall.

#### Au Cheval Pitch (15 metres)

This is described by Shaw (Speleo Spiel 78:5) as follows:

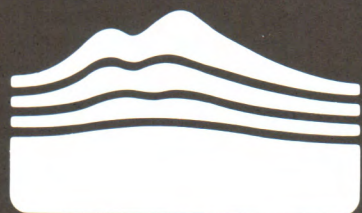
"Locating the passage is difficult, if you don't know where it is; about half way down the chamber in the left hand wall. The passage is a narrow slit five metres up from the floor. Coil half of a twenty metre rope and toss the coils into the passage to jam it in the side of the passage. Prussik up carefully!! Belay a thirty metre rope to a block of talus in the main chamber and pass it over the lip and down the other side. A tackle bag is necessary on the lip. The lip of the passage is a knife edge with the five metre drop to the main chamber on one side and a fifteen metre drop on the other. All rock in the vicinity is very friable, no bolts or pegs could be placed."



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# DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

**CEGSA** Since I am on the SA Branch Committee for the Tasmanian Wilderness Society as well as CEGSA, I have been keeping CEGSA up to date on the SW Tasmania issues. On behalf of the club I write frequently to Federal and Tasmanian politicians to speak of our outrage at the caves and archaeological sites under threat. It is really urgent that other clubs encourage their members to write both as individuals, and on the club letterheads.

Preparation for the conference is well underway and we encourage everyone to come and look forward to seeing you all - there will be something for everyone. Caving conferences are not just for cavers with a scientific or research background, but for everybody who enjoys the world of caves.

The Easter Nullarbor trip for Max Meth & Graham Pilkington entailed much hard work - all but a small section of the telephone wires were removed from Mullamullang. Some more passages were discovered and surveyed in the EZAM. A more recent trip still, made a series of new discoveries of decorated caves in the locality of Nullarbor Station. More information from Keven Mott et al later.

Ian Lewis' and Peter Stace's book: "Cave Diving in Australia" is on its second printing.

Meredith Reardon

**ISS** The last few months have seen a slight decline in "local" caving trips. This has been for two main reasons - work commitments, and the Kimberley Trip last May. Despite these problems, we have managed to visit the Southern Limestone at Jenolan to check our strain gauges, Tuglow for the same purpose, and Wyandbene mainly for photographic purposes.

The Kimberley Trip was very successful. We visited two main areas which we hadn't previously seen:

1. Turkey Creek - Osmond Range

Roy Munster originally mentioned this area in his correspondence to us several years ago. Last January he showed the cave to Simon Jolly. Unfortunately, they couldn't get very far due to the volume of water emerging. The significant feature of this cave is that it cuts through quartz-sandstone, which seems to be in sound condition - no faults or fissures are evident. The overall length of the cave is 250 metres and the stream drops 125 metres through the cave in a series of 6 waterfalls. Joe Jennings who was a member of the trip is confident that it is the largest quartz-sandstone cave in Australia. The cave has been named "Whalemouth" by Roy and Simon. We have surveyed about 60% of its length and we intend to return in 1984 to complete the survey. The map as surveyed to date will appear in our next I.S.S. Newsletter which

should be out in September or October.

2. The Oscar Range

We visited this area late in the trip, and only had 1 1/2 days to spare before starting back. Our base was at Ellimberrie Springs. From there we spent a day driving west along the base of the range, which rises up to 100 metres vertically from the plain. Several entrances were investigated, some were just overhangs and some potential caves. In the range just behind Ellimberrie Springs several likely entrances were seen, but, due to lack of time, not investigated. On the 1984 trip, we intend spending some days in the area.

The other area we visited was Cave Springs, and we were lucky to see Mimbi Cave with all the stream passage under water. The water, and the "almost quicksand" around the edges, made it almost impossible to reach the North-Western area of the cave, so we had to be content with surveying some 600 - 700 metres of cave/grike in the South-Western area. As the ground was still quite wet, we failed to reach the Laidlow Range to locate our "Illawarra Cave" - perhaps next time!

Just before we left Cave Springs, a group from W.A.S.G. turned up, well armed with maps, and I hope survey gear. If you people did any surveying, could we please see the results!

As I mentioned, our next trip will be in 1984, probably in May. This allows two years to organise holidays and prepare vehicles. If anyone is interested, contact us.

