

ASF NEWSLETTER

THE AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL QUARTERLY

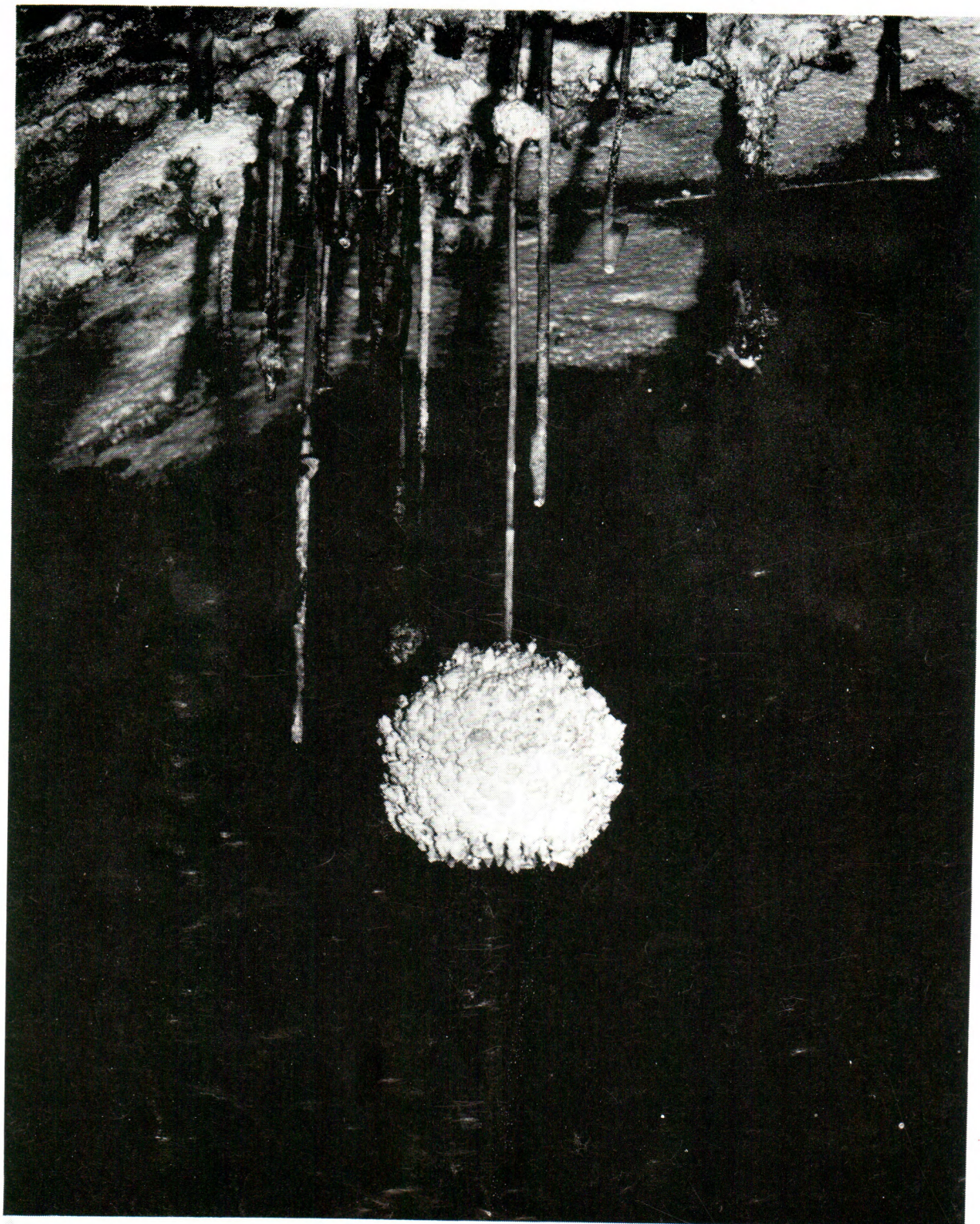


photo N Poulter

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not those of the Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated nor the Editor unless specifically stated.

EDITORIAL

GUEST EDITORIAL by ANDREW SPATE

Australian, and indeed, international speleology, lost one of its leaders with the death of Joseph Newell Jennings on the 24th of August 1984. Joe, as he was known to his large circle of friends and colleagues in all walks of life, suffered a heart attack whilst skiing in the Snowy Mountains. However, Joe would be the first to say that such a loss should not be dwelt upon but the job of furthering our knowledge of caves should be fully pursued.

Joe was born in Yorkshire in 1916, and remained very much a Yorkshireman in spite of early moves to Cheshire and then much further afield. His interest in the natural world was stimulated by a school visit to a cave with an underground waterfall. Joe was always fascinated by the processes operating to mould our environment, and all the more so when dramatic. His time at Cambridge before World War II was firstly as a geography undergraduate and then as a research student in the Botany Department. He was a keen potholer through this time and was persuaded from Karst research in the Craven by his superiors. The war, much of it spent in Iceland, interrupted his academic career and certainly further delayed Joe's entry into matters speleological. After the war he became a lecturer in physical geography at the university of Leicester before coming to Australia in 1953.

He did not immediately start caving again after his arrival in Australia. His resurgence of interest was to some extent aroused by the publicity surrounding the search for Brian O'Brian at Yarrangobilly, an event which led to the formation of the Canberra Speleological Society. Although Joe was not a founder he has been associated with CSS right from early days, at first as a recreational caver. It was clear that Joe could have remained intellectually aloof from his surroundings for only a limited time, and by 1959 karst research had become part of his programme. He helped to found the Australian Speleological Federation in 1956 and has been a President and a faithful Trustee of the Federation.

It was in the late fifties when Joe first took me caving...as a dogsbody on the sharp end of the tape on the most meticulous cave surveys with which I have ever been associated. We were still surveying together...sometimes with Joe on the sharp end, but not often. These first trips were to change my life as Joe changed the lives and careers of many others, both amateur and professional. Most cave surveys are replicated with increasing detail and precision: Joe's surveys of the Dip and Punchbowl Caves at Wee Jasper, models of their art and science, have been redone a number of times but it seems with increasingly lower standards!

A measure of Joe's contribution is given by the volume of his writings: articles, books, reviews and substantive popular writings on karst account for about half of his 200 plus scholarly publications. His book, "Karst" is used around the world as a comprehensive introduction to karst geomorphology. His completely rewritten second edition should be published in 1985. He edited the "Australian Landform Example" series in the Australian Geographer; Joe would freely admit that there were a disproportionate number of Karst examples...a failing of others to produce. Joe has been an enthusiastic supporter of Helictite, the Journal of Australian Cave Research since its beginnings in 1963, he has contributed to almost every volume. He has also published widely elsewhere, notably in the Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie, a prestigious international journal of which he was an Associate Editor. A paper on the Nullarbor, with Lowry, has been reprinted in the United States as a "Benchmark Paper in Geology".

