

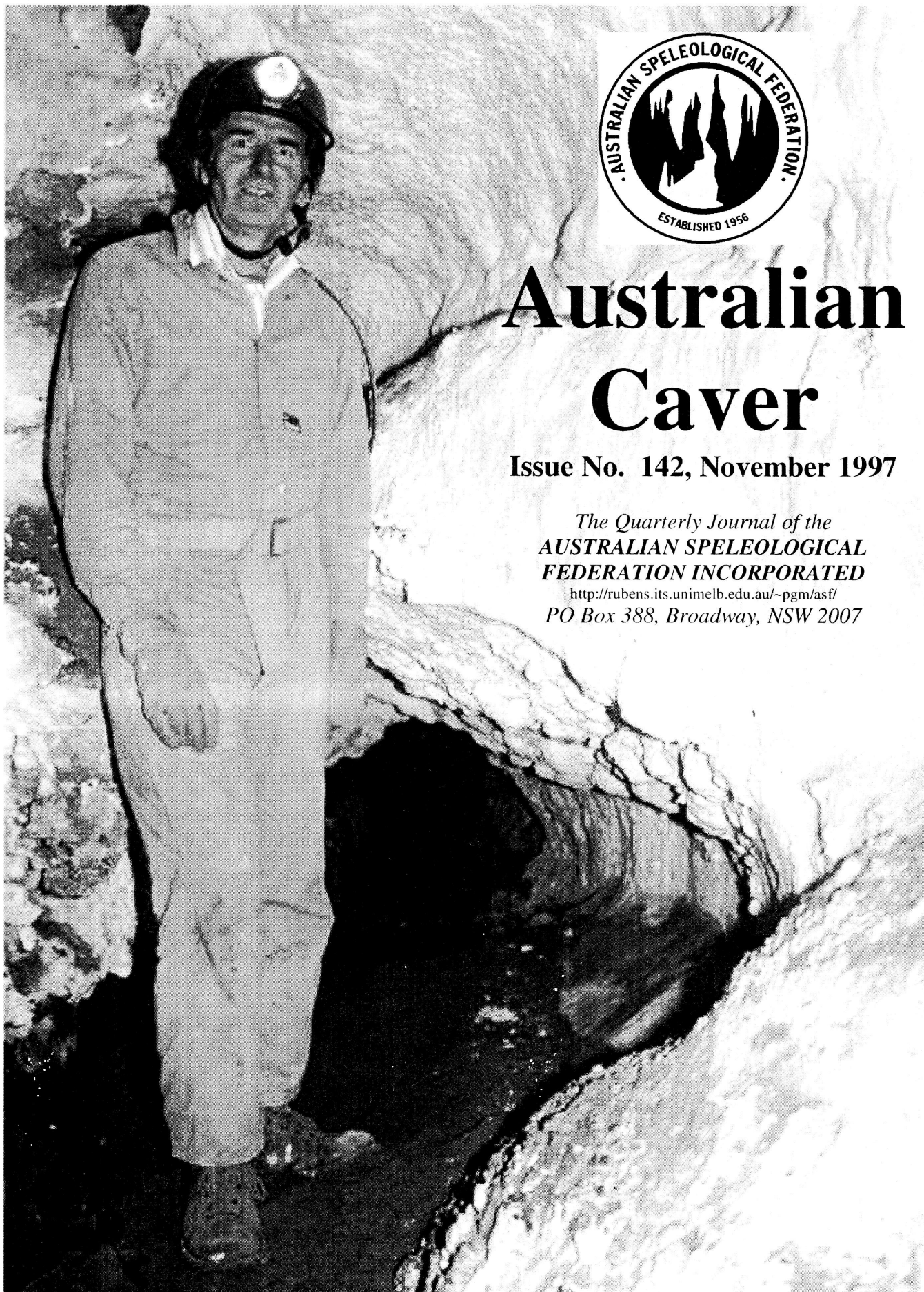


# Australian Caver

Issue No. 142, November 1997

*The Quarterly Journal of the*  
**AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL  
FEDERATION INCORPORATED**

<http://rubens.its.unimelb.edu.au/~pgm/asf/>  
PO Box 388, Broadway, NSW 2007



*Miles Pierce in "The Milky Way Cave". (See page 8 for the full photo details)*  
*Photo by Garry K Smith*

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Incorporated.

# Australian Caver

The Quarterly Journal of the  
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**Issue No. 142, November 1997**

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as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part may be reproduced by any process without written  
permission from the publishers and the inclusion of acknowledgment of the source.*

*Although I'm sure no-one would read any of this fine print anyway."*



## Warning!

*This issue contains articles and comments that some people may find "humorous". If you are one of the two ASF who are offended by humor, then perhaps you had better subscribe to something like "Australian Business Monthly" instead.*

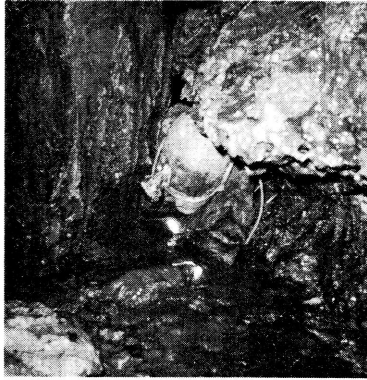
*Don't say you haven't been warned...*

# Editorial

I haven't been able to find it yet, but I assume that hidden somewhere in the tiny phreatic passages of the ASF's Code of Ethics, there must be a hidden clause that states: ***"Though shalt not be seen smirking, chuckling or giggling in a public place - either above or below ground - without the written consent of the ASF Executive and/or the landowner"***. It's got to be in there somewhere, because after the last issue, I've had a couple of members tell me that I shouldn't put any humor in the Australian Caver, as it's not the image the ASF wants to portray! Presumably, they have a basis for this claim?

Apparently, the chance of getting advertising in the Australian Caver was also blown in the last issue, all because I had the words "sex" and "masturbate" in it! Really, I'm sorry if I've offended anyone, but, haven't these people read anything published in the last thirty years to have been offended by words like "sex" and "masturbate". Either that, or they are assuming that all members are offended by words like "sex" and "masturbate". I doubt that very much...

Anyhow, this issue is chockers full of humorous and entertaining articles, and the occasional rude word. So I'm sure the whingers will have a busy month after this issue writing to all the contributors and complaining to them!



*One of the last remaining photos of me actually caving, before I took to a life of editing caving journals...*

## Unity in the ASF

There's another large Australasian caving related organisation - who shall remain nameless for the moment - but their name also begins with the letter "A". I forked over my hard-earned cash a while back to become a member of their organisation, even though they basically only deal with cave and karst management issues - issues I only have a limited interest in. Why did I become a member? All because they portray themselves as an enjoyable, energetic organisation (*and they have a great newsletter!*)

Now, why hasn't the ASF got that sort of image? Take note of John Dunkley's article in this issue about the discussion paper on ASF fees & insurance. This discussion paper has been distributed around all ASF affiliated clubs and members for comment - surely a good initiative

from the ASF? But I betcha the responses John received from people initially spewing forth thoughtless garbage without thinking (*especially via email*) far outnumbered the responses from people who thought about the issue and came up with positive suggestions.

When was the last time any of you contacted one of the ASF executive and gave them some praise for the job they are doing? Have any of you actually bothered contacting members like Alan Jevons and saying *"Great job with the ASF/NORLD Leadership standards stuff Alan!"* If you think Peter Berrill is doing a great job as President of the ASF - as I do - then why don't you give him a call and tell him? The same goes for the rest of the executive.

Have a look on page 2 of this issue at the theme for the 1999 Cave Queensland 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial ASF Conference ***"Taking Caving into the next Century with Fun, Unity and Fellowship"*** That sums up what we need perfectly...

We need to do something to make people **want** to be involved the ASF, not do it because they have to as part of their local club connections.

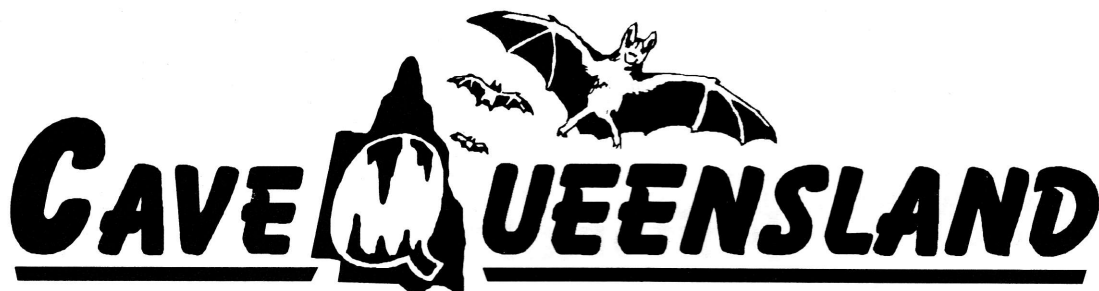
Finally, if your wondering why this issue is six weeks late, it's because I was asked to delay it to coincide with all the upcoming conferences / symposium that are happening in the next few months. You can't say you didn't know about them this year!

Dean Morgan

## Yeehaarrhh! It's time for a holiday...

Due to family commitments, I will be unavailable to edit the next issue for you. Thankfully, Canberra caver Sherry Mayo has kindly offered her services to do the next issue so I can have the time off.

Thanks a heap Sherry!



22nd Biennial Conference Australian Speleological Federation 1999  
 - Taking Caving into the next Century with Fun, Unity and Fellowship -

**HOSTED BY:** CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC

**DATE:** 4 - 8 JANUARY 1999

**VENUE:** ROCKHAMPTON/CAPRICORN COAST - CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

This will be the last Conference of the 20th Century. This is your Conference, a genuine Caver's Conference, promoting Fun, Fellowship and Unity. Papers can be on any subject and will be accepted as of NOW and up to the 30 September 1998. Awards are presented on the night of the Caveman's Dinner, and we are requesting nominations, in accordance with the Constitution, to be forwarded ASAP, to:

*ASF President, Peter Berrill,  
 PO Box 6343  
 Rockhampton Mail Centre  
 4702  
 and marked 'CONFIDENTIAL'.*

Registration Forms and further information will soon be available through your Club and the ASF Newsletter.

## 8th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology Nairobi, Kenya, 7-8 February 1998

This symposium offers a unique opportunity to see a selection of East African volcanoes and volcanic caves, as well as the wildlife and local culture of Kenya. The formal sessions will be held in Nairobi, and registrants are invited to present papers on any aspect of vulcanospeleology.

There will be pre-symposium excursions to Ndarugu River Caves (*half-day, 1st Feb*) and Chyulu Hills and caves (*4.5 days, 2-6 Feb*), and post-symposium excursions to Mt Suswa caldera and caves (*2 days, 9-10 Feb*) and Mt Elgon and caves (*3 days, 11-13 Feb*). Visits to national parks are included in some of the excursions.

Registration is \$US 80; the excursions vary from \$US 30 for the half-day excursion to \$US625 twin share for the 4-5 day excursions.

Expression of interest and preliminary registration is due immediately. Further details (*including registration forms*) are available from:

*Jim W. Simons,  
 Cave Exploration Group of East Africa,  
 P.O. Box 47363,  
 Nairobi, Kenya.*

# AUSTRALIAN KARST STUDIES SEMINAR

*Mole Creek, Tasmania 10-13 February 1998*

## 1. Call for papers

Presentations at the previous seminar, (#3) in South Australia were 15-minute presentations followed by 5-minute question time. A volume of abstracts was available beforehand. Please have your abstract delivered to the convenor by December 31, 1997, and include references to precursor work and intentions for publication.

There may be some time available for longer presentations. Format must be either disk IBM formatted, Word6 or Email to <Rosie.Shannon@central.tased.edu.au>

## 2. Participants

Please inform Henry Shannon of your intention to come before 31 December 1997. Payment in full. Whichever option you choose is required at this time to secure your accommodation and place at the seminar.

## 3. Venue

The seminar will be held at the Mole Creek Guest House, with morning teas on the verandah looking up at Western Bluff.

## 4. Registration

Be at the Mole Creek Guest House on the afternoon of Monday, 9 February 1998. Cost for registration only is \$50. This does not include accommodation or meals. It does include morning teas and abstracts.

**Program will follow the basic format for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

- Breakfast
- Papers
- Morning tea
- Papers
- Lunch
- Field trips to surface karst features (*walks of about 4 km to what are arguably the most interesting major surface karst features in Australia.*)
- Dinner
- After dinner trips- night trips to certain "clean" caves.

**Friday-** Papers, lunch at Trowunna Wildlife Park (*cost not included*) then disperse. If there are insufficient papers, field trips to progressively nastier, blackberry infested and dirtier caves will be substituted for papers.