Dave Dicker

**KSS**

Activity has concentrated on our newest big find, Figtree Cave. We have now reached the end of it. I enclose David Collett's report of the final trip - I can't improve on it, I think it's a classic.

On the wider front, the Society put in a submission, commenting on Kempsey Shire's draft Local Environment Plan, listing the caves and limestone areas in order of importance for preservation.

## FIG TREE CAVE

Sunday 12th July 1982 marked my eleventh trip to Fig Tree Cave. Our worthy president, Steve Wallace, talked myself and Lyn into going by claiming a vivid dream the previous night in which we had finally got through into the last chamber and found another 800 metres of passage. We certainly have an inspiring leader in Steve.

Fig Tree Cave is located on Setastopol and is about 200 metres south of Saddle Cave. The entrance was found by Lyn in 1981 (Mar) and the cave was subsequently explored by the club. At first there was 130 metres of passageway. Later a squeeze was enlarged giving access to a 20 metre chamber. The squeeze into this chamber is about 2 metres in length and about



## DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

the width of Barry Duncan after two weeks of dieting. This chamber has good acoustics so Brian Holberton suggests that it be named the Pool Room. The Pool Room however was not the end of Fig Tree Cave as a 2.5 metre squeeze led into another chamber. The problem was that we could see through but not fit through.

Our weapon for this dig was an 8 foot crowbar obtained (re-located?) by Brian. This crowbar was thumped by a sledge hammer for trip after trip with frustratingly slow results. Time after time Steve tried to get through and each time he got stuck and had to be hauled out by the legs. He eventually reached a stage of enthusiasm making it a two people job pulling him out again. When the handle of the sledge hammer broke, Steve was faced with either giving up for the day or getting through so he got through - using my foot to push against.

Steve reports, that he had to climb down 2.5 metres over flow-stone to reach the floor. He next checked back under the flow stone but this route extended only 1 metre. Steve was a bit apprehensive about exploring a 800 metre passageway by himself, but as we couldn't get Lyn through and I might be needed to pull him out he set off down the passage alone. He came to the end after 11 metres. This gives Fig Tree Cave a total passage length of 161 metres.

The cave ends in a sump which is about 2 feet deep, has a muddy bottom and contains sticks and bones. Steve found it an impossibility to get back out head first so he poked his ankles through to us. It was rather interesting the way we were able to stretch his legs by six inches before his body moved.

The only other excitement for the day was the trip with the three of us on the bike. We got back for lunch at 3.00 pm and all agreed to give Fig Tree Cave a miss for a while.

David Collett

MSS

The club has recently located previously unexplored caves in the Abercrombie area, which promise to be of some significance. One cave located has four lakes covered in Calcite Rafts. The full extent of the area is unknown, and awaiting our club's exploration.

Other work at Abercrombie has included work in the Bushranger Cave dig and methods of tracing its exit.

In August the club held a trip to Bungonia where some members were able to partake in some S.R.T. practice. Trips planned for the remainder of the year include, Abercrombie, Wyanbene, Yarrangobilly and possibly Wombeyan.

Scott MacFarlane

MUCG

Following a series of minor mishaps earlier in the year, M.U.C.G. has become extremely safety conscious over the past few months. Practice days on the university's climbing wall have been given a sense of direction with the drawing up of an activity sheet. Divided into three grades of difficulty, the activities range from being able to tie some basic knots, to abseiling over a knot using prusik knots, to traverses.

As well, about a dozen members have completed a St John Ambulance Association Basic First-Aid course and the club is putting together its own first-aid kit.

On August 14 at the Macquarie University Open Day, members of M.U.C.G. and St John, plus Terry O'Leary of Cave Rescue, mounted a spectacular display. Rescue lifts of willing victims using a paraguard stretcher to the top of E7A - all 8 storeys - attracted much attention from those visiting the university and was prominent in a television news report on Open Day. More importantly, it gave club members a valuable chance to learn something of cave rescue.

David Hamilton

OSS

OSS hasn't been very active during the winter months; hopefully the situation will be remedied during the summer. Members have visited Wellington Caves, Nellingaloo, Borenore (where several caves not previously known to the present membership were entered) and Concomodine where a new cave was opened recently.

Cleaning of Cliefden Main is virtually at a standstill due to a lack of manpower and the fact that other cavers deface the cave sooner than it can be restored. Thanks are due to MUCG, the only club to have put any significant effort into the cave restoration.