Joe's studies of Australian karsts have been wide ranging geographically and temporally. His first papers ranged from King Island to the Kimberleys; his most recent Cooleman to the Nullarbor. He did not, of course, confine himself to Australia; New Guinea, New Zealand, Malaysia, China and many other countries received his attention. His research has developed from essentially descriptive and

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NOTES ON THE ASF

THE LEGALITIES AND LIABILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CAVING

How would you or your Society afford a debt of \$1,000,000+?

AN INCORPORATED BODY

Now that the ASF has become incorporated, it is now a legal entity in the eyes of the law. This is to say it may sue or be sued in its own right, as may a company or any other corporate body.

The limit of liability of an incorporated body is the total value of the assets which it owns. Generally, the members or the executive of the incorporated body cannot be held personally liable for the wrongs of the incorporated body. This does not mean to say they cannot be sued as individuals in respect of their own acts in connection with the incorporated body but if these acts are within the scope of their authority as office holders or agents of an incorporated body then the incorporated body would be liable. A case in point would be where the ASF obtains the use of a hall or meeting place for which it usually pays a fee. If during the occupation of the meeting place a fire starts, caused by a member Society's delegate, and causes damage, the owner of the building then has a right to sue the ASF for damages and if the delegate responsible is known, that person may be sued. Both parties may also be sued as first and second defendants. Where both are joined in an action and the plaintiff (the person or party suing) is awarded damages, the proportion of liability between the defendants is usually determined by the court.

The above example could become quite serious especially if personal injuries were sustained as a result of the fire. It is worthy to note that Common Law claims today in NSW for cases of permanent disablement (brain damage, quadraplegia etc.) are often in excess of \$1,000,000.

The ASF Incorporated is comprised of member societies who are represented by their Councillor to the ASF who elect the ASF executive. The ASF's exposure to liability is limited to the activities of the ASF at ASF level. Therefore individual clubs and societies are on their own with regards to their own activities, unless the liability incurred can be construed as an ASF activity.

UNINCORPORATED BODIES

Most individual caving clubs and societies are unincorporated. Only a few have taken steps to become incorporated which in any case depending on the State or Territory can become expensive and time consuming. An unincorporated body is not a legal entity and therefore legally does not exist. It therefore cannot be sued, excepting however in South Australia and Tasmania where the laws in these States differ. An unincorporated body is not an illegal body unless it is clear that it has more than twenty members and carries on a business for its own gain or that of its individual members. An unincorporated body cannot be a party to a legal contract, it is unable to own or lease property and it is unable to have investments in its own

right. Although an unincorporated body is not a legal entity, the courts recognise that membership of such bodies is a normal part of community life and that the resultant unincorporated non-profit association can have legal obligations.

Where a liability is incurred by an individual member, that person will be responsible at law. Where a committee is appointed to act on behalf of a club or society, the committee may be held liable either as individuals or collectively for any action they have authorized which is within the scope of their authority. Furthermore, where an executive member, e.g. a Secretary, makes a contract for the purchase of goods for the common use of the group, such person is personally liable on such contract either alone or jointly with the committee which authorized it.

Present law, at least in NSW, indicates that the common fund of the club or society is the limit of liability of its ordinary members. This limit is an amount not exceeding the members' agreed subscription. However, this is not the case for the committee of the club or society who cannot claim indemnity from the common fund or the other members. Therefore they are in a rather invidious position in that their own liability is unlimited.

TYPES OF LIABILITIES AND THE SAFEGUARDS

The following are some instances which may bring about a claim for damages:-

- 1) Damage to property or bodily injury caused by an accident, such as the fire example, or the possibility of a club member abseiling and dislodging a rock which falls on a member of the public. As a club or society you could be held responsible for leaving Mr McDonald's farm gate open with the result that his prize bull wandered on to the road and was killed by a truck.
- 2) Damage to property or bodily injury sustained as a result of a product manufactured and/or sold. Your club may make its own caving ladders which you may sell to somebody. As a result of a fault in its manufacture it may fail causing injury.
- 3) Libel and slander, where words spoken or written defame another person's character or a company's reputation.
- 4) Wrongful advice. Such advice may be with regards to the correct operation of a product or possibly advice as to the dangers of a cave, e.g. "Drum cave only requires a 10 metre rope to abseil", when in fact it requires at least 60 metres of rope.

If the club is unincorporated, all these liabilities would be the personal responsibility of the particular person and not the club. Thus the questions are:-

- 1) How would it affect the ASF Incorporated if it were sued and all its assets were realized to satisfy a liability?
- 2) How would the President, Secretary and all the other committee members of a club or society afford a large law suit against them?
- 3) How does an individual member protect oneself from such circumstances?

- 4) How can the ASF or the societies be protected against most claims against them?

With regards to question two, assuming that the club or society is not a legal entity, the office bearers and committee may be able to rely on their own personal liability insurance for protection, depending on the insurance companies policy conditions. Such insurance these days is usually incorporated in your household contents policy. Normally the indemnity granted is for \$1,000,000 but may be increased if requested. This insurance covers the insured (i.e. the policy owner) and his/her family normally residing with him/her. This aspect would also cover individuals mentioned in question three. However policy conditions vary from company to company and it is suggested that confirmation of this aspect be obtained from the relevant insurer.

For the unincorporated club or society to avoid the most common situations of liability,, there are some simple procedures which may be adopted to prevent same being caught with a costly law suit. The most common claims relate to bodily injury or damage to property. Protection against most claims of that nature may be afforded by effecting a Public Liability insurance policy which may be extended if required to include indemnity with respect to goods sold or products manufactured.

As previously mentioned, an unincorporated body cannot be a party to a legal contract such as insurance. Therefore, the insurance is effected in the following way: "The Committee for the time being of the Troglodite Speleological Society" i.e. the committee, acting for its members, holds the insurance and as such are entitled to its benefits. An incorporated body may simply effect insurance in its own name, e.g. "Careful Caving Club Limited (or Incorporated)". Incorporation procedures differ from state to state.

There are also other insurances available for instances of libel, slander, defamation or wrongful advice. Most clubs and societies print a magazine or newsletter, as does the ASF. It is wise for each publication to have a written disclaimer included at the beginning of the publication. Such disclaimer should be clear in stating your society and its editor does not accept responsibility for the expressions, opinions, accuracy, safety or legality of the articles in the publication. This disclaimer may not completely absolve your club or society from an action taken against it, but it will certainly reduce the possibility.

For correct advice on insurance needs it is recommended that a reputable Insurance Broker be consulted, whose responsibility it is for obtaining the correct cover required.

REFERENCES

The Law & Administration of Associations in Australia - M.G. Horsley
Adjustment of Public Liability Claims - A.J. Cleary
Law Made Simple - Colin F. Padfield
Elements of Torts - P. Higgins

Underwater Cave Mapping and Associated Research

The Cave Divers Association of Australia Research Group.

Exploration and mapping has been undertaken in

air filled caves for several decades, however, relatively little work has been done in water filled caves. The main reason is that there are numerous additional problems in mapping water filled caves.