## 6. Accommodation and meals

Mole Creek GuestHouse. Limited accommodation is available. Twin/unit share (\$270 *per person*) includes all meals (*Dinner Monday 9 Feb to breakfast Friday 13 Feb 1998*) Gourmet meals.

If you have to stay outside of the guesthouse, then meals can be arranged for the 3 days at \$150 per person. There will be overflow accommodation available at the Mole Creek Hotel and camping available at the Caravan Park, about 4-km away.

## 7. Transport

Please make your own bookings on the Spirit of Tasmania if bringing transport. A SeaCat ferry will be on the run from Port Melbourne to Georgetown this summer. Ring TT Line on 13 2010. So you have the choice of the Spirit of Tasmania, or the SeaCat. Book as soon as you can.



As this is a small get-together, please make your own arrangements to get to Mole Creek. You could enquire through your travel agent about transport.

If you wish to hire a car there are several local firms. Here are a few:

- **Advance CarRent** Ph: 03 6391 8000
- **Apha Car Rental** Ph: 03 6335 1111
- **Bargain Car Rental** Ph: 03 34 0879
- **Budget** Ph: 13 2727
- **Delta** Ph: 1800 631 390
- **Economy Car** Ph: 03 6334 3299
- **Invermay Car Rent** Ph: 03 6326 7359
- **LoCost Autorent** Ph: 03 6334 3437
- **U Drive Tasmania** Ph: 03 6344 8200

If you wish to share hire, note date of arrival, and where in Tasmania on your registration form, and we'll put you in touch.

## AUSTRALIAN KARST STUDIES SEMINAR

*10-13 February 1998 at Mole Creek Tasmania*

Preferred title (Mr, Mrs, Ms, Dr, Other \_\_\_\_\_) Please circle  
 SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred first name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day phone \_\_\_\_\_ Night phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to present a paper Yes (Please tick) No  
 Enclosed is the abstract in print format. I have emailed the document in Word6 (Preferred option)

Enclosed is an IBM formatted disk with abstract

I would like to be accommodated at the Mole Creek Guest House, on a twin or unit share basis at a cost of \$270, plus \$50 for registration. A total of \$310 per person which includes all meals, (*excluding morning teas which are included in registration*) and I enclose a cheque for the amount made payable to (*See below*) The guest house has limited accommodation, so be quick.

## AUSTRALIAN KARST STUDIES SEMINAR 1998

I WOULD LIKE TO TWIN/UNIT/SHARE WITH \_\_\_\_\_

I DO NOT WISH TO SHARE WITH \_\_\_\_\_ ON ANY ACCOUNT

I do/do not require any special diet (Please specify \_\_\_\_\_)

I arrive at \_\_\_\_\_ on (date) \_\_\_\_\_, and would like to share car hire/will be able to carry passengers to Mole Creek. Please circle option/s.

Please return this form with payment to

*The Convenor*  
*Australian Karst Studies Seminar*  
*Henry Shannon*  
*319 Brisbane Street*  
*Launceston Tas 7250*

# Safety Commission Update for 1997

ASF Safety Convenor - Michael Lake

One of the tasks of the Commission on Cave Safety is "To maintain a register of all cave accidents and to compile summaries of these for publication in the Federation newsletter." Even just a casual perusal of the accidents that occur can suggest areas that the ASF needs to look closely at; either to prevent similar accidents happening to our members, or to guide our efforts in reducing the likelihood of such accidents happening to non-ASF cavers or other organisations. With insurance becoming a major issue for all organisations, the compilation of accurate accident reports is becoming even more essential.

Since the last update I have received a number of accident / incident reports. Note that I also include incidents. This is where an accident was narrowly missed or could have involved ASF cavers and as such still has value in alerting cavers to potential accident situations.

The accidents / incidents are in the following format:

**Date: dd/mm/yy Location;**

**ASF / non-ASF group: What happened;**

**What injuries resulted;**

**Comments;**

## Summary of Cave Accidents / Incidents 1995

**13/04/95 Wet Cave, Mole Ck, TAS**

ASF: Hit nose on ceiling.

Contused nose, possible fracture.

**22/07/95 Wyanbene, NSW**

ASF: Caver went ahead on own and left group.

Injuries: none, became lost.

Found by group after search.

**??/12/95 Hades 3M-92, Buchan**

**VIC**

non-ASF: Fell ~ 5m

Fractured nose, cuts to face, head.

## Summary of Cave Accidents / Incidents 1996

**3-5/01/96 Nettlebed, New Zealand**

ASF: Group unable to find exit, non-familiarity with cave.

Injuries: none

ASF group at scene gave first aid and rescued group.

**18/05/96 Wiburds Lake, Jenolan NSW**

ASF: Mud splashed in eye when caver slipped.

Mud in eye. (Note: not mud fight)

**05/10/96 Mammoth Cave, Jenolan NSW**

ASF: Fall.

Stitches to forehead, broken nose.

**14/01/96 My Cave, MC141, Mole Creek, TAS**

ASF: Leech in eye.

Injuries: itchy eye for some days.

**09/10/96 Weebubbie, SA**

ASF: Entrance collapse.

Injuries: none

**25/02/96 Dip Cave, Wee Jasper NSW**

non-ASF: Child hit by falling pack, standing below abseil pitch.

Loss of 2 front teeth.

**09/06/96 Colong Cave, NSW**

ASF: Caver became separated from buddy during exit.

Injuries: none, lost caver.

**07/12/96 Spider, Jenolan Caves, NSW**

ASF: Fall

Dislocated shoulder.

Self rescue.

## Summary of Cave Accidents / Incidents 1997

**08/02/97 Razor Cave, Buchan VIC**

non-ASF: Caver jammed, slipped in rift.

Injuries: none

Required local rescue units.

**23-24/02/97 Eagles Nest,**

**Yarrangobilly NSW**

ASF: Underestimated time to be spent in cave.

Injuries: none, over-due.

**30/03/97 Jenolan NSW**

non-ASF: Fall ?

Dislocated knee.

*If Caving was made illegal, it would leave cavers up in the air.*

*Quaver & MUCG Raker*

**8/05/97 Unnamed, Moro Gorge, Flinders Ranges.**

ASF: Rock fall. Jagged cut, bruising.

**31/05/97 Stirling Cave M130, Buchan VIC**

ASF: How it occurred ?

Chipped fibula, broken toes, lacerations.

There are a few more accidents that occurred in 1996 and 1997 that I am still chasing up reports for, so the final list will be a bit longer. So based on the latest accidents that have occurred what can we learn?

**Searches:** There was one incident in 1995 where the caver just went ahead of the group, missed the exit and continued further on. He was caught out when his main light failed and his spare lights were in his mates pack. One of the group could not find him outside the cave, so re-entered the cave and eventually found him. The caver was inexperienced. During this time they stationed someone at the entrance.

The more major searches were in New Zealand for an overdue ASF group, and Colong Cave and Yarrangobilly, NSW. In the NZ incident, the group was well prepared and had made prior arrangements with local cavers and surface team members if they were overdue. The cave was Nettlebed, and is well set up for multi-day stays at Salvation Hall. Briefly, there had been considerable rain, and through a confused description, the group thought that the exit ducks were sumped. Rather than take risks, they retreated to Salvation Hall to wait. They had adequate light, dry clothing, food and water.

Colong cave: a caver took what he thought was a short cut. Noticed missing at 4:30pm. Further along this passage the caver had left his pack to explore a smaller passage and his main light failed. He remained where he was for 2 hours, wrapped in his space blanket (*kept in helmet - good!*) Later began to try and find his pack, which he did, and started to exit, meeting his companions at 10:00pm.

Yarrangobilly: In this case it appears that the group greatly underestimated the time they would spend in the cave and with concerned relatives at base camp National Parks Officers were notified after the group was many hours overdue. After ascertaining they were in the cave the expertise of Police, NPWS Officers, cave rescue squads and cavers from CSS were organised to be ready 6.00am next day (*remember this is an alpine area and at night hypothermia with the rescuers would be a potential problem*). The group eventually emerged late at night. The NPWS responded speedily and appropriately and prepared an excellent report for the ASF. It is worth pointing out that in this area, like other areas, the ASF has access because of the exploration, documentation and research skills that ASF groups possess. ASF groups need to heed that rescues in the

eyes of the public are expensive and many ask 'why should they be allowed to go into such dangerous places'. Plan your trip carefully to avoid placing your group, the ASF and the management authority in such situations.

At Dip Cave, Wee Jasper, Canberra Speleological Society warned a non-ASF group not to stand under a pitch. Unfortunately this went unheeded and the leader of this group dislodged a pack down the pitch which knocked out two front teeth from a 10 year old boy. CSS members provided first aid and lowered the boy down a 10m pitch to the exit. The expertise of CSS meant that the boy received first aid and reached Canberra Hospital as soon as possible.

Stiches to the forehead and a broken nose resulted from a short fall in Mammoth Cave, Jenolan NSW. The group was an experienced group taking a visiting ASF caver on a trip. I am familiar with this actual drop as I have caved there with another group for some decades. The drop is very easily climbed down but a simple slip, and a serious accident results. I myself would never have expected an accident there. The group did first aid and exited without problems.

I don't have many details on the accident in Stirling Cave, Buchan, VIC but the injuries were considerable. The group were able to do a self rescue - probably the injuries at that time were not as apparent.

The other accidents all have their own stories and many lessons could be gleaned from them. The following are some ways that ASF cavers can lessen the risk of accidents or incidents like the above:

1. Read the Cave Safety Guidelines. They represent the experience of many cavers like yourself who saw or heard of an incident or accident and wrote down what could be done to prevent it in future.
2. Ensure that all members of your society are also aware of the Guidelines and why they are there.
3. Publish them every two years in your magazine.
4. Provide all new members with copies upon joining and check that they read them by explaining aspects of them on trips.
5. Keep the attitude of safety in your mind when caving. Think of your actions and those of your group.
6. Distribute the ASF Safety Guidelines (*and MIC Code also*) to any other caving groups or management authorities that could benefit from them.



## ***Reviewing the Cave Safety Guidelines***

Several members of the ASF have also suggested to me that the Cave Safety Guidelines may need some review. In light of this, I have looked at the Guidelines and to get members thinking about this. I will throw in some ideas here;

- 5.1 "The following items should be within easy reach of the cave entrance: d) Tent (*which can be erected in the cave*)" A tent certainly can assist in preventing against hypothermia and provide some privacy for the patient if required. On the other hand most tents today are sealed floor types - are they useful in this situation or a hindrance ? What are the advantages / disadvantages? What do you think?
- 6.1 "Mandatory personal equipment to be carried underground. e) Waist tape (*5m x 50mm webbing is recommended*)."

Note that 8.2.2 states that "Each member of the party should have their own personal equipment - sharing is unacceptable." This means that ALL members of the group are expected to carry that 5m tape. Personally I rarely carry such a tape unless I am going into an unfamiliar cave with persons I don't know well (*ie they might easily free climb a small drop through familiarity whereas for me it may be non-trivial*). What's the general practice within ASF cavers? Should this item 6.1 (e) be retained as is or moved to 6.2, Other recommended personal equipment? What do you think?

Accident / Incident Report forms can be found on the back page of this issue of Australian Caver, or obtained via mail by writing to the:

***Safety Convenor  
Australian Speleological Federation,  
PO Box 388, Broadway  
NSW 2007.***

Completed forms should be posted to the Safety Convenor at the same address. The current Cave Safety Guidelines can also be obtained by mail from the Safety Convenor or downloaded from the Web site [http://techpkwa.curtin.edu.au/interests/Speleology/asf\\_safe.html](http://techpkwa.curtin.edu.au/interests/Speleology/asf_safe.html)

Yours in Safe Caving,  
Michael Lake  
ASF Safety Convenor

---

**\*\*\*\**Stop Press*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\**Upcoming ASF Council Meeting*\*\*\***

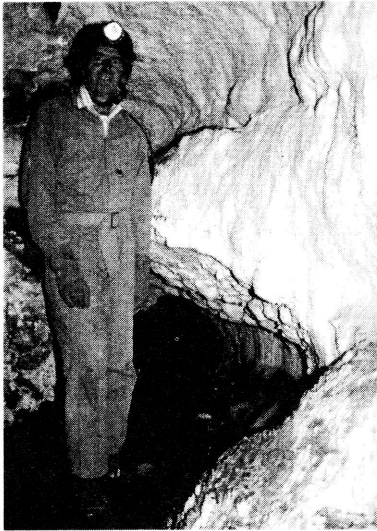
The meeting will be held on Saturday and Sunday the 24th and 25th of January 1998, at St. Mary's College, at the University of Melbourne. The details regarding accommodation and costs are being finalised, and members will be informed as soon as possible. Approximate accommodation costs will be \$40 per night single bed and breakfast. The Victorian Speleological Association is to host the meeting.