Thanks also to BMSC for work done at Cliefden Cottage. A reminder to other clubs visiting ?, there is no water available. Bring all your own water requirements with you.

Members have also been participating in ISS trips and joined an ISS team at Speleo Sports.

Bruce Howlett

SRGWA

The Group has settled back to its usual trip-a-month routine with a clean-up excursion to the Christmas Star Extension of Crystal Cave (Wi62) in July. A clean-up program, initiated by the Group, started in the Yallingup Tourist Cave during August as a service to the managers, the Busselton Tourist Bureau (inc.). In September, a nine day trip to the Nullarbor was staged on behalf of Channel 9, Perth in order to gain more footage (metreage?) for a forthcoming documentary. Due to camera difficulties on the previous trip in March, two scenes had to be re-shot. Even professionals have difficulties. Norm Poulter has been asked to participate in Caving International's 1983 Calendar, copies of which should

Norm Poulter



## DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

**WASGA** WASG remains alive and kicking. Our comparative silence in recent months was in part due to several changes in 'the Executive'. To summarise recent events: President Wayne Tyson has left us for Pommyland, and we hear he is now on the way to Spain (Ole!) for some subterranean flamenco. Vice-President Ev Tulp returned from Niugini last month and promptly departed to a job in the Biggest Smoke. Former president Rauleigh Webb came back from Niugini last week, muttering about systems 35 km. long, 500 m deep and still going... Slightly nearer home, a WASG party led by Richard Matthews has been to the Kimberleys and been much impressed; a somewhat smaller party ventured forth to the Nullarbor in the wet and among other amusements spent much time digging their cars out of the

Mullamullang track. Recent discoveries at Jurien have led to a flurry of mapping activities in a fairly neglected area and our fellow trogs at Exmouth, the Cape Caverneers, have been keeping busy in the Cape Range. Tagging and mapping at Yanchep have suddenly accelerated under Mike Butcher's leadership; and activity in the South-West continues at a respectable level. A good year so far despite upheavals. We were surprised to read in the last Newsletter that WASG will co-ordinate SpeleoVision activities on the Nullarbor,\* but plans are now in hand and preliminary details should appear elsewhere in this issue. Contact points in Perth are:

Richard Matthews 76 Teague Street,  
Victoria Park 6100  
(09) 362 5916  
Jim Campbell 90 Dyson Street,  
Kensington 6151  
(09) 367 9341

Jim Campbell

\* ASF Newsletter - the first with the news! Ed.

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

## NOTICES and NEWS

### FIFTH AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE ON CAVE TOURISM AND MANAGEMENT

Venue: Glenara Motel, Lakes Entrance, Victoria.

Dates: 11 - 15 April, 1983.

Field

Trips: will include Buchan and the little known Narguns Cave.

These conferences are organised by the A.S.F.'s Commission on Cave Tourism and Management and have been very successful in promoting sound policies for cave and karst management in Australia and New Zealand. Previous meetings in N.S.W. (1973), Tasmania (1977), S.A. (1979) and W.A. (1981) have attracted cavers as well as guides, rangers and cave managers.

Cavers will be very welcome even if only able to turn up for a day or two, and Lakes Entrance is only 4 hours from Canberra or Melbourne. For further details, write to Arnold Clarks, Accounts Branch, Crown Lands and Survey Department, 2 Treasury Place, Melbourne, Vic. 3002.

Copies of the Proceedings of earlier conferences are available from Elery Hamilton-Smith, P.O. Box 36, Carlton Sth, Vic. 3053.

A report on joint conservation work by cavers and Government officers in Western Australia is given elsewhere in this issue.

Lloyd Mill would like to thank clubs that have paid their fees.

The Vice-Presidents, Miles Pierce and John Dunkley, have made a plea to all clubs to comment on A.S.F. policy on awards for services to speleology.

### ERRATA

The Spring 1981 issue (No 93) of the ASF Newsletter contained an article about Cauldron Pot, Tasmania by S Eberhard. Unfortunately the Tackle Description for the cave was incorrectly reported to the extent that anyone relying on it is likely to find themselves short the some 100m of rope that is required for another four pitches. A complete Tackle Description is given in the Equipment and Techniques section

### CAVE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR TANTANOOLA AND NARACOORTE

A draft management plan for the Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park prepared by an A.S.F. team is presently at the printers. Another team is about to commence work on a draft plan for the Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park, South Australia.