Unlike working in air filled caves, working in waterfilled regions involves potentially life-threatening hazards because of the environment. The very limited amount of air carried by a cave diver, the chill factors from working in cold water, disturbed silt (which obscures all visibility) and an almost total inability to communicate easily and quickly are some of the more obvious problems with underwater work.

Cave diving as a 'sport' has been growing consistently since it first became popular in the Mount Gambier region of South Australia in the mid to late 1960s. Despite this, in Australia, during the last decade, surveys of underwater caves and underwater biological investigations have only occasionally been undertaken.

Overseas there have been considerable advances in techniques. Much of this sort of work has been undertaken in places such as France, England and the USA. Many of their techniques can be utilised in Australia.

The first reliable representations of the popular caves of Mount Gambier were published only a couple of years ago in the book "Cave Diving In Australia" by Lewis & Stace. Divers from Western Australia and South Australia explored and mapped some of the biggest waterfilled caves in the world, in the Nullarbor Desert. Their dive in the enormous Cocklebidy Cave recently made world headlines as the longest cave dive on Earth. Divers in Tasmania have also tackled the problem of mapping caves.

During the late 1970's and the early 1980's there were several research projects involving cave diving undertaken. The projects included flora and fauna studies, water temperature and associated analyses, general mapping and paleontological work. To promote such activities and to help the Cave Divers Association of Australia to achieve its constitutional aim "to promote cave research", representatives of each of the small specialised groups, which were involved in such research, got together. They approached the CDAA Committee with the aim of creating a sub-committee which dealt purely with research, and this sub-committee was approved in Mar 1983.

The sub-committee so formed became the nucleus of the CDAA Research Group. Using the combined skills of its members a major mapping study was undertaken by CDAARG, during 1983, in a large waterfilled sinkhole (L46). The project resulted in the first known ASF Grade 4 map of a large water, filled cave. Learning from the first major project, the members of CDAARG instigated others. CDAARG is always trying to improve its techniques and equipment.

At the time of writing, there are some 30 or so divers who are interested in the work of the CDAARG. Hopefully, the CDAARG will continue to grow as more avenues are opened and as liaison improves between the Group's divers and caving organisations which form the ASF.

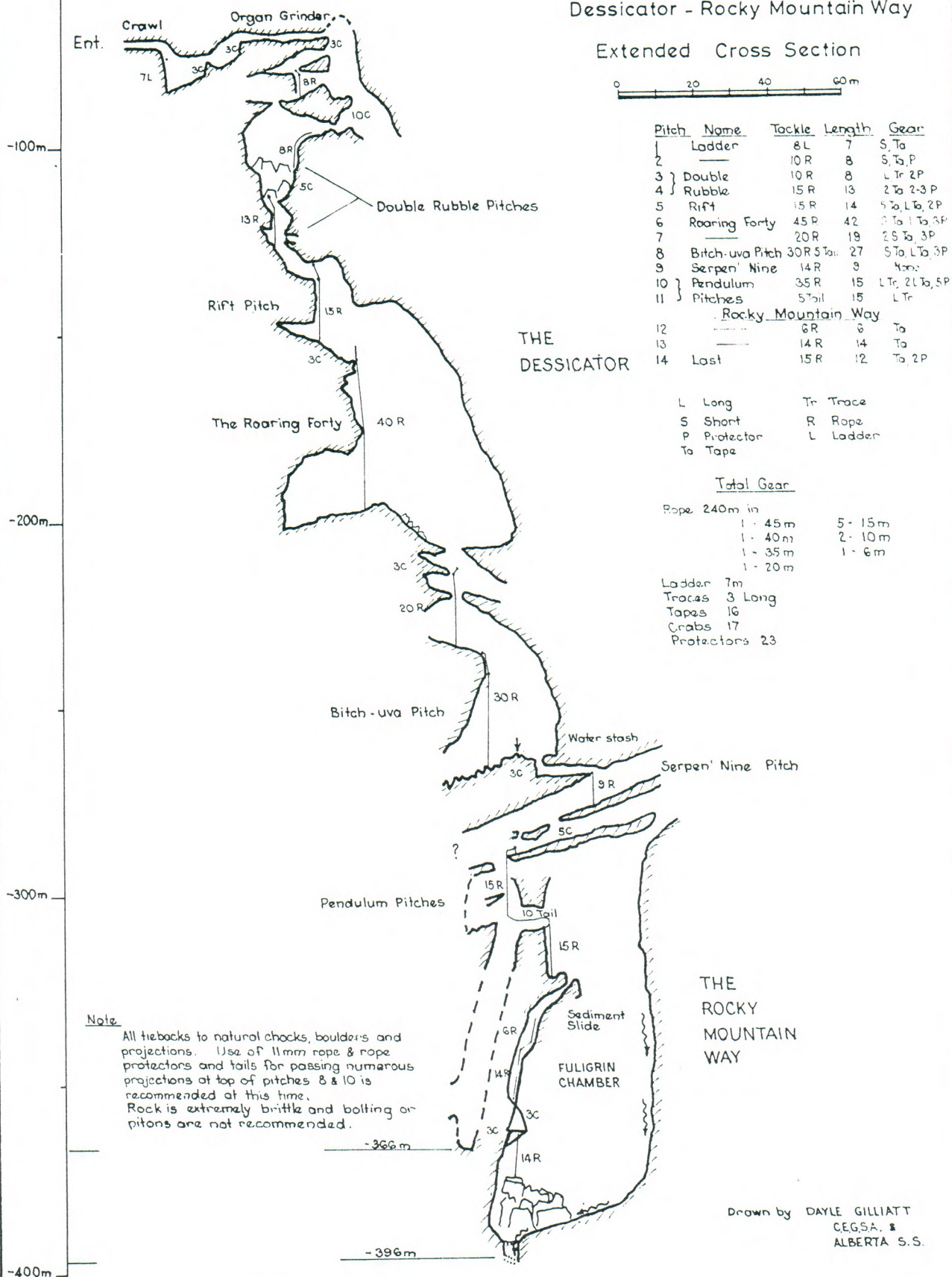
RON ALLUM

ANNE - A - KANANDA

Mt. Anne Tasmania

Dessicator - Rocky Mountain Way

Extended Cross Section



ANNE-A-KANANDA

(or AND-A-KANADIAN)

DALE GILLIAT

Seven Victorians and a Canadian set out (in various stages) to "tackle" Australia's deepest cave. Conditions were pleasant, as warm and dry weather prevailed. Spirits were high and everyone looked forward to a few days of vertical caving.

The advance party set out (a day late) at about 11:00 am on Good Friday. This team of crack troopers consisting of Daryl "Motor" Carr, Phil "The Greek" Hutchison and Peter "Fang" Davis were fresh from Midnight Hole, Exit Cave and the Doghouse Pub in Hobart. Alas, for them nothing was going to be good about this Friday.

In the afternoon the second group arrived and at about 2:30 set out in two heats. John Webb, Brian Carter and myself were determined to make it to the top while the more seasoned team of Lou Williams and Brian Franz expected to bivouac at halfway camp.