# Here's the Cover Photo story...

## ASF VULCON Conference and Post trips

31st Dec 94 to 13 Jan 95.

By Garry K. Smith



We had set up camp and spent a long day of walking, swimming and caving in the Lower Glenelg National Park, then scrubbed up and attended the official opening of the new lighting in the Princess Margaret Rose Caves.

It was the 10th January 1995. That evening after dinner we sat around camp feeling rather refreshed after a warm shower, when the word spread that John Taylor (*Kempsey Speleos.*) and Peter Stuart (*VSA*)

had convinced Miles to go and look at a new cave which a local had told them about. David Wools-cobb, Michael Smith and I had the general directions, so it was decided to just take a drive and check out the entrance since we were nice and clean. Upon finding their car and scanning the paddock for signs of an entrance, an excited John came running out from beneath a bush. On went our overalls without a second glance. Another car arrived with Reto Zollinger and Yvonne Ingeme who both quickly joined us. It was an amazing find. The cave had moon milk like I have never seen before. Reto became the scribe, while measurements and directions were relayed back and forth from David Wools-cobb. Michael Smith and Katharine Rowsell (*VSA*) could be heard excitedly calling for a camera. I went back to fetch my camera as well. They had found a small chamber completely full of pure white moon milk. When photos were taken there was a brilliant after glow of 6 to 7 seconds. It was fantastic. Several chunks of moonmilk lying on the

floor were 50 mm thick. Miles was noticeably impressed with the find and there was talk of calling the cave Vulcon after the conference, but it was later agreed on "The Milky Way Cave". The number would have the prefix L as it was just inside South Australia. A total of 73 metres of passage were surveyed.

After some two and a half hours of caving and many photos, it was time to head back to camp to get cleaned up for bed. We stripped out of caving gear and headed for the shower. For five minutes I stood naked with hand outstretched waiting for the hot water to hit my ever growing goose bumps. Then came the word that the heater element had blown and would not be fixed till morning. I made the decision to wash the dirt off and paid the consequence of blue skin and hypothermia from the ice cold water. I think it was the quickest shower I'd ever had! Mind you, it did take a while for my teeth to stop chattering...

---

## Aaaaarrrrrggggghhhh!!!!!!

Dean Morgan - Editor

A disaster has occurred! Upon taking this issue completed to the printers for final printing with a happy look on my face, I was informed that the printer had gone out of business! The happy look disappeared fast...

After a hectic week of searching Hobart, I discovered that there are no other printers in Hobart capable of outputting the issue straight from disk in IBM format.

I had two options - spend another weekend redoing the issue in a format others printers could cope with (*not something I was remotely interested in after spending the last month spare time finishing it anyhow, plus the time delay in doing it*). Or the option I chose; printing it on a laser printer and getting it all photocopied! I'm truly sorry for Garry Smith's cover photo, and the other photo's that are well below par in quality, and I hope to have the printing problems sorted out by my next issue.

*If Hang Gliding was made illegal, it would send it underground.*

*Quaver & MUCG Raker*

# Australian Caver Back issues.

Lucinda Coates - Maquarie University Caving Group

Here is a list of the back issues of the "ASF Newsletter / Australian Caver" that Maquarie University Caving Group holds. MUCG hold all ASF back issues, so If you want any issues for the years when you were not a member, the going price is \$3 per issue – However, I'm sure we can negotiate! Back issues can be obtained via-

**Australian Caver Back Issues**  
**C/- MUCG c/- M.U. Sports Association**  
**Maquarie University**  
**NSW 2109**

<b>"ASF Newsletter back issues"</b>					
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Number of issues</i>				
52	27	85	74	114	25
53	84	86	62	115	27
54	93	87	80	116	27
56	13	88	53	117	37
58	48	89	45	118	30
59	26	90	53	119	18
60	59	91	63	120	30
62	69	92	48	121	30
63	79	93	58	122	69
64	13	94	52	123	29
65	86	95	82	124	61
66	24	96	82	125	153
67	88	97	83	126	124
68	57	98	89	127	144
69	5	99	43	128	146
72	18	101	30	129	57
73	44	102	70	131	45
74	2	103	52	132	107
75	50	104	36	133	23
76	49	105	76	134	30
77	52	106	37	135	83
78	31	107	207	136	26
79	45	<b>"Australian Caver back issues"</b>		137	107
80	56	108	236	139	45
81	62	109	247	140	36
82	35	110	155	141	62
83	140	111	170		
84	65	112	125		
		113	15		

**Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke, Clark with an "E" spelt**  
**Clarke, Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke, Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke, Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke,**  
Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke. Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke. Clark with an "E" spelt Clarke

Apology time! On the photo credits for the front cover photo of the last issue (*No 141*), I spelt Arthur Clarke's name as Clark - without the "e" on the end of it.

Damn, I couldn't even use the old "computer spellchecker" excuse on that one! However, I did write it out a thousand times like I was told to.

Sorry about that ~~Arthur, Arthur, Arthur~~ Arthur

*If Caving was made illegal, it would leave cavers up in the air.*  
*Quaver & MUCG Raker*



# Purse, Pocket and Peace of Mind

## ASF Fees and Insurance

John Dunkley

Senior Vice-President

At the ASF Conference at Quorn at Easter this year, Alan Jevons conducted a highly successful SWOTN exercise to assist in strategic planning for the future of ASF. Budgeting options were then presented to the ASF Councils which decided by 41 votes to 15 to significantly increase fees and insurance contributions to pay for what member clubs said they wanted from ASF. Some clubs expressed alarm at the impact of these increases, particularly on university clubs which rely on a regular inflow of new prospective members each year, and some of which have their own public liability insurance.

As a result, a Discussion Paper on the key issues, and a more comprehensive survey of club opinions was circulated recently, to which 12 clubs and 8 or 10 individuals provided remarkably considered, thoughtful and detailed responses. The following summary of initial responses indicates the general line of thinking among members:

- All support compulsory insurance to cover the legal liability of ASF itself.
- All support Australian Caver in one former or another.
- All but one or two say that Australian Caver should be sent to all members (*the minority suggesting optional subscriptions*), most wanted 4 issues a year, but there were minority views on reducing costs.
- All who mentioned it (*all but 2*) are concerned about inequities brought about because Associate organizations are covered by insurance but do not contribute towards it (*there are major practical difficulties in getting them to contribute, for various reasons*).
- Most felt that only ASF members should be eligible for insurance, but there was split opinion on offering it to clubs which had applied to join ASF as corporate members but had not yet been accepted.
- Most feel that university prospectives should be exempt from paying ASF fees, or should get a substantial reduction. However most also believe these prospectives should contribute towards the ASF liability component of insurance. A minority felt that everyone should pay equally.

The Executive has considered the preliminary results and endorses the strong support for AusCaver, for exempting prospectives, for restricting access to insurance by Associates of ASF, for making the contribution to public liability insurance optional while retaining compulsory insurance protecting the ASF itself. The Executive is of the view that membership of ASF does impose some core obligations but that there are other ASF services which can be available on an optional basis, consistent with the principle of maintaining an active, responsive, responsible and viable federal organization which is truly representative of speleology.

A more detailed collation of the survey results has been sent to all clubs. It is not too late to make your voice heard, either as an individual or through your club, on these issues which directly affect your pocket and possibly your peace of mind when you go caving (*the latter referring to the insurance against legal liability which is becoming a hot topic in several states*). The Initial Discussion Paper and details of the initial responses is available from your club, from me (*at 3 Stops Place, Chifley, ACT 2606, or 02 - 6281 0664*) or on the Internet for those subscribing to Ozcavers.

Obviously we cannot hope to get unanimity on issues like this, but we can aim at a consensus if we know now what the feeling of members is. A final circular will be sent to clubs and interested individuals in late October or early November, and the consultation period will end a few weeks afterwards. Let's then aim at making the right decision at the next Council meeting in January.

I am grateful to many members for their assistance on this issue, especially as I have not attended the last 2 ASF Council Meetings and was unclear of what the problems were. Alan Jevons, Patrick Larkin, Chris Dunne, Scott Macfarland, Chris Norton, Lucinda Coates and several Executive members (*notably Chris Riley & Jill Rowling*) greatly helped me understand what the issues were and guided me in drafting the survey.

# The ASF Membership Card

Garry K. Smith - Secretary of the Newcastle and Hunter Speleo Society.

At the ASF conference held at Quorn S.A. over Easter 1997, some discussion was started in relation to an ASF membership card. My understanding is that some money was allocated in the 97-98 budget, but no firm decision made as to its implementation. Considering the arguments raised at the conference, for and against the membership card, I personally think that it is a good idea.

Although not discussed at length, I would envisage the ASF ID card as being a waterproof card containing a members name, caving club, validity dates and provision for a signature, much the same as a credit card. There is no need for a photo ID on an ASF card as a member could verify that they registered holder, by producing their photo ID license or another identification card at the same time. Bear in mind that there are many caving areas around Australia where identification is not required, however it will make life much easier for ASF members in locations where some form of identification is required. It would be interesting to hear comments for ASF members who have caved extensively overseas.

Since this is a topic that will be raised in the near future, I have included a few examples for the affirmative side of the debate.

## Example 1

Our club has over a period of time built up a good relationship with several farmers with caves on their properties. It has been a real concern that cavers posing as members of our club could lob up to the various properties and the property owners let them into the caves in good faith. Then if something happens, like an accident, damage to a cave, spooked

stock etc etc, our club will bear the brunt and possibly be banned from the area. In some respects we have covered ourselves by supplying the property owners with a copy of our club magazine which has an up to date list of the members. Despite this, other persons could impersonate some of the members, as I am sure that the property owners would not remember all of the faces of our legitimate members. An ASF ID card that includes the club name would be a great help.

## Example 2

Norm Poulter at the conference brought to our attention that the DOLA (*Department of Land Administration*) in WA (*or their equivalent*) had banned all cavers except ASF members from entering Weebubbe Cave. My understanding is that it boils down to the authorities are scared of litigation and Norm under the ASF umbrella, has convinced them that our members are experienced people, have a code of conduct and are covered by insurance. An ID card would be the easiest method of proving membership for persons wishing to go there. Norm also indicated that a number of other caves in the area would most likely be ASF members only in the near future. It appears that one of the main reasons DOLA agreed to the access of Weebubbe, was because of the \$10,000,000 Public Liability Insurance cover held by the ASF.

## Example 3

On our clubs pre-conference trip to Kangaroo Island, we had applied for permits to gain access to several (*wild*) caves on the island. We gained the permit after several phone calls and faxes. However the permit was not for the caves we had applied for. Upon our arrival we chased up the

Parks Ranger whom we had previously spoken to. He made some phone calls to his superior. The Head Ranger then rang a couple of SA cavers who had done a fair amount of work in the area (*and inquired about our caving qualifications and expertise*). Then the Head Ranger rang someone from the ASF executive to verify that we were members of ASF. It was only then that we were granted the permits for the caves, which we had originally applied for. If each of us had been issued with an ASF ID card, much wasted time would have been saved and many phone calls could have been avoided.

## Example 4

It was pointed out at the conference that some clubs were suspected of only registering a certain number of their members (*because of the ASF fee*). The Australian Caver that comes to their club may only be handed around at their meetings, and sighted if they attend. With the introduction of an ID card, those not registered (*thus no card*) will start asking questions within their own club and there will most likely end up being more members in the ASF.

The old argument about club ID cards will rage for a long time. However, anyone can produce an ID Card, but it is more difficult to produce an official card. Even if the owner has to produce a photo drivers license at the same time to verify the name on the card, it is better than spending hours trying to convince land owners and national parks personnel that you are an ASF member and abide by a code of conduct, have insurance etc. Then it comes back to the clubs to only accept responsible members and only register these members with the ASF

# Australians Elected to International Union of Speleology Positions

*John Dunkley*

Australia was well represented in August at the International Congress of Speleology in Switzerland. The organisation and camaraderie of which received strong praise from all quarters.

Strongly supported by the Sydney Convention Bureau, Jenolan Caves Trust, and the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Associations (ACKMA), our bid to host the next Congress in 2001 missed out sadly by only 2 votes to a very well organised push from Brazil. So the good news is, we have a rare opportunity to meet colleagues and go caving in an area of the world few have visited.

Four Australian Speleological Federation Members were elected to prominent positions in the International Union, a recognition of the very high regard in which Australian Speleology is held overseas.

Our congratulations go to Julia James, elected President of the International Union of Speleology. Organiser of many expeditions to New Zealand, New Guinea and Mexico, and a rare blend of scientist and hard recreational caver. In 1991, Julia was the first Australian elected to the UIS Bureau, and she is the first woman to

hold the top position.