### VALUABLE CAVE PAINTINGS?

Currently on display, side-by-side in the Art Gallery in Sydney, are two examples of nineteenth century landscape painting:

## Copy Deadlines

**AUTUMN ISSUE : 1 FEB 83**

**WINTER ISSUE : 1 APR 83**





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If you already know how to abseil and prusik S.R.T.II (\$60.00 for 8x2½hr sessions) is probably the course to do to refine these two skills as well as giving training in rigging and vertical rescue techniques.

S.R.T.III(\$60.00 for 8x2½hr sessions) is designed to bring participants to a very high skill level in abseiling, prusiking, rigging and rescue. This course should be considered by anyone who leads trips into vertical caves.

Hopefully you will take advantage of one of these courses to improve your caving skills.

Yours in caving

Richard Willson

Course Dates

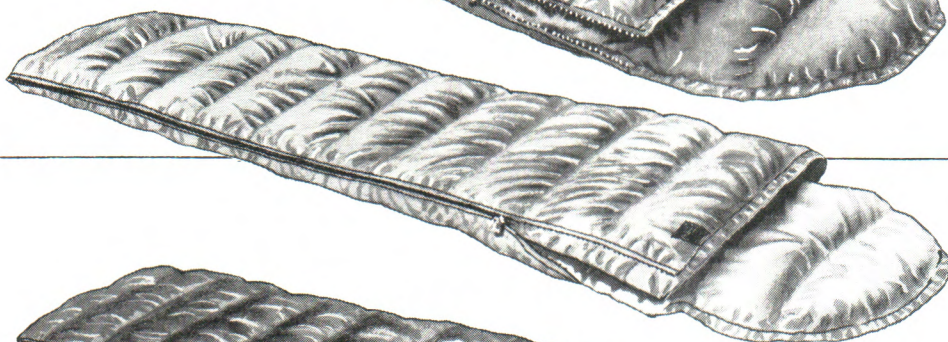
	Pre-conference	Post-conference
S.R.T.I	Jan 1,2	Jan 8,9
S.R.T.II	Dec 30,31,Jan 1,2	Jan 8,9,10,11
S.R.T.III	none	Jan 10,11,12,13



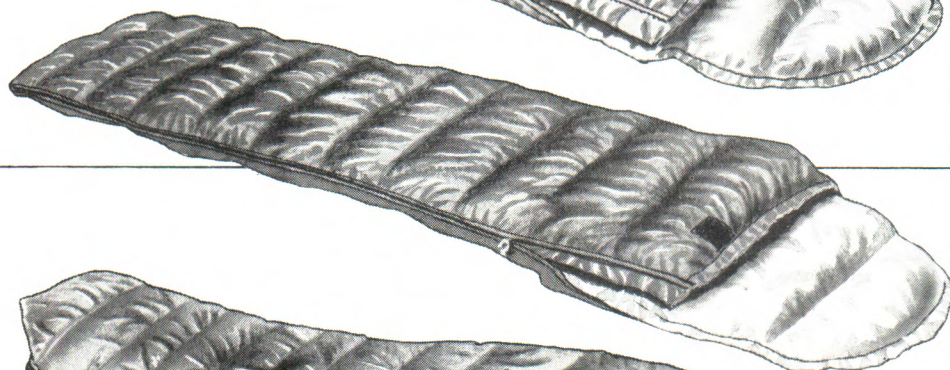
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HIGH PLAINS	1.80 kg	Box Wall	1100 g	Featherdown	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
HOTHAM	1.60 kg	Box Wall	700 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
MELALEUCA	1.55 kg	Box Wall	800 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Side Zip	34 x 23
BOGONG	1.60 kg	Box Wall	900 g	550 Loft Down	-15°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
SNOWLORD	2.00 kg	Slant Wall	1100 g	550 Loft Down	-25°C	Side Zip	37 x 27

All bags fit people to 190 cm (6ft 3in) tall; bags to fit people 205 cm (6ft 9in) are available in most models.

\* Temperature Ratings are a soft measurement — they represent an average expected performance level for a standard person although individuals will differ by up to  $\pm 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Paddymade reserves the right to alter these specifications without notice.



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