As darkness began to settle on the scene it would have been interesting to speculate upon the going-ons. One would probably find humorous the increasingly slow advances of the eight men and their heavy loads. At this point the advance party had been reduced to a snail's pace. Phil had twisted an ankle on a log crossing and was having trouble moving himself minus pack up the hill. Daryl and Peter had taken it in turns to move Phil's back upwards. This process continued for four hours until dark when all the caving gear was dropped and they pushed on to the top.

Meanwhile not far below the second team hit the first stash of unwanted gear. The general consensus was that it was evidence of idle laziness, although it was suggested that someone might have been injured. They too pushed on. Further down still the third team approached their campsite. Upon finding a flat spot, they settled for the night.

Now, up on the plateau, the rest of the players met up. While everyone practised their "Man with Hypothermia" imitations, I set out into the darkness to find the doline, which we would come to refer to as home. While I struggled to get my bearings, John and Brian were making another gear stash.

I located the doline then returned to the plateau to collect the rest of the party. Together we piled down the slimy slopes into the Anne-A-Kananda doline. Six of the original eight and only one set of caving gear made it the first night.

The next morning John and Brian set out to retrieve their gear from the top, and Daryl and Peter to retrieve the group gear from further down. Down below Brian and Lou set out from halfway camp. Meanwhile up in the doline I began to organize the meagre amount of equipment available. An hour later John and Brian returned with enough gear to rig the first 10 pitches. With 150m of rope organized between us, we set out to rig the Dessicator Series.

A ladder was still to come with Daryl so we temporarily hung a rope on the first pitch. We scrambled up a couple of short climbs then

stuffed the packs through the organ grinder crawl. Then it was down another climb and back underneath to the head of the second pitch. From the bottom of this pitch, one ascends the rubble slope and climbs down a couple of short drops to reach a miserable looking rocky drop, the first part of Double Rubble. We rigged both of these dangerous, short pitches and continued.

At the bottom of Double Rubble you descend the inevitable rubble slope to a narrow passage and the head of Rift Pitch. We used a high chock stone as our only tie-back. This pitch was originally 18m but we rigged it as a 15m and a downclimb. This put us at the top of the Roaring Forty. As we were to find out later, any object dropped from the top of the Rift Pitch ended up at the bottom of the Roaring Forty. The Forty originally the Fifty, was rigged and backed up. It called for crossing two protectors, the lower of which crossed nasty jagged rock.

The landing point is at the uppermost point of a very large rockfall chamber, which one exits through a small hole into a rift. A 3m downclimb brings one to a 19m pitch originally rigged as a 5m handline (HL) and a 14m pitch (P).

Our original intention had been to rig a thirty metre rope on the 5m then replace it with a shorter piece the others would bring up. Instead we rigged the 5m (HL) and the 14m (P) as one pitch with the thirty and used the tail of the rope as a tieback for the 25m pitch immediately below. This was fortunate as the 25m is actually about a 30m.

By the time we were finished, what was to become known as the Bitch-uva-Pitch, was rigged with 3 rope protectors, one of them over a knot on a crack. Hells Bells! From my last trip I had noted that this pitch could use a bolt, Steve Bunton had rigged it with a couple of pegs in Weetbix like rock. The top of this pitch would prove to be the physical and/or psychological limit for half of our group.

We all descended and took stock. We had but one more rope and it was suitable for the next pitch, "The Serpen Nine". The ninth pitch we rigged was 9m in length and at the end of a serpentine rift. We dropped our water stash in the room at the bottom of Bitch-uva-Pitch, rigged the Serpen Nine then retreated easily with empty rope bags.

On our way out we came across a stash of ropes left at the bottom of Double Rubble by Lou, Daryl and Peter. Later in an interview with Daryl and Peter it was found that they some had difficulty in finding the route. They had failed at first to find the organ grinder, which admittedly is not obvious. Then at the bottom of Double Rubble, Peter had been unable to find the head of Rift Pitch so he had the others lower their ropes and they all retreated.

Back on the surface the party was looking very much the worse for wear. Most were still suffering the effects of hiking up and spirits were really not high. The cold drafty air in the doline was also having a negative effect on morale. Things didn't look good.

The next day it was found that Phil's ankle was still too bad to permit caving. Lou was not keen to make any more than a token effort and Peter had to re-organize his prussik gear. This left us with two parties of two.

John and Brian set out first with light bags to pick up the gear at the bottom of Double Rubble. Later Daryl and I entered with full packs hoping not to catch John and Brian until reaching the limit of the rigged cave. Unfortunately, due to re-rigging we reached them at the top of the Bitch-uva-Pitch. This was to prove to be Daryl's "Waterloo". Back-peddalling down past the first two protectors and over the lip he was unable to get his bicycle system to take him down any further. He decided enough was enough and lowered his pack to the bottom and returned to the head of the pitch to wait.

Our efforts now seemed doomed to fail. We couldn't leave Daryl waiting too long and Brian began to have serious doubts about the condition of our party. In fact, Brian suggested that we begin to derig out. Neither John nor I were ready to give up, so as a compromise we decided to rig on one more pitch, drop all of our gear at the bottom and go for a light push trip the following day. We dropped down the Serpen Nine, passed the packs down the rift and rigged the top of the "Pendulum Pitch", using no less than five rope protectors as the rope passed by the jagged ledges on the 15m drop to the pendulum point.

Now penduluming safely on a rope with 5 rope protectors is a tricky business but while hanging suspended 60m up is something else altogether. Anyway, safely lodged on the midway rock I reeled in John and Brian in succession.

We tied off the rest of our 55m rope to a trace around a rock overhanging the pitch. By forcing the trace to hang over a 5cm long protrusion of the rock the rope was made to hang free. This same pitch required 3 protectors, including one of my rubber gloves, the last time I attempted it. When we had all reached bottom I swept my arms towards the darkness that my lamp failed to pierce. "This is what we came for," I said.

"Oohs" and "Ahhs" and speculations about size followed. We dropped down a sediment slide to a lower rockfall ledge. Here at the top of the 6m and 14m pitches we dropped our gear and began the long slog out. We collected one complete gear bag and Daryl and I headed up. In the Roaring Forty we found another gear stash that had obviously been left by Lou and Peter. We picked this up and continued out.

Daryl was first up the Rift Pitch above the Roaring Forty. John, Brian and I conversed loosely (? Ed.) below. Suddenly a flash of silver caught my eye, then we heard a clang and whistle and a loud crash far below. Have you ever read "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"? I wonder what went through that Whaletail's mind as it left the safety of Daryl's harness, whistled past Brian's ear, bounced once then plummeted down the Forty. We exited without further incident. (Needless to say gear should not be disconnected on or near pitch tops. Ed.)

The next day it was decided that John and I would do a light push trip to the bottom or as near as we could get with the gear we had. At the bottom we expected to have a 10m, 12m and a 25m rope left to explore with after rigging the 6m and 17m pitches. This, I secretly hoped would not be enough.