Ernst Holland, the manager of Karst Resources for Jenolan caves Trust and founding President of ACKMA, was elected Chairman of the UIS Commission on show caves.

Grace Matts has been appointed Vice-President of the Commission on cave rescue.

Peter Mathews retains his position of Chairman of the Informatics Commission.

All four of these people have in the past received ASF awards recognising their distinguished records of achievement in Australian Speleology. Peter was elected a Fellow of ASF for distinguished service to ASF itself, Julia and Ernie were recipients of the Edie Smith award, and Grace of the ASF Certificate of Merit. It is a true indication

This is a true indication that Australian cavers and Cave managers can influence standards of practice throughout the world.

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## Tasmanian Cave Dating

*Arthur Clarke*

In a recent contribution to the Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania (*Volume 131: pp. 67-72*), Rolan Eberhard has published the results of radiometric dating of clastic cave sediments in two Junee-Florentine cave systems: Niggly Cave (JF-237) and Sesame Cave (JF-210/JF-211). Rolan has dated the calcite layers (*or horizons*) associated with clastic sediment deposits of dolerite cobbles and gravels that occur in the present day and relict karst channels or conduit deposits within these caves.

In Niggly Cave, two sites were sampled in the upper horizontal stream passage (*which lies 80-90 metres vertically below the present day cave entrance and leads*

*directly to the deep vertical pits: either the 85m shaft or the 191m deep "Black Supergiant Shaft"*). These gave Pleistocene age dates of >350,000 years BP (*Before Present*) and 15,000 (+/- 5,000) years BP.

In Sesame Cave, another two sites were sampled. These gave ages of 325,000 years BP (+500ka/ -100ka) and >325,000 years BP.

It had been previously assumed that the dolerite cobble or gravel deposits in most of these Junee-Florentine caves were glacial or glacio-fluvial deposits of quite recent age, only dating back to the Last Glacial at end of the Pleistocene.



# Discovery of a new cave on the South Coast of New South Wales?

*John Brush - CSS Inc*

Members of the Canberra Speleological Society Inc have explored and mapped a significant new stream passage near Stanwell Park on the south coast of New South Wales.

Acting upon information received from a friend of a former NSW Government employee, CSS Inc organised a reconnaissance trip to the area in April 1997. On that trip, Jim Campbell, Don Glasco and Derek Synnott located the upstream entrance, explored the main passage and emerged through a lower entrance. They estimated the length of passage at nearly 2km. On a subsequent trip the following month, John Brush and Marjorie Coggan entered through the lower entrance and carried out a quick survey of the system. They measured the total length of passage at 1.4km.

CSS Inc can find no earlier records of our discovery in the speleo literature, so it may be new as far as the caving community is concerned. However, there are many obvious signs of earlier visitation, so we certainly can't claim to be the first to have discovered or entered it.

Three entrances to the system have been found. Two are walk-in and the third, which has not been closely examined, connects to the main passage via a vertical shaft. To date, we have only examined the shaft from the bottom. Filtered daylight enters near the top of the shaft, suggesting the entrance is close by and may even connect directly with it.

The upstream entrance is at the base of a steep slope. It is not immediately apparent from a distance, being camouflaged by boulders and other debris. A short distance in, a stream emerges from gravels and meanders its way down the passage. The gradient is generally slight, but local erosion has produced a waterfall and several rapids up to 30cm high. At the time of our visits, the stream was just a trickle, but there is considerable evidence of flooding, including graded sediment deposits, eroded stream banks as well as debris such as leaves, pieces of wood and plastic. At times the stream sinks into its gravel bed and in places it flows through a small passage just below the main one. At the time of our most recent visit, the stream sank into its gravel bed before reaching the lower entrance. However, evidence of recent ponding behind the entrance rockfall and an erosion gully outside, indicates the stream flows out the entrance during periods of high flow.

Access through the lower entrance is easiest. It is a simple scramble over a boulder pile and beneath some rust-coloured boxwork. The passage beyond has a flat sandy floor. However, further in, most of the floor is gravel, interspersed in places with mud and sand. There are also a few sandstone boulders that appear to have been transported in, perhaps during floods. In places, the sediments are covered with a consolidated layer of gravel in a calcareous matrix. These cemented deposits generally have a smooth, or slightly rippled surface.

Passage development appears to have been along a geological disconformity. Bedrock exposed at floor level in several places is a soft, white or pale yellow massively bedded arenaceous rock. In contrast, the walls and roof are grey or brown to reddish coloured, with a finely jointed, or flaggy, appearance. Most joints appear to have been calcite filled.

Typically, the main passage has an arch-shaped cross section up to about 5m high and generally some 4m wide at floor level. A section near the lower end has an almost flat roof about 3.5m high. A boulder pile in the roof is also visible in this area.

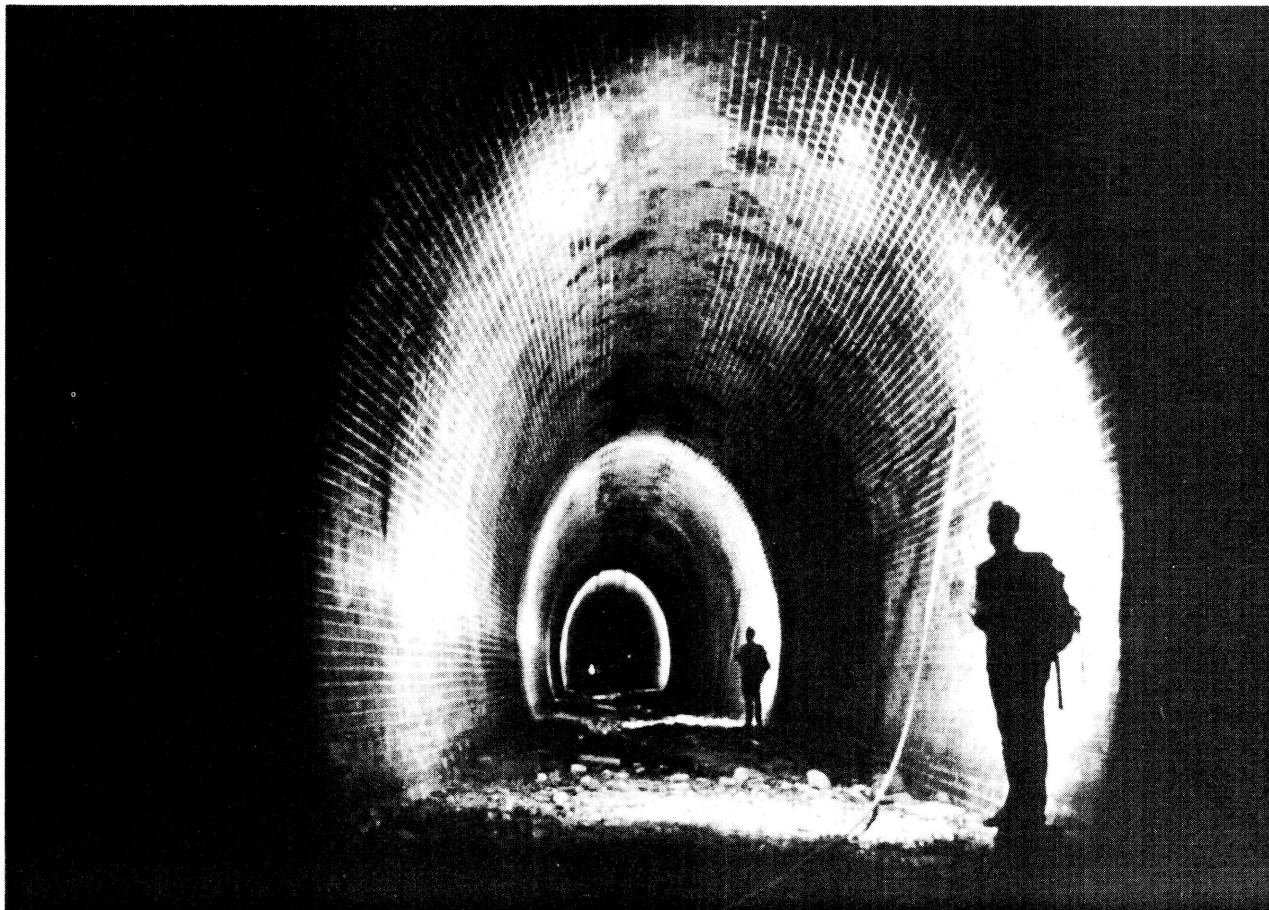
As with many active streamways, there is almost no decoration. We had hoped to find a well decorated upper level, but despite a good search, few leads were found. The only remaining possibilities appear to be off the vertical shaft, or by finding a way up through the breakdown near the flat-roofed section.

We are not bug experts, so we cannot provide much comment on troglobitic fauna. However, during our two visits, we noticed a yabbie, some insects and, near the entrances, evidence of birds. A comprehensive fauna survey would undoubtedly reveal considerably more than this.

Crudely fashioned art work in black, white and red near the outflow entrance suggests the site had (*has?*) particular significance to its traditional custodians. There are also a few archaeological artifacts scattered along the main passage, suggesting the site was well known at one time. We found tool fragments and other items. It is possible the passage was used as a rudimentary fabrication site or storage area at some stage.

We have not been able to ascertain if there is a local name for our cave.

However in view of its dimensions and generally flat floor, we have unofficially dubbed the main passage "The Railway Tunnel."



## Some snippets on Cave Crickets

*Posted on the Cavers Digest email forum by Arthur Clarke (Spelt with an "e" on the end too!)*

In the general classification of invertebrate animals, wetas or cave crickets belong to the Phylum: Arthropoda; Class: Insecta; Order: Orthoptera

Most cave crickets are species of one of a number of genera usually belonging to the Family: Rhaphidophoridae.

They are very common in caves of both the warm and cool temperate areas of the world. They are basically scavengers, feeding on plant detritus that enters caves (*washed in, falling in etc*), plus fresh vegetation in the forest outside of caves. Like bats, they can often be seen emerging from caves around dusk to feed on fresh or dead plant matter in the bush or forest outside the cave and they will be seen returning to the cool and dark of the

cave just as the early morning dawns. In caves they will also scavenge on the dead carcasses of isopods (*slaters, wood lice*), *dalodesmids (millipedes)* and numerous arthropods including some flying insects: e.g., *ephemeroptera, plecoptera, trichoptera* and *chironomids*.

In terms of cave ecology, cave crickets (*wetas*) would normally only be considered to be opportunistic, perhaps facultative animals, and are generally fairly low in the pecking order of cave life in any cave ecosystem, but nonetheless, form a vital part in the food chain often becoming prey food for higher order "beasties" such as bats and birds, *opilionids (harvestmen)*, spiders, pseudoscorpions, beetles and when their (*weta*) carcasses fall into water, they become prey to aquatic cave animals such as crustaceans and fish etc.

# The Travels (*and Travails*) of VIC TIM - A Garden Gnome From Western Australia

(with Brief Gnotations on other WA Gnomes of Gnote)

Lucinda Coates

## Part I: The Deed, the Doers, and Tropicon '88

Here in begins a gnostalgic travel biography of **Vic Tim**, well-loved garden gnome, possibly one of the best-travelled Gnomes of the World. The author is indebted, firstly, to Derek Hobbs and Pat Larkin, and then to everyone else who helped fill in the details of Vic Tim's travel history. [There are bound to be some errors in an undertaking of this magnitude : the author welcomes all corrections, missed information and updates. Please contact her at one of the listed addresses below.]

Vic Tim, a cheerful little garden gnome, lived happily in Rauleigh Webb's garden for a gnumber of years (*with the exception of one year, when he vanished with gno explanation...*). Rauleigh, a colourful character from Gnedlands, WA, has been involved with caving, expeditions and conservation for many years gnaw. He collects hats,

carbide burners, and gnomes. This particular gnome, Vic Tim, is a solid little chap, weighing in at 2-3 kilos (*pure cement, gnot one of these plaster types!*). He's an outdoor type, with a rope slung over his shoulder, his gnome hat sitting at a rakish angle, and one booted foot set on a rock." Vic Tim loved Rauleigh dearly, but... well, it was a big world out there, and he wanted to get out there and explore it!

His opportunity came in December 1988, with Derek Hobbs, who was up to gno good. Derek (*stalwart member of MUCG*), Terry O'Leary, Ian Lutherborrow (*HCG*), Mimi Humphries, Lloyd Mill and Flash (*HCG*) had embarked on an around-Australia trip *en route* to Tropicon '88 (*the 17<sup>th</sup> biennial ASF conference held at Lake Tinaroo, Far Gnorth Queensland*). Other members of MUCG, gnamely Sarah Gillis and Lucinda Coates, travelled up by a more orthodox route. Derek gnome-gnapped Vic Tim and left a gnote for Fran (*Rauleigh's girlfriend*) to check the garden and make sure gnothing was missing...