We moved quickly and quietly down the pitches. Quickly to keep warm and quietly because Brian wasn't around. We reached the limit of the previous day's push in only two hours. This point had taken us six to eight hours to reach the previous day.

We were in a hurry as we were on a strict schedule imposed by staged derigging teams. Brian and Peter were to enter the cave four hours after us and wait at the top of the Bitch-uva-Pitch. Daryl and Lou were to enter two hours later and wait at the head of the Rift Pitch. This agenda gave us very little time for jocularity.

I rigged the 6m and we descended, then the 14m and we continued. John stopped at this point for a carbide change. I continued through the squeeze and down the two short climbs to the rockfall room which had been the limit of my exploration at New Year.

Here lay the short drop that had defeated me four months before. Due to rigging a tail to pass the protectors on the top of the Pendulum Pitch and a slight miscalculation on number of ropes, we were down to our last length. John appeared and together we rigged up the pitch through a small opening I had enlarged in the debris. I added two protectors to the rope and slithered down a muddy 15m pitch into a large rockfall chamber.

I unclipped and began to look for a way on. On squeezing between a couple of boulders I found myself out on the rubble floor of an enormous chamber. I returned and called to John to come on and together we explored the chamber.

John headed up to the top of the rockfall while I followed the stream down. It was wet and muddy and the water merely dropped through the rocks in a very unpromising way. John dubbed the chamber "Fulgur" which he said meant Midnight Black from a book he'd read. We searched the chamber and found no way on. As we were pressed for time we could not survey out so I took careful note of dimensions in order to do a memory sketch later.

Seven hours after entering the cave we met up with Brian and Peter at the top of the Bitch-uva-Pitch, our cave bags full to the brim. As I reached the lip at the top and attempted to unclip my ascenders I held a rope protector between my teeth and was lifting the entire weight of the rope and rope bags. At this point Brian chose to grill me about our expedition. As my feet began to buckle and I was ready to slip off over backwards I finally unclipped and shouted out something obscure(?) between my clenched teeth. Undaunted Brian continued to talk. We all worked together to haul the packs up and continued on for the next two pitches until contact was made with Lou and Daryl at the Rift Pitch.

John ascended first and hauled up his pack and I came next and pulled up mine. We then headed up towards Double Rubble. John had started up while I waited safely in the wings when Daryl came up asking who had been saying their prayers. It seems that Lou had gone to look at the tieback and found it ready to give. We quickly chased Peter off the rope and the tape came through the chock like a hot knife through butter. Hmmm! Feeling a bit numbed we made our way out.

We reached the entrance to find that an incredible earthworks project had been in progress on the campsite. Brian, Franz and Phil Hutchison had put an enormous effort into terracing a large area of the camp over a two day period.

The next day the weather was especially foul and only Lou, Brian, Franz and Phil chose to leave while the remainder elected to R and R for a day in the hope that the skies would clear. We amused ourselves playing cards, drawing the sketch, writing a VSA trip report and going over the pitch details.

The next day the weather was as bad as ever but we made haste to break camp. Brian and John got away first at 8:30 and Peter and Daryl followed at 9:00. Just as they were ready to leave a patch of blue sky streaked past overhead. I shouted that my prayers had been answered and turned back to attach another item to my pack. When I again looked out of the doline I saw snow gently falling. This deflated my spirits to such a point that I was unable to get started before 9:30.

In order to ensure a quick trip I headed out in shorts and caught John and Brian just ten minutes from the road. Peter and Daryl arrived shortly thereafter and the trip was "fait accompli". (? Ed.)

NOTICES and NEWS

CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND

The annual "Cave Rescue Weekend", run by the NSW Cave Rescue Group, will be held at Bungonia on 9-10 Mar 1985.

Information can be obtained by contacting Grace Matts, 176 William St, Bankstown, NSW 2200. (02) 70 0374.

COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF BUCHAN CAVE SPELEOTHEMS

I have been asked to draw member societies' attention to a disturbing purchase made by one of our members at the "Glen Waverly (Melb) Gem Show" on the 24th August 1984.

It was a beautiful piece of amber-coloured, dog-tooth spar, calcite, about 50mm in diameter, apparently extracted from a cave on private property at Murrindal, Victoria (just north of Buchan).

When Mark enquired further he found that the fresh piece of cave formation had been supplied by "two Mount Isa miners, who were down for a holiday in the Buchan area."

We are trying various avenues in an attempt to halt this kind of exploitation of our caves, and thought that a letter in the ASF Newsletter would alert other clubs to be on the lookout for similar activities in their areas of influence.

Peter Ackroyd
Assistant Secretary, VSA,
16 Sep 1984.

Exploring New Dimensions

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Report on accident

Indi Cave, Kosciusko National Park 16 Apr 1984.

Three officers of the NPWS were visiting Indi in the course of their duties. Two, (Whittaker and Spate) are fully experienced, the third (Pulsford) is an experienced bushwalker and rockclimber. The party was well equipped and entered the Indi Cave (I1) which involves traversing along ledges and walls above 4-6m deep pits. As the party was leaving the cave a ledge which Spate was traversing broke off in its entirety. Spate fell 5-6m into the pit which had 30cm of water over a smooth rock floor with a veneer of mud.

The injuries sustained were luckily, and suprisingly, slight ... two clean fractures of the fibula and a cut to the left wrist from a watch band. Spate was able to walk (? hobble Ed.) from the cave and the half kilometre back to the vehicles. The major problem was the loss of spectacles – later recovered.

This accident could have very easily been much worse, especially bearing in mind the nature of the cave and the extremely remote location.

The accident could not have forseebly been avoided.

A P Spate

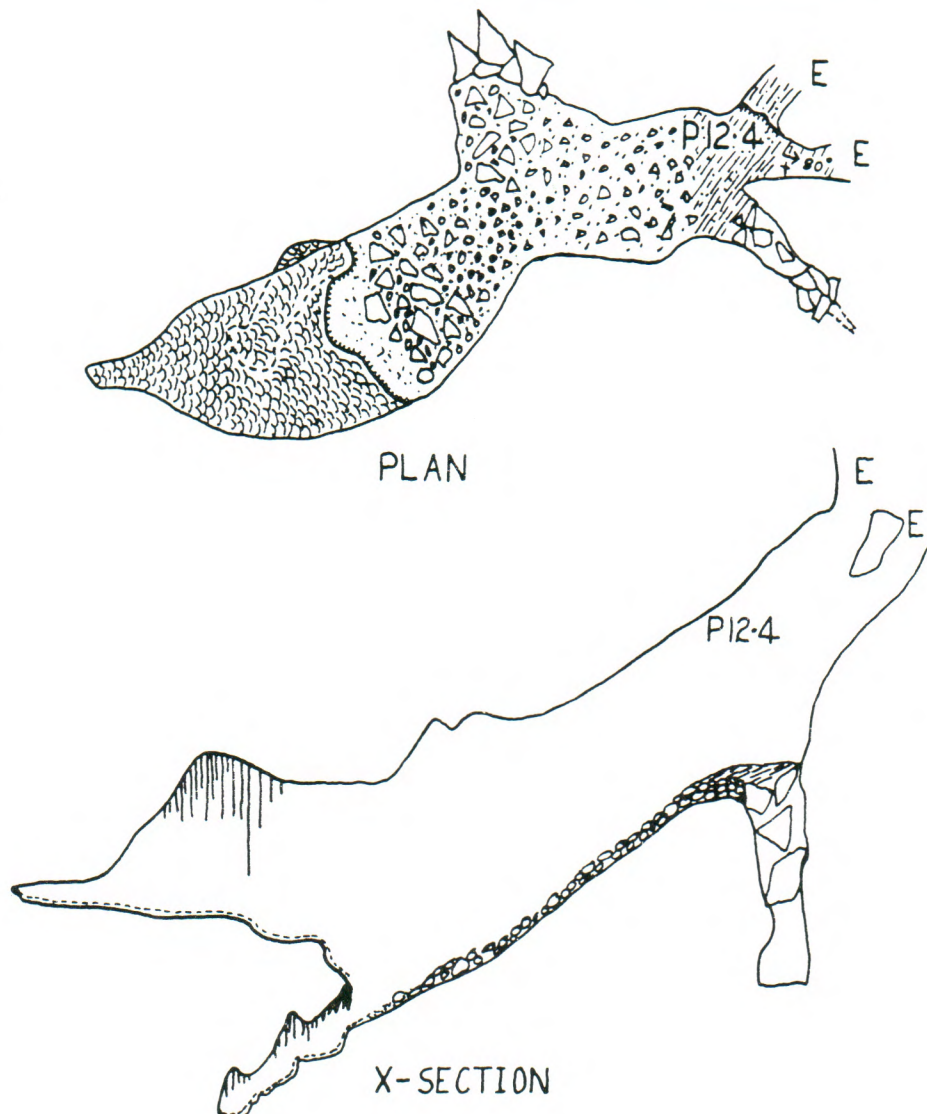
interpretive to quantified, long term process studies. Some of these we knew would continue beyond the time available to Joe; we will do our best to execute them to a standard acceptable to the Master. Many of the process studies are of international significance and have led to a greater understanding of karst development as well as of wider environmental and landforming processes. Joe's achievements have been recognised overseas by the Royal Geographical Society of London and the National Speleological Society of America with their highest awards.

Over the years Joe provided wise council to many hundreds of Australian speleologists from all walks of life, often at personal cost. He is regarded overseas as a symbol of the excellence of Australian speleology. Joe Jennings made a unique (how he hated that word) contribution to this aspect of Australian society; today a

growing number of researchers and amateurs are following in his footsteps.

Australian cavers will remember Joe's contribution to our understanding and enjoyment of caves, karst features and Australian landscapes...Joe did not travel only to arrive. We will remember him for his quotable quotes; "It is only up to your knees," says Joe with his beard dripping wet'. We will remember his enthusiasm, energy and ready acceptance of all. We will certainly miss his company around campfires from Tasmania to the Kimberleys; from the Mill Creek Glacier at Yarrangobilly to the wide open spaces of the Nullarbor.

To Joe I would like to say simply, thankyou, on behalf of Australian cavers everywhere. To Betty, Guy, Sarah and Judy we offer our condolences and our fond memories of Joe.



THE GALLERY - MY 202

ASF MAP# 7MY202.SCS63

GRADE 4.4

SURVEYED:- SCS, EASTER 1984

DRAWN:- P. JACKSON 26-5-1984

SCALE:- 1:200

0 5
metres

MACKINTOSH KARST AREA

PHIL JACKSON

ACCESS and LOCATION:- The Mackintosh (Mayday Creek) River karst is one of the lesser known of Tasmania's caving areas with access, until recently, being extremely difficult. The majority of the Mackintosh karst is scattered about the far limits of the Mackintosh impoundment, which is seven kilometres NNW of Tullah on Tasmania's west coast. The inundation of the Mackintosh River, just above its junction with the Murchison River, by the Hydro-Electric Commission has, however, rendered the Mayday limestone belts readily accessible by small boat.

GEOLOGY:- The Mackintosh karst area consists of two main regions of Ordovician Gordon Limestone; the Mayday and the Southwell River areas. Both areas yield fairly substantial volumes of drainage water.

The Mayday area extends for nearly ten kilometres along the western bank of Mayday Creek and up to a kilometre away from the creek. There are also some small areas of limestone outcropping through recent alluvial deposits on the flood plains on the eastern side of the creek. Some of these have been cursorily explored and considered to be of limited speleological potential.

The Southwell River belt is approximately three kilometres by five kilometres and is bisected by a band of recent alluvial deposits up to 0.5 kilometres wide, through which runs the Southwell River. The limestone commences just upstream of the junction of the Southwell with the Mackintosh River.

From geological maps the inferred maximum vertical potential for the Mayday area is three hundred metres and for the Southwell area is about two hundred metres.

EXPLORATION:- There were a few courageous, early attempts by parties from the Southern Caving Society to reach the Mayday karst area. These were in vain because of the impenetrable nature of the surrounding forest. It was not until the Mackintosh Dam was filled, that three members of the Southern Caving Society were able to embark on the arduous one hour boat trip up the dam. On arrival they spent two days doing a basic reconnaissance of the area. No significant caves were found.

During Easter 1984 a well organized team of eight cavers from the SCS headed up the dam, with grandiose ideas of finding new caves. During this trip only a small part of the Mayday karst was examined. Two significant caves were found, explored and surveyed and one small shelter cave was examined. The trip was plagued by the notorious West Coast elements and was eventually cut short as a result.

The CAVES and KARST FEATURES:-

Campsite Conduit - MY 201:- A small efflux close to, and a tributary of, the Mackintosh River. The entrance is only centimetres clear of the maximum fill level of the dam. The cave is a narrow stream passage terminating in a sump. A small side passage leads to a small

stream which sumps at each end. The entrance has a small population of Wetas and spiders (predominately *Hickmania Troglodytes*). Total passage length is 64 metres.

The Gallery - MY 202:- A small near vertical entrance of 12.4 metres leads to a rubble slope with a calcite crystal and flowstone stage, which is elevated about two or three metres above the far end of the rubble. The stage is accentuated by a curtain of straws, the longest was estimated to be about four metres. The bones of a Rufous Wallaby (*Macropus Rufogriseus*) were found in the rubble. The total length of passage is 72 metres and depth is 22 metres.

Shelter Cave - (unnumbered):- Approximately eight metres by five metres, with a two metre crawl at the back. Some old firewood (cut by an axe or similar) was found suggesting that the cave may have been used by travellers on the Innes Track. The Innes Track was a West Coast supply route used at about the turn of the century. It has since become overgrown. Some bones found in the shelter were indentified as a jawbone of a Common Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus perigrinus*), two limb bones and a rib, possibly from a marsupial mouse (*Antechinus minimus minimus*), and a lower limb bone from a Rufous Wallaby (*Macropus rufogriseus*).