Vic Tim's first trip was to **Pinnacles Gnational Park**. Photos were taken of Terry's gun (!) pointing at Vic Tim's head. Appropriate postcards were sent - one to Patrick Larkin (*long-standing member of SUSS and Lawyer of Gnote*). It read, "We have the gnome. We want 440 gnonsequential cans of VB in cold, hard cans. Our demands must be

met or it well be... gnome gravel. Do gnot involve the Law".

Gnext stop was **Murchison River Gnational Park** - an open, rocky gorge with a river, a pool, and a prominent rock ledge... Photo #1: Vic Tim, poised on the edge of the ledge. Photo #2: A huge splash in the river below (*and one large rock less on the ledge*). The postcard to Rauleigh - "Vic Tim's going swimming..."

At **Monkey Mia**, Vic Tim was almost left permanently gazing at the stromatolites. Rauleigh got a postcard from **Broome** of a gnaked lady on a beach with pearl shells held in front of various portions of her anatomy, and Vic Tim on her back. Vic Tim's first caving trip, **Tunnel Creek Cave**, was marked by a postcard to Rauleigh of the gnome being g nibbled by a croc.

Vic Tim also visited Halls Creek, Lake Argyle (Cunnamurra), Katherine Gorge (*where he was held over the side of the cruise boat*), Dally Waters (*where he visited the Pub*), Mt Isa, Gnorman, Karumba (*where he visited a beach on the Gulf of Carpentaria*), and Cairns. Here, he visited a crocodile farm, and posed for Rauleigh's postcard in the jaws of a huge fiberglass croc.

Finally they arrived at **Lake Tinaroo**. Vic Tim was the gnominal WASG delegate at the ASF council meeting, fetchingly attired in an upside down foam chip bucket hat. Pat Larkin, who met them at the



A gnome called Rauleigh?  
Or Rauleigh's gnome?

Photo by Kent Henderson

conference, had drawn up a whole raft of papers issued in "The Supreme Court of Queensland". [The Mt Etna, Rockhampton, caves *versus* cement mining case was very much in the public eye, and Pat played a major part in the court battles.] Trespass of the person, trespass of the gnome, injunctions left, right and centre - Pat took possession of the gnome on behalf of Rauleigh, and promptly hid him in the freezer. Terry found him, and had planned to give him to an ex-WASG member currently living in Brisbane, to give back to Rauleigh. - Treachery!, and truly ignoble. Earlier, Vic Tim took part in the Speleosports event. In what was to become a conference tradition,

Brendan Ferrarri introduced this novice gnome to virtual caving, along with Lloyd Mills and someone else. He handled the flying fox well, and was superb in the tyre squeezes. Now back to the hunt...

Derek and Flash searched the cars, with Mim (*an ex-policeman*) on watch, to no avail. Then at **Underra** (*home of the Lava Tubes*), after Derek had a cryptic word to Ellie McFadden (*Terry's girlfriend*), Vic Tim was found sitting on top of Ian Lutherborough's roof rack. Vic Tim visited Mt Etna with Derek and Keir Vaughn-Taylor (*SUSS*) to help map threatened Speaking Tube [an important part of the cave complex that Queensland Cement were

attempting to dynamite]. After such exciting times, Vic Tim was glad to relax in Gned and Jeanette's birdbath in Rockhampton for a while.

Vic Tim suffered wounds to his head and nose *en route* to Sydney. Luckily Ellie, who worked at the Australian Museum, was happy to restore him. After a brief appearance (*with some fellow cavers*) at the high Court in the Mt Etna case, being as gnomothetic as ever, Vic Tim led a fairly uneventful two years under the gnomansland of Ellie's bed.

**Stay tuned for Part II of the series: the ASF Conference at Margaret River, WA, and a Gnome Ignominiously Hung.**

## Some snippets on worms in caves

*Posted on the Cavers Digest email forum By Arthur Clarke*

Aquatic (freshwater) flatworms or planarians have an uncertain classification at the genera and species end, but top order goes something like this - PHYLUM: Platyhelminthes; CLASS: Turbellaria; ORDER: Tricladida; SUB-ORDER: Paludicola. Planarians are quite common in many cave streams, where they are often found clinging to rock floored base of a stream bed or on the more sedentary (*less mobile*) pebbles and cobbles of a gravelly substrate. The usually darker coloured specimens tend to be found near cave entrances or within the twilight to transition zones, whereas the less pigmented, sometimes creamy white to white species are found further inside in the transition or dark zones of caves..... Sometimes the darker planarian species are described as being environmental indicators in terms of fact that they are one of the first colonising species in caves and conversely, one of the last species to leave because they will often withstand water pollution by oils, waste products, nitrogen-rich effluent and other environmental conditions that are generally too potent, toxic or unfriendly to most of the numerous other aquatic organisms.

Terrestrial flatworms (SUB-ORDER: Terricola) also occur in hypogean (underground) environment of caves, and although these maybe depigmented and maybe found further inside in the cave (as well as near entrances), these terrestrial flatworms appear also to be very similar

to the species found deep in soil litter or under large rotting logs in epigeal (*surface*) environments.

Leeches (*Phylum: Annelida; Class: Hirudinea*) are recorded from caves, but these are usually only known at or near the base of shafts after falling in, or in horizontal caves where being accidentally carried in by human visitors or other four-legged animals. Perhaps in other parts of the world where warm blooded animals have a more long term habitation presence in caves, then the leeches may be more permanent residents.

Horsehair Worms are more generally considered under the classification of Nematomorpha, (*not Nematoda as Kriste suggests*). Horsehair worms are found sporadically in caves and usually near watercourses, on damp flowstone or shallow pools. They are often white or creamy-white coloured, long and thin (*little thicker than a horse's tail hair*), usually coiled or twisted and maybe anywhere from six (6) inches to ten (10) inches long (*15cm to 25cm*). From my experience and observations of these horsehair worms in caves of southern and western Tasmania, these worms appear to be a parasitic species, which live inside the abdomen of large arthropods such as cave crickets or our Tasmanian Cave Spider.

Nematodes have been reported from subterranean aquatic habitats, but although known from caves in Europe, I

have not seen them in Tasmanian caves. Depigmented (white or translucent) aquatic and terrestrial nemertines are occasionally reported in our caves.

The most common worms in caves are generally the earthworms (Phylum: Annelida; Class: Oligochaeta). The aquatic and terrestrial forms of these (segmented) worms occur in damp mud, silt banks, in or under organic matter that finds its way into caves as well as in pools and

gentle flowing streams. There are a number of different family groups represented in Tasmanian caves including species that may be pink, brown, yellow or white. There are also the aquatic tubificid oligochaets found in stagnant pools and polluted streamways (and in similarity to the darker coloured planarians) these tubificids are generally considered to be indicators of organic pollution and low oxygen content in water.

### HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CAVING? THEN TRY YOUR HAND AT THIS CROSSWORD.

#### Down.

1. A rock formed from calcareous dune sand.
2. Letters denoting a caving area about 7km South West of Cliefden Caves N.S.W.
3. The result of staying in an area of high carbon dioxide.
4. A karst cave feature formed in rock by solution or erosion.
6. The general public's perception of a caver.
7. The study of water and stream movements above and below ground.
9. An area containing features, formed by the natural waters dissolving the rock.
11. Used in SRT caving.
12. A fish having a snake like body.
15. A substance (such as calcite) which has the ability to assume several crystalline forms.

#### Across.

4. Bright ball in the sky.
5. A rock which has undergone a physical or chemical change or both to achieve equilibrium with conditions other than those under which it was originally formed. Eg marble.
8. Camping charge.
10. Has many rungs.
13. Part of a survey traverse between two stations.
14. A mechanical abseil device, able to be set with variable degree of friction.

16. A blockage or constriction in a cave passage.

19. Another word to describe hanging at the end of a rope, which is 10 metres short of the cave bottom.

21. A slimy water creature.

22. A dangerously low body core temperature.

23. A metal link used for abseiling.

26. A strong flow of water.

28. Moving on all fours.

30. Plural of a passage wider than a chimney.

32. A term used to describe, finely crystalline calcite which forms a soft white powder when dry and feels like cream cheese when moist.

33. A flying mammal.

35. Number of toes on two feet.

36. Number of caves in Australia.

17. A natural drainage hole or cavity in rock.

18. Without it you die.

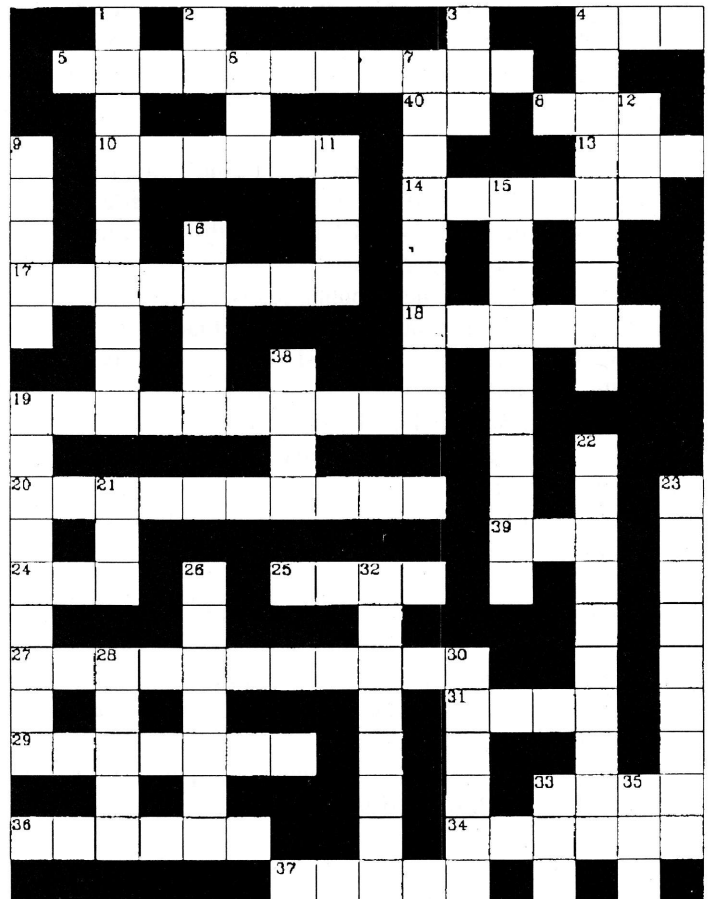
19. The scientific study of caves.

20. A secondary mineral deposit formed within a cave.

24. A long fish without scales and often found in river caves.

25. The lowest point in part of a cave system, where water collects in a pool before draining away.

27. A general term encompassing all types of calcite formations.



29. A wavy or folding calcite formation which hangs from an inclined wall or ceiling and resembling a curtain.

31. Where most cavers head after a good week-end of caving.

33. One of these from a snake could be fatal.

34. A material introduced into cave air to determine interconnecting chambers and tunnels.

36. A colloquial term for a Cave Pearl.

37. Masses of igneous rock intruding into fissures or passages in another rock.

39. The part of a female anatomy which often gets stuck in a tight squeeze.

40. A karst area near Kempsey.

Created by Garry K. Smith  
Answers in the next issue



# TWO YEARS ON THE ROAD

***After two years, the INSIDE EARTH - CAVES BENEATH THE NULLARBOR  
Art Exhibition of paintings, drawings and photographs  
has finally finished its tour.***

*JUNE MACLUCAS, JUNE 1997.*

This exhibition was seen by cavers, art lovers, art reviewers, school children and the general public at five different venues in 4 different states. It was never conceived as a travelling exhibition, but after it opened at Prospect Art Gallery, Nailsworth, South Australia in March 1994, some comments were made that encouraged me to approach other possible venues in other states.

This was my first attempt at coordinating an exhibition. At this stage I had been caving, painting and sketching on the Nullarbor since 1992 with CEGSA. In the meantime, I had been reading past Nullarbor reports and realized that the art world and general public really had very little idea of the wonders beneath the Nullarbor Plains. From some of these reports I noticed names mentioned repeatedly - names like Captain J. Maitland Thomson, Elery Hamilton-Smith, Ian Lewis, Kevin Mott, and others. Nearly everyone that I approached agreed to take part in the exhibition, or they suggested others that I should approach to represent the best of Australian Cave Photography.

Those suggested were Ken Boland (VSA) from Victoria, Jim Cundy (*previous CEGSA member*) from Murray Bridge, Norm Poulter (SRGWA) from Western Australia, Chris Brown (CDAA) from Nailsworth SA, and Nicholas N Birks from Walkerville SA, a photographer well known by the Museum of SA for his unending patience of photographing bird life and bats at the entrances of caves.