Other Karst Features:- Many large dolines, up to one hundred metres in diameter and small blind valleys abound in the hills on the eastern side of the Mayday Creek. Unfortunately no caves were found in these.

CONCLUSIONS:- Although to some the caves found may appear to be insignificant, they are an indication of possibly greater things to come. There is up to three hundred metres depth potential, and several kilometres of horizontal passage potential in the area.

NOTE:- Camping on the banks and flats in the upper regions of Lake Mackintosh is extremely inadvisable. Dead trees, drowned by fluctuations in the lake levels, crash down with monotonous regularity.



"You spoil him. He really can look up 'stalactite' in the dictionary, you know!"

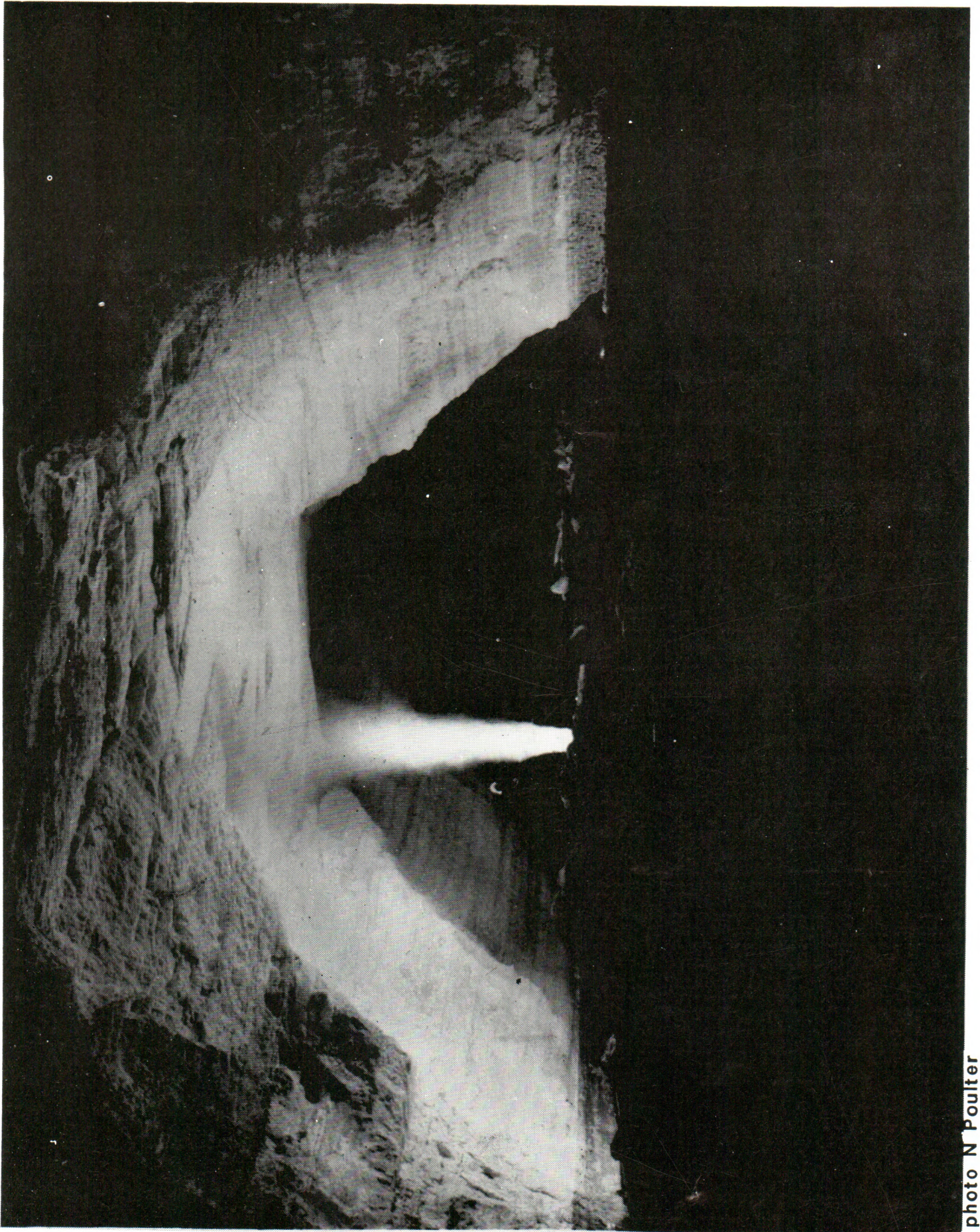


photo N Poulter

DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

Northern Caverneers Since linking the Anastomosis to Devil's Pot via a 55m pitch - the longest known pitch at Mole Creek, the club has been actively pushing caves in the King Solomon Hill area. Kohinor, Pearl Pot and Maze Puzzle have been linked and Soda Creek on the other side of the hill has been extended. At present we are awaiting the arrival of a bolting kit as exploration has been halted by a large aven. Diamond Cave has also been pushed as far as the river. The Club has been assisting the Forestry Commission in their study of the Mole Creek karst area and in particular the Kansas Creek - Vanishing Creek area. Rat Hole has been significantly (approx 1km) extended past the first sump and a main river passage has been reached. Most of these trips were conducted on Thursday nights.

Consideration is being given to renovating the old caving hut at Marakooa for use during the Speleomania field trips.

We have also been conducting information trips for scout groups and educating ambulance officers in the art of caving.

COMPTON ALLEN

SRGWA A lethargy-inducing winter and some prior commitments, slowed but not stopped the Group's activities. Even so, trips were fairly well attended. One such trip, to far away Sun City (50 km north of Perth) was to pass judgement on whether or not a cave in the district had tourist potential - it didn't. After a break of several years, a trip was staged north to Eneabba in July. While there we had a look at a short section of channel that a pastoral company has bulldozed several kilometres from a lake they want to drain into the Stock Yard Creek National Park. Siltation damage has already occurred to some of the caves within the park, not to mention the damage to cave fauna. The National Parks Authority is currently working on legal action and repairing some of the damage. SRG hopes to organise a minor form-letter campaign hoping to stir up some information from the government which has been awfully quiet about the incident. The Group has also joined with other like-minded conservation groups in opposing the amalgamation of the National Parks Authority with the wildlife section of the Department of Fisheries and, believe it or not, the Forestry Department. Conservation and exploitation in the same department seem unlikely to go hand-in-hand too well.

The members of SRGWA would like to take this opportunity to thank Judith, Ian and the numerous? nameless helpers for their highly commendable efforts over the last few years producing the ASF Newsletter.

NORM POULTER

TCC Long time, no report. Something like that anyway. Well TCC is still alive

and certainly kicking. Since the last DUOA segment, many bodies have been doing many things, including quite a few cave related activities.

Funny how caves that have been known for many years often reveal more of their secrets when looked at by different eyes. One such cave has been looked at recently, despite being the province of the "opposition" in the form of SCS. Undesala was always known for its distinct lack of stability, and recent exploration has not disproved this! Trips involving members of both clubs(!) found a way through the entrance and proceeded down a number of pitches and climbs, all very loose, to stream passage and more loose blocks and the inevitable choked squeeze, finishing with a cave of 180m depth. This took four trips to explore, each time being declared the last by the bodies involved. **Conference participants take note** - not only does Tassy have cold wet water, but big loose rocks as well (frequently in the same place!!)

Another cave known since the early seventies is Pendant Pot, not too far from Growling Swallet in the Florentine Valley. At the time of discovery the entrance appeared blocked and the cave was abandoned in favour of more interesting prospects. However, earlier this year a couple of keener types went up instead of trying to go down and made a most significant discovery - virgin cave lay in front of them! A few trips later the discoveries were further explored and surveyed and revealed a cave some 192m deep, complete with enormous chambers, narrow rifts, big stream passage and even a sump. It was obviously part of the ever increasing Growling Swallet complex, and the sump at the bottom looked promising....

Needless to say diving has been in vogue, with four people going over to Mt Gambier after doing the CDAA Category 2 test in Melbourne. A week or two diving in the great visibility and comparative warmth of "The Mount" certainly was different to local conditions.

Another TCC first was perpetrated earlier this year when four bodies did an exchange trip via the tradesman's entrance (alias, the sump) of Kubla Khan at Mole Creek. The first two dived the resurgence in the farmer's paddock carrying over 700m of line and enough air to get them in and the other two out, with a suitable safety margin. The stream level was up which actually made for an easier, although slightly longer dive. Some two hours after leaving the paddock, the divers triumphantly surfaced in the cave proper, where the other two were waiting ready to swim out. Diving gear was exchanged for the normal caving gear and both parties made their respective ways out. The divers had a few line problems, but sorted everything out and emerged at the outer sump not long after the other two

DOWN UNDER ALL OVER

arrived. All in all a great day trip from Hobart.

Diving was also involved in the physical link up of another cave to the Growling Swallet system. A sump upstream in the Black River section of Growling Swallet was suspected of being linked to Pendant Pot, which had a similar looking sump, surveyed to be in about the same place. Diving gear and a small tank was lugged into GS and a diver thus equipped swam off into the murk. Some fifteen metres later he emerged in the Pendant Pot sump!! This would have to be the first linkup, in the state, by a diver, of two separate caves. The other diver in the party also swam through when the first one returned. A few weeks later, a one way through trip was done; going in Pendant Pot, through the sump and out via Growling Swallet!! Both caves involve SRT as well as the dive, so it was quite an achievement.

Various visiting groups made their annual pilgrimage to the best caves in Australia (touch of bias perhaps? Ed.) at Easter. Following a considerable amount of rain, which produced the inevitable floods, Serendipity was left rigged by a Sydney group. Needless to say some of our members were keen to take advantage of this stroke of luck, although the actual exploration/derig trip did not take place for a few weeks. Accompanied by a couple more Sydney trogs, down for the May school holidays, a few leads were checked out,

but despite following the draft, they ended back up where they started. Thus the potential link of Serendipity to Growling Swallet remains just that.

Diving has again featured in the Florentine Valley but well away from the Junee and GS. Further up the Valley, Lawrence Creek sinks and reappears a few kilometres away. The resurgence has been the site of a couple of dive trips, which revealed open passage and clear water - almost enjoyable. The Junee junkies are buying dry suits and other exotic goodies in readiness for more Junee Resurgence exploration as soon as water levels drop to something reasonable. Enthusiasm and hopes for another major breakthrough are high but what the result of all this capital expenditure will be is anyone's guess at the moment.

A rather bitter blow was struck to TCC during June when a considerable amount of both 9mm and 11mm Bluewater rope was taken from the store at the home of the Quartermaster. No trace has been found of the rope. The theft follows a similar incident at the home of one of our members over Easter and a burglary from a shop in Hobart when only the climbing gear was stolen. Although the rope, if ever found, could not be trusted for its original purpose, I am sure that it would be strong enough to give its taker a few problems....

STUART NICHOLAS



STIFF	ROPE	???
STIFF	ROPE	???
STIFF	ROPE	???
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STIFF	ROPE	???
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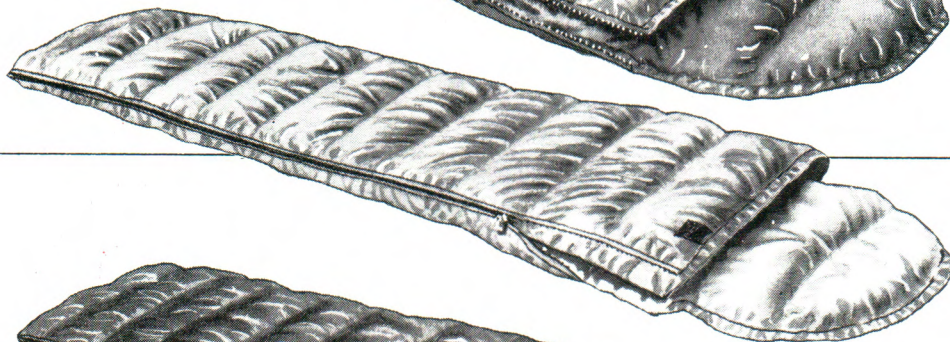


photo N Poulter

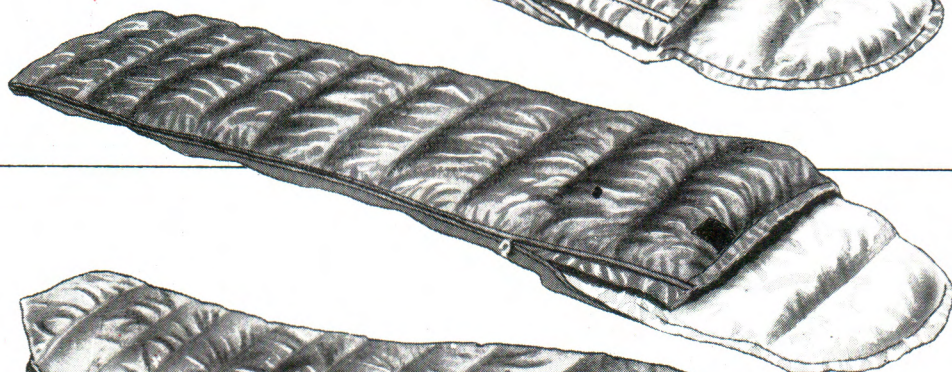
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BIMBERI	1.00 kg	Box Wall	550 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Side Zip	30 x 17
HIGH PLAINS	1.80 kg	Box Wall	1100 g	Featherdown	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
HOTHAM	1.60 kg	Box Wall	700 g	550 Loft Down	-5°C	Full Zip	34 x 23
MELALEUCA	1.55 kg	Box Wall	800 g	550 Loft Down	-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

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