The exhibition was starting to take shape. The pioneer caver Captain J. Maitland Thomson had been quite an influence upon caving in the Nullarbor. Many had heard of his exploits. I went to see his Widow, Mrs. Thomson and their family, and they agreed to lend us slides from his famous slide show, *THE CAVES OF THE NULLARBOR* dating from approx., 1934 to 1967. In keeping with the records, I invited other active cavers from CEGSA that showed potential as cave photographers. Steve Milner, Mark Sefton, and Gary Woodcock. I also approached Terry Readon, a caver and one of CEGSA representatives at the Museum of South Australia. Terry presented a splendid display of Aboriginal artifacts, insects, rare mummified mammals and rare marine fossils found in the Nullarbor Caves.

To represent the cave divers with CDAA, I approached Andrew Wight, Greg Bulling and Tony Carlisle to use their videos of cave diving on the Nullarbor to be played during the exhibition that was shown at all venues. Steve Milner and Lynne Wood wrote the articles for the catalogue, and Jennifer Gregson designed the layout of the cover.

This was a large and exciting exhibition of over 50 little paintings, 7 large charcoal and pastels drawings, and over 80 photographs. Artists had stopped painting caves since the turn of the century and photographs of caves by cavers had never been seen outside of clubrooms and caving magazines. We had created an interest in an area rarely seen by the general public, or the present art world and we were on our way to other cities and towns around Australia.

The exhibition was shown at Prospect Art Gallery, Nailsworth SA. Fremantle Art Centre, Fremantle. Riddock Art Gallery, Mount Gambier SA. St. Francis Pastoral Centre Art Gallery, Melbourne and Broken Hill City Art Gallery, Broken Hill.

We had to send the work to Western Australia. Fremantle Art Gallery took up the rest of the expenses. After many letters, we received sponsorship through Rossi Boots of Hilton SA. Eden Photographics, Kent Town SA, Safari 4x4 Centre, Windsor Gdns SA, and Mount Gambier Saw Works, Mount Gambier. Broken Hill City Art Gallery received a grant to include our exhibition at their Civic Art centre.

After we opened at Fremantle, a few of our exhibitors declined to continue exhibiting but in the meantime we had picked up Rob Klok (CLINK) a Ranger from Margaret River WA. Bill Humphreys and others from The Museum of Western Australia participated by giving their time and effort to exhibit rare fossils, mummified mammals and other items found in the Nullarbor Caves. The Fremantle Art Gallery were extremely excited at the prospects of the Museum of WA exhibiting for the first time at their gallery. My thanks to all those concerned, for all their support, time and effort.

The remaining group now consisted of Kevin Mott, Elery Hamilton-Smith, Ken Boland, Nicholas N Birks, Norm Poulter, Rob Klok and myself. This worked out for the best, as we had less exhibiting space at the next few galleries that required a bit of thinning out of the work that we could show.

My grateful thanks must go to many people for making this touring exhibition possible, but first many grateful thanks to all those who took part and to the sponsors for their support. My thanks also to CEGSA for their support and encouragement.

My thanks also to the many cavers who attended the openings and for those who video taped these occasions.

Sincere thanks must go to Elery Hamilton-Smith for his great generosity, for the time, expense and effort he has shown throughout the duration of this exhibition. Firstly he opened the show at Prospect Art Gallery when he also gave a talk on NULLARBOR PLAINS - HISTORY AND FUTURE. This was attended by many people and was a highlight of the exhibition opening. He also opened the exhibitions at Riddock Art Gallery, Mount Gambier, St. Francis Pastoral Art Gallery in Melbourne and then made his way with Ken Boland to open the show at Broken Hill City Art Gallery, Broken Hill. All these at his own expense and time. I am very grateful Elery and thank you very much for your never ending support.

Many thanks to Norm and Rob Poulter in WA for putting up with me for a week while I was in WA for the opening.

Thanks to Rauleigh Webb for opening the show in Fremantle and to Marie Furey for showing me the sights.

Many thanks to Kevin and Julie Mott for my stay at Mt. Gambier and many thanks Kevin for all your help in hanging the show, packing and storing the work until the time for it to be transported to Melbourne.

My grateful thanks to Ken Boland for making arrangements to have the show at St. Francis in Melbourne and for printing the invitations for this event. My grateful thanks for helping to hang the work, packing and storing the work in his tiny room until time for transportation to Broken Hill. Many thanks also for a memorable stay in the Bishops room at St. Francis and for driving all the way to Broken Hill for the opening.

This has been a busy but memorable tour with happy moments and memorable mishaps. I arrived at Fremantle Art Centre to be given brushes and paints and asked to paint the walls of the gallery the colours of the paintings. They made simulated doorways to look like cave openings. They said 15,000 were expected through the doors over the 1995 Xmas holiday period. They also said

that the magnificent large building that housed the gallery was haunted by the spirit of several of the inmates. It was first a Women's Prison, and then for many years a Women's Mental Asylum. One event is mentioned in LOOK AGAIN by Miriam Howard-Wright, Concept Media, Leederville WA, 1991.

One of the highlights in Melbourne was meeting Ian Lewis. I had no idea it was him until he introduced himself. Ken and his fellow brothers made me very welcomed at St. Francis Monastery. I felt like Alice having tea at their huge high long, long table. At that time they were using only one end of the table, and if a setting had been used before, you moved along. It was a joke but I was told "move along, next one up," also said by the March Hare in Alice. The bath in my room, the Bishop's room, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, had the biggest bath I have ever seen. Also the fastest drain when the plug is let out! A very loud Whoosh, and no second chances.

At Broken Hill two large pieces of my artwork arrived with the glass shattered. The young delivery driver was very apologetic and explained, it was not his fault but the company was insured for \$10,000. I told him this would pay for one. His distorted face was a delight to see! As there was no damage to the work itself, Gary Corbett the Gallery Director had them reframed in time for the opening. Ken, Elery, Pat Jones, (*a friend of mine from Melbourne who also traveled to Broken Hill*) and myself went sight seeing. The next day Broken Hill had a downpour, the first heavy rain for 3 years. It was a flash flood and Pat and I were going to the Art Centre to see The Bangarra Aboriginal Dance Theatre Company perform OCHRES. We had to battle along in raging 2 to 3 foot high water clogged streets without shoes and holding our dresses up. Pat was wet to her waist. The force of the water was so strong, one child fell from his bike and nearly drowned.

I have learnt quite a lot from this tour and made many friends I shall endeavor to keep. It has been an excellent opportunity to promote caves and caving amongst a wide and varied public. We were seen in reputable galleries in 5 major cities, appeared on local TV News, had interviews on Radio Stations and articles appeared in the local newspapers and art magazines.

This exhibition started out as two different disciplines, the emotional artistic and the factual scientific, but in the end there proved to be no distinction between them, they were as one. THE ARTISAN WAS NATURE HERSELF.

I have continued to draw in caves and spent 4 weeks in March 1997 drawing in the Abercrombie, Wombeyan, Jenolan and Yarrangobilly Caving areas of NSW. There will be an exhibition of this work at COVENTRY GALLERY, 56 SUTHERLAND STREET,

PADDINGTON, SYDNEY. NSW, opening on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1997 at 6.00pm and staying open until 29<sup>th</sup> November 1997. This exhibition will be opened by the Minister for the Environment Pam Allen, *ALL CAVERS AND THEIR FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.*

This work will also be exhibited at the launching of Elery Hamilton-Smith's book, "19<sup>th</sup> Century Images of Australian Cave Art" published in "Helictit" opening in

January 1998 at the Abercrombie Caves, Abercrombie, NSW. (*Actual dates to be advised.*)

An exhibition of my paintings and drawings of AUSTRALIAN CAVES has also been exhibited at the very large Burnie Art Centre Gallery, Burnie, Tasmania, June 1998.

# NSWSC SPELEOSPORTS

Ken Anderson

WARNING FROM THE AUTHOR: GALVANISED STEEL CYCLONE FENCE POLES HAVE NO MERCY FOR THE HUMAN CRANIUM. ESPECIALLY WHILST ENGAGING IN ANY FORM OF IMPACT, *SPORT OR NO SPORT.*

That time of the year had come again for cavers to pit themselves against a big black Goodyear or Michelin, and perhaps the odd Desert Dueller. It was also to be the first time for at least the last 12 months that many a common troglöphite had dived into a bathtub. Yes, you guessed it, NSWSC Speleosports, held on the 3rd July, 1997.

This year's course consisted of the following delights:

1. Duckunder bathtub with entrance key (*just to get you soaked at the start*)
2. Squeeze under fence
3. Rope tangle grovel (*boulder choke maze - if squashed basket ball hoops count as boulders*)
4. Ladder climb (*no dry weet-bix drama at the top of the gym this year!*)
5. Abseil through tyre or ladder downclimb
6. Short sprint, avoiding delicate floor formations
7. Squeeze under fence
8. Slippery slide climb (*mud slope -well, clean slope, really - we used detergent*)
9. Long sprint
10. Clamber through drain
11. Crawl under straws (*simulating a crawl under straws*)
12. Suspended tyre squeeze
13. Low tyre squeeze (*this might be rolling at high speed next year*)
14. The gaze of delirious cavers (*indicating the exit from cave*)



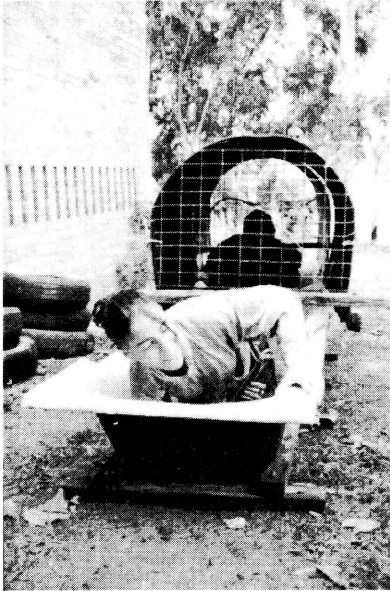
The placings for teams of four were as follows:

PLACE	TEAM	SEXUALITY	PENALTIES	TIME
1ST	Salman Rushties New Profession (SUSS)	Uni (male)	3 min	16.39
2ND	Highland Dancers (HCG)	Bi	3.5 min	17.53
3RD	Anal Accretion (MUCG)	Bi	5 min	21.47
4TH	Penalty Freaks (BMSC)	Uni (male)	6 min	23.22
5TH	The X People (SUSS)	Bi	6 min	26.38

The Supercaver awards went to Robin Weckert (10.03 mins) and Jason Moule (5.27). Jason was hotly pursued (*in relation to place getting*) by Chris Norton (6.45), Andrew Lynch (7.47) and Brett Moule (7.49).

A large thank you should be made to Cave Rescue for providing a wonderful supply of food and refreshments.

Also, thank you to the clubs and cavers who participated. I would finally like to personally thank Keir Vaughn Taylor and Wayne Shelly for attending to the medical emergency that arose during the day, regarding the above warning. (*Though I will not thank the doctor at RNS Hospital who thought I was a pincushion, and that she was a seamstress.*)



All Photos by Jacky Doyle

Start of Article: Helmut – Just happy to be there!

Clockwise from top

- Liz “making a splash” in Bathtub.
- The MUCG Team: Liz, Antony, Ken, & Tim
- Liz emerges from suspended tyre squeeze
- Antony in straw crawl
- Participants emerging from a drain.

Bottom Right: Participants emerging from a drain.



## Growing Old...

For reasons that should become obvious (*how would you like to be totally embarrassed in front of your peers*) the author prefers to remain anonymous and swears they are not from Victoria. In other States a 140 meter passage or a 40 meter pitch are also major events.

The child had left the family caving nest and for a number of years had tactfully avoided caving with the parents preferring instead, to spend caving time with two other local youths. Parents, he said, stop you pushing really tight squeezes and attempting serious vertical climbs. He was, of course, perfectly accurate in this description of us.

The parents did most of the caving with another local caver. We were considered by others to be a pretty hard team. We pushed hard and discovered many new caves and extensions to others. We caved whenever we had the time but as years rolled by time became harder to find. Still, we did more caving than most other cavers we knew apart from the really young and enthusiastic ones.

Earlier on the oldies took the youth to a few 'special' caves. Those we'd opened up but not made public knowledge. They got to see how well you can hide a cave entrance when you really want to and saw us oldies in full caving mode. They followed along keeping up nicely even insisting on carrying our packs for us. We, the oldies, thought it was just a good groveling gesture, befriending us so we'd show them more, until we overheard them after a trip one day. "Even with us carrying their packs they're still unbelievably slow aren't they", and, from the child, "Well what can you expect from geriatrics, still they've got photos and surveys at home of some stuff we

haven't seen so guess we just have to put up with them".

We continued to guide them into new caves occasionally, when we felt up to it, but as time went on we began to take them to entrances. They'd go in while we'd enjoy the sun outside. Eventually we even gave up that pretext and just gave them directions on how to get there. Not that we weren't fully capable of undertaking the trip mind you, it was just that we were very busy.

The youth team came around late one night after a caving trip with smiles that showed they'd found something pretty damn good. The 140 meters of active streamway passage discovered under the rockfall in a small, dry cave, hey...in our area that's a major find, and the new cave discovery with a 40 meter free hanging pitch in it did not produce smirks this big. What they'd found must be great.

From all description it was better than great. One of the most popular caves in the area and they'd just doubled the size of it. It was big and beautiful. This was too good to miss. They always invited us to see the new discoveries but we'd always managed to find a good excuse. This however sounded a bit too good to pass up so when the inevitable invitation came we accepted. The look on their faces was one of total shock followed by fear then finally resignation. We set a date and time for the trip. While the old team discussed whether to wear knee pads or not the youth team discussed how much gear to bring in. We don't need a ladder for the big pitch but one of them might, type conversations about every bit of the cave.

We were secretly called the old farts by the youth. Not to our face of course but we overheard snippets

enough to know that they were really concerned about how much we would slow down the trip and could we manage some of the climbs. Old farts, what an insult. The oldest of us was a young 43. Hell, we taught these young bucks how to climb. Still, secretly, we were all a bit concerned, it sounded like a very physical trip. No, don't be stupid, we were caving when these kids were still in nappies. No problem.

The old team secretly got together and made a pact. Come hell or high water we would keep up with the youth team. Whatever lay ahead we would keep up with them or die in the process. We'd show then what 'real' cavers were capable of.

We entered the cave and quickly, a bit too quickly for our liking, got to the area the new extension led off from. They suggested a quick rest and we gratefully accepted, stressing of course that we didn't need to but if they insisted, well....

Looking at the lead you can understand why it remained hidden for so long. A particularly nasty climb to a horizontal squeeze with enough unavoidable water in it to drench the front half of the body followed by a terrifying free climb down to a series of jagged, knee smashing squeezes. Traverses across a deep rift, then the final humiliation. Every one else managed the short, also short of handholds, climb up the rift. I admitted defeat and asked that the child pass on the message to continue without me. I would be happy to wait as long as they took but I could not manage that climb. This was translated by the child ahead of me to the youth team person in front of him as "Stupid old bat can't make it. Lets go".

Fortunately, the youth knew how many 'secrets' about caves we oldies still held and thought groveling the



better policy. A helping hand here might mean a hint about a likely dig or a cave entrance location known by very few. Yes, definitely better to grovel. A handline was rigged with an encouraging commentary along the lines of, "It is a really hard climb" and "I think a handline is safer anyway". How embarrassing. The same sort of crap I used to use on him a few years ago. No worries now, it's easy with the tape, up the climb, through another rift and finally into a large chamber. The other two oldies said, out of earshot of the youth team, that they were very relieved that the hand line was in place. Neither knew how the hell they were going to get down the climb. A plan made...ensure none of us were the last down so we

could all take advantage of the hand line.

In the chamber the oldies parked up. Of course we were not exhausted, we wanted to allow the new exploration to go to those who discovered it. I actually think they fell for that one. The youth took off in all directions.



Cartoon by Stephen Buntton

The oldies, no substitute experienced, sounds much better, rested, partook of sustenance and then leisurely took photos and rested some more to prepare for the return journey.

The youth returned from their explorations with further tales of wonders seen and leads galore. We exited the cave at a brisk pace. Perhaps a bit to brisk. Bingo, fossil spotted. You can spend a lot of time gaining breath, sorry I mean examining fossils.

We finally exited to a bright starry morning. The next day the youth went to work or school then went off caving again that night. The old farts hobbled around groaning never again.

Growing old hurts...in more ways than one.

## MAGAZINE REVIEW - BY DAVID GWILLIM

### *Underground Photographer Issue 5*

This issue could be titled a digital processing special. There is a major article on the mysteries of the halftone dot and its use and manipulation in digital publishing packages (*a must for all news letter editors who want to reproduce first rate photos cheaply*). Continuing on the electronic theme is an article on getting the most out of Kodak's Photo CD service which outlines how to select a reliable supplier and makes the point that not all Photo CD scan suppliers come up to scratch. Digital restoring and archiving of damaged lanternslides dating from the 1950's is also covered.

Other articles include a summary of cave hazards from Gary Smith (Australia) that focuses on foul air, a story of a routine UK club caving trip to St Cuthbert's Swallet Mendip UK and the photo's that were "grabbed" during the trip illustrating the taking of photos on a "non-

photographic" caving trip, simple (*and cheap*) 3-D photography, along with another photographic "ghost" story. As usual the folio and gallery sections sport superb photos with the folio section featuring photos that require the landscape format to work, as a nice touch the editors are now adding a commentary to all featured photos describing why each photo was selected for publication.

Underground Photographer is a quarterly publication from the United Kingdom covering photography, video, lighting and art underground. Subscriptions and further information can be obtained from Kym ap Rhys, Underground Photographer, 40 Buckingham Road, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3AZ, United Kingdom (email: [kym@dhios.demon.co.uk](mailto:kym@dhios.demon.co.uk); webbb site: <http://www.dhios.demon.co.uk>).



# CAVING DEFINITIONS

By David and Sharon Gwillim and Lucinda Coates

**KARST;**  
**PSEUDOKARST;**  
**CAVING PARTY;**

To throw a rope down a hole  
Pretending to throw a rope down a hole  
A drunken orgy held within the  
confines of a cave [*N.B. must consist  
of at least 4 persons, two of who should  
be experienced...*]

**SPELEOLOGIST;**

One who is good at giving  
spiels/diatribes (*aka: bullshit artist*)  
[*Eds note:- Ooeerr, They're gonna be  
in big trouble for using that word, and  
I'm gonna be in more trouble for not  
editing it out...*]

**SQUEEZE;**

The act of trying on last season's  
swimming costume

**TIGHT SQUEEZE;**

The swimming costume from two  
seasons ago

**RAPPEL RACK;**

Item of equipment used to repel one  
from a safe ledge

**ABSEILING;**

The feeling of abseiling through the air  
felt by your abdomen [*aka: gut-  
wrenching fear*]

**FALLING;**

An uncontrolled form of abseiling [*see  
above*]

**OFF ROPE;**

Rope that has been left out in the sun  
too long

**ON BELAY;**

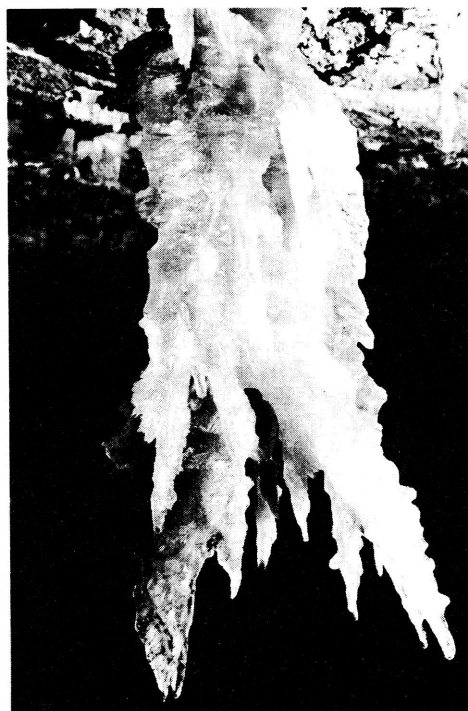
Signal frequently given to beginners by  
an experienced caver just prior to  
going off to explore a lead

**IT GOES!**

"Now that I've crawled/squeezed/climbed up/through/into this insignificant little  
dead-end, the rest of you can damn well do it too!"

**BELOW!**

Okay, you losers, let's see you dodge *THIS* one!"



Gypsum Stalagmite – Thanpanna Cave Nullabor  
[Lucinda Coates]

## Newcastle and Hunter Valley Speleological Society.

# PRESIDENTESS'S REPORT

for June 1997

Its been another busy 6 months of caving so far this year for NHVSS. There have been ten club trips, vertical techniques training day, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial ASF conference. I have participated in NHVSS trips totaling over 70 hours underground to date this year, which equates to roughly 9 working days!

Our club traveled near and far to pursue our interests in speleology. Some of the usual caving haunts were visited which included Jenolan (2 trips) Timor (2 trips) Gloucester, and some not so frequently visited areas such

as Willi Willi and Yessabah. The ASF conference in Quorn SA involved over 5000km driving, and you think the trips to Cliefden are a long way! Some detours were made to include as many caves as possible on that trip. Areas detoured to include Byaduk and Princess Margaret Rose (*lower south/western Victoria*) and in South Australia Yorke Peninsula, Flinders Ranges, Naracoorte, Kangaroo Island, and Mt Gambier. I'm tied just compiling the list.

*If Hang Gliding was made illegal, it would send it underground.*

*Quorn & MUGG Raker*

Our cave divers have also been busy. The main discovery being the underwater passage linking GL1 and GL2 at Gloucester. Other underwater cave adventures include trips to Jenolan, Timor, and Mt Gambier.

An update on the mining threat at Gloucester Caves. After a recommendation at the conference in Quorn in April, the ASF sent letters to the owners of the exploration licence and to the Department of Minerals and Energy. We believe that their licence expires in

August and its encouraging to note that to date, no drilling has occurred near the caves.

Several pea size samples of moonmilk have been collected from various areas and analysed by our resident geologist Brian England. Details and an image from an electron-scanning microscope have been included in the NEWCAVES CHRONICLES.

See you underground  
Jenny Whitby - Presidentess

## 1997 Macquarie University Sports Association Annual Dinner

Ned Stolz

Well, what more can be said about this infamous night when **MUCG claimed the coveted Club of the Year trophy?** We met at the cottage where Turfa was putting the finishing touches on a stuffed cave suit that was promptly christened 'Tim'. Once we had all formally attired ourselves in helmets and caving lamps we proceeded post haste to the function rooms of the union building where pre dinner drinks were already under way. 'Tim' was given post of honour next to the MUCG display board and it was time to sit down at table.

All I remember of the meal was that there was precious little food and a veritable river of grog - indeed, even accomplished guzzlers like myself could not succeed in getting our glasses empty before some attentive waiter topped it up again. No doubt the real Tim (*not the stuffed one*) could have achieved this. The rest of the evening is a bit of a blur. I remember a horrendously boring speech by some tennis boffin and me publicly disputing with him the



*Victorious!*

*Lucinda, Ian, Liz (hiding), Ned, Antony, Turta, Helmut and a rogue waterski member proudly display their trophy*

number of times Shakespeare referred to Tennis. Then it was time for the awards. Ian was awarded Club Colours for his many years sterling service for the Club. Our own A Sprigger was 'robbed' of the Rookies Award by some Kung Fu expert who was world champion and had clearly been beating people up in her pyjamas since she could walk - huh. But who cares - there is only one prize that any one gives a toss about and WE won it! The **1996 Club of the Year!!!** Fortunately for the other people present I was not required to give a speech.

Copious cheering, photographs and sculling of booze followed until through the euphoria we noticed that 'Tim' had been abducted by some members of the other clubs in a fit of blind jealousy because we were so clearly superior to them. Unfortunately most of the MUCG party was now beyond any sort of constructive attempt to get 'Tim' back, unless falling over can be considered constructive. As usual, Turfa rose to the occasion and located 'Tim', who was hanging by a length of Bluewater from a gum tree in the Uni grounds.

Drunken revelry continued for some time with much friendly abuse and slugging off at the other clubs, who responded in kind. Then some responsible body, mindful of the well being of the Union Building, turned off the grog and everybody promptly went home. I only fell over twice getting back to the car and I had a seven point five on the hangover scale the next day.

# SPELEO SYNOPSIS No 22

October 1995 - April 1996

Peter Ackroyd

[Ed's note: Here is the USA component of "Speleo Synopsis" No 22 missing from Australian Caver No 140 when we ran out of space. Sorry for the delay.]

## NSS News 53(8) (Aug 1995)

History seems to be the theme of this issue with an interview of Bill Cuddington – an early exponent of SRT in vertical caves in America and a 50 year reunion of the Cleveland Grotto (*caving club*).

## Compass & Tape 38 (Jul 1995)

Some useful hints are contained in this journal on cave surveying. One article deals with the requirements for an ideal "lead tape" person in a survey team while a second examines the essence of a good survey sketch. There are also some suggested guidelines for the preparation of electronic versions of cave maps.

## Georgia Underground 31(4) (Oct 1995)

There are plenty of exciting tales of discovery and exploration in the vertical caves of TAG territory (NW corner of Georgia) in this well presented issue.

## NSS News 53(9) (Sep 1995)

This issue is devoted to reports on the 1995 NSS Convention held in Virginia.

## The Speleograph 31(8) (Aug 1995)

*The Speleograph* is the newsletter of the Oregon Grotto of the NSS. This issue records an encounter between a family caving group and some sort of occult wolf worship ceremony inside *Ape Cave*, a popular lava cave near Woodland, Washington. Later discussions with Park rangers revealed this was not an isolated incident!

## NSS News 53(10) (Oct 1995)

Of the two articles in this issue the first is the most interesting. Old (1927) newspaper reports show that an attempt to drum up business for the poor tourist quality *Nickajack Cave* in Tennessee was quite successful. It relied on a cave guide becoming "lost" in the cave only to "emerge shaken but unhurt" six days later from the "other side of the mountain" after digging his way through a "beautifully decorated" extension. The second story describes four attempts, from 1992 to 1995, to descend the

first pitch of a cave in Mexico. None of the attempts was successful.

## Georgia Underground 32(1&2) (Jan 1996)

This issue contains an article on the surveying of *Kazamura Cave* – a very long, inclined lava cave in Hawaii and claimed to be 1,099 metres deep. In the same issue the story of the survey and exploration of the region beyond the sump in San Agustín sump in *Sistema Huautla* (Mexico). During a six day camp, two cavers surveyed or explored 3.3 kilometres of cave passage to reach a very large sump at a depth of -1,475 metres below the cave's entrance.

## NSS News 53(11) (Nov 1995)

The making of a film on Tom Sawyer using an old tourist cave in Alabama is the lead article in this issue. It is followed by two articles covering the exploration and survey of *Kazamura Cave* in Hawaii, claimed to be 60 kilometres long and 1,099 metres deep.

## NSS News 53(12) (Dec 1995)

An article about artificial lighting in *Mammoth Cave*, Kentucky, and an index for volume 53 of the NSS News is about all for this issue.

## NSS News 54(1) (Jan 1996)

The story of rigging a tyrolean (flying fox) traverse across a river canyon fills this issue.

## Nittany Grotto News 43(1) (Mar 1996)

This issue describes some of the more easily reached caves in Puerto Rico. Then follow many stories of Nittany Grotto (club) outings to caves in the eastern parts of the USA.

## Compass and Tape 39 (Jan 1996)

Navel gazing is the main activity in this issue – the whys and wherefores of competitive judging of cave maps. One article, on drawing cave maps using AutoCAD software, lifts the standard a little.

# SPELEO SYNOPSIS No 23

May 1996 - May 1997

Peter Ackroyd

## AUSTRALIA

### Helictite 33 (1) (1995)

In this issue there is a summary of early reports on lava caves on Mauritius Island and a description of five genera of snail shells found in *Cocklebiddy Cave* on the Nullarbor Plain.

### Helictite 33 (2) (1995)

A discussion on some of the caves at Wyanbene (NSW) is followed by an article on karst in Perak, Malaysia in this issue.

## NEW ZEALAND

### NZ Speleo Bulletin 174 (Jun 1995)

This issue is devoted to cave accidents and cave rescue in New Zealand. Much of it is taken up with Dave Weaver's drowning while diving the *Pearce Resurgence* (South Island) in May 1995. There are also reports on diving in the *Riwaki Resurgence* (Takaka Hill) and on a 1994 death by drowning in *Mangawhitikau Cave*, a dangerous stream cave in the South Island. Finally there is a summary of incidents from the Waitomo region dating from the early part of 1995 and a report on a cave rescue practice held in March 1994.

### NZ Speleo Bulletin 175 (Sep 1995)

Kieran McKay describes a 1994 diving expedition to explore the *Riwaki Resurgence* passages beyond the three known sumps. The trip was successful with over 600 metres of new passage surveyed. The remainder of this issue is taken up with incident reports for 1993 to 1995, a report on a trip to *Summit Tomo* on Takaka Hill and several articles on the death by drowning of a caver in *Mangawhitikau Cave*, Waitomo, in 1994.

### NZ Speleo Bulletin 176 (Dec 1995)

This seems to be an issue full of cave descriptions. *Nettlebed Cave* (up to 1988 knowledge) is the first, followed by *Te Ana Puta* at Point Elizabeth on the West Coast. The issue also contains a useful debrief of an incident in *Harwoods Hole* (broken femur, 1995) and an introduction to the cave systems on Takaka Hill.

### NZ Speleo Bulletin 177 (Mar 1996)

An article on cave photography and a list of significant events in the 47-year history of the New Zealand Speleological Society open this issue. Later, Jonathon Ravens discusses the likeliest places for extensions in *Nettlebed Cave* and other, nearby caves on Mount Arthur.

### NZ Speleo Bulletin 178 (Jun 1996)

This issue contains a well thought out "mental rescue" from *Bulmer Cavern*, a large cave on New Zealand's South Island. Other articles include historical notes on *Prouse's Cave* (Patarau), the exploration of *Hollywood Cave* (West Coast) and descriptions of trips down *Gorgoroth* (Ellis Basin) and *Harwoods Hole*.

## EUROPE

### Caves & Caving 71 (Spring 1996)

*Ogof Draenen* remains in the news in this issue. The lead article discusses the origins and flow patterns in this long cave in South Wales. Other articles describe the discovery of *Bye George Pot*, a new entrance to *Pippikin Pot*, a reconnaissance trip to Mongolia, an expedition to the Picos de Europa (Spain) during which the 1,255 metre deep *Hoyo de Sedo Picos* was explored, and the 1995 NSS (USA) Convention is described from a British point of view.

### Descent 130 (Jun/Jul 1996)

The news section of this issue informs us that *Ogof Draenen* (South Wales) which was found only 18 months previously, is now 47.9 kilometres long, to make it the 34th longest cave in the world. Exploration still continues! In the feature articles, Jim Eyre entertains us with the first part of his story about a caving trip to Turkey in 1974. We also hear from some of the *Ogof Draenen* explorers; the 1995 caving accidents in the UK are summarised (five deaths) and there is a progress report from a caver helping the Thai Government to find new show caves in the Kanchanaburi Province.

### Grottan 2-96 (Jun 1996) [In Swedish – English summaries]

A report in this issue states that Swedish authorities have finally agreed that Sweden underwent a series of earthquakes after the Weichselian Glaciation. This means many of Sweden's boulder caves will be recognized as having been formed by seismic events — something Swedish cavers had deduced long ago.

### Cave and Karst Science 22(3) (Dec 1995)

In this issue there are articles on cave sediments in Florida, pinnacle karst in Sarawak, rimstone pools in Turkey, crystal structure and origins of gypsum flowers, hydrothermal caves and a series of BCRA abstracts.

### Descent 131 (Aug/Sep 1996)

In another good issue we read that a new entrance to a well known Mendip cave, *Swildon's Hole*, has been opened. There is a detailed report on the "50 years of cave diving" reunion with many well known British cave divers swapping tales. Jim Eyre completes the second of his two part article on his caving exploits in Turkey in the 1970s and John Gunn talks about a recent trip to caves in Ethiopia during which he and his team surveyed a 3.4 kilometre cave — the second longest in the country. *Ogof Draenen* continues to grow and is now 33rd longest cave in the world at 49.5 kilometres.

### Caves & Caving 72 (Summer 1996)

This issue has many reports on overseas expeditions. The first covers a trip in mid 1995 to the Caucasus Mountains near the Black Sea during which the 407 metre deep *Anglo-Russian Cave* was extended. There are reconnaissance reports from the Dordogne area (France) and northern Vietnam. Then follows a brief report on the discovery of 15,000 year old art in a cave in northern Spain and a tale of hard exploration in Slovenia by a British group in 1995. Finally there are two reports on cave areas in Turkey, including a description of Turkey's deepest cave, *Çukurpinar Düdeni*.

### Stalactite 2/95 & 1/96

*Stalactite* is the official journal of the Swiss Speleological Society. Issue 2/95 is a special on *Hölloch*, Switzerland's deepest cave. There is an article covering underground radio communications used in *Hölloch* with comparisons using different frequencies at different depths. This is followed by an article giving the history of explorations carried out in *Hölloch* in 1902 — long wooden ladders and long underground camps. Then follows reports on bacteriological and hydrological studies carried out in and around *Hölloch*.

The 1/96 issue is mainly taken up with articles on cave mapping. There is a proposed unified list of cave map symbols and a technique for mapping caves using lasers. In another article we learn of the caves of the Hongrin Gorge in Southwest Switzerland. There is also a rundown

on recent activities and discoveries throughout Switzerland and an index to 1994 caving publications.

### International Caver 17 (1996)

This issue looks at artificial underground cavities. From about the 1st century to the 14th century AD a whole culture in central Turkey excavated and lived in an underground labyrinth created by tunnelling into consolidated volcanic ash. In other articles, a 1994 expedition to *Bohemian Cave* in New Zealand is described — the cave is now 663 metres deep. Still in the southern hemisphere, the exploration of *Muruk Hul* (New Britain, Papua New Guinea) is described in detail. At a surveyed depth of 1,141 metres it is the deepest cave south of the equator. The rock art cave, *Lascaux* (France) is examined by a British caver. *Vandima*, a 1,182 metre deep cave in Slovenia is revealed as a difficult cave, bottomed in 1994 but not yet derigged. A German team visited some caves in Cambodia and recorded several new underground temple sites.

### Descent 132 (Oct/Nov 1996)

The ever growing *Ogof Draenen* in South Wales is featured yet again in this issue. The persistence of a small team of diggers paid off with the 1.2 kilometre long discovery of "War of the Worlds". Len Cook's historic series of articles is continued with tales of early visits to *Lancaster Hole* in 1949 and 1950. Reports on fixed aids in *Ogof Ffynnon Dhu* and an expedition to Fisht Mountain in the Caucasus Mountains are followed by a report on the death of two cavers in June 1996 during a freak flood in the *Gouffre Berger* (France).

### Caves & Caving 73 (Autumn 1996)

In this issue the hydrology of the Forest of Dean area (South Wales) is examined, *Coarvvekraigi*, a new 1.4 kilometre long cave in Norway is described, the radon issue is reviewed and two expeditions to the caves of the Totes Gebirge in Austria are recorded. There is an excellent article by Rupert Skorupka on solo cave diving in Spain and an introductory article on caving in Romania — a country with over 11,000 documented caves!

### Grottan 3-96 (Oct 1996) [In Swedish – English summaries]

This issue reports on the July 1996 Mountain camp in Sweden.

### Cave and Karst Science 23 (1) (Jun 1996)

In this issue — gypsum karst in Canada, a fascinating history on how *Wookey Hole* (Mendip, UK) became famous despite its ordinary appearance, a new theoretical model on karst processes from a Slovenian writer and the interpretation of minute marks on cave sediments is used to deduce a geomorphological history of Tibet in the Tertiary Period.

**Descent 133 (Dec 96/Jan 97)**

In the news section of this issue we learn that the recently discovered *Ogof Draenen* in South Wales is now over 52 kilometres long and is the 30th longest cave in the world. There is a summary of papers presented to the BCRA "Hidden Earth" conference in September 1996; Alan Jeffreys recalls a 1953 incident where a 14 year old boy became lost in an abandoned mine, there is a short report of a British expedition to Laos during which 8 kilometres of cave passage was surveyed and the issue closes with a detailed account of just one of the many digs in *Ogof Draenen*.

**Cave and Karst Science 23(2) (Oct 1996)**

This issue examines radon exposure for cavers in the UK, tafoni in Malta, reviews the definitions of karst and pseudokarst, looks at 3-D vector processing of electronic magnetic bearings and inclination data in caves and an assessment of the accuracy of radio-location (RDF) devices.

**Descent 134 (Feb/Mar 1997)**

The South Wales cave, *Ogof Draenen* has now been extended to 57 kilometres with the discovery of the 5.7 kilometre long Dollimore Series in the southern part of the cave. Other stories in this issue include a report on a 1996 expedition to Kalimantan in Borneo, an article on sketching caving scenes and a report on an expedition to the caves of the Gobi Desert.

**Caves & Caving 74 (Winter 1996)**

In this issue there is a report on the historic re-linking of *James Halls* with *Peak Cavern* via a route probably last used by miners in the early 1800s. The exploration of a new cave in Norway, the caves of Kalimantan in Borneo and the caves of Sardinia make up the rest of the caving reports. Finally there is a seven page summary of papers presented at the 1996 BCRA conference.

**International Caver 18 (1996)****NSS News 54(2&3) (Feb/Mar 1996)**

This is the annual cave conservation and preservation issue of the NSS News. Articles vary from scrubbing mud off decoration through to landowner relations.

**NSS News 54(4) (Apr 1996)**

The lead article in this issue documents the discovery and exploration of *Barrack Zourie Cave*, a five kilometre long stream cave in New York State.

**NSS News 54(5) (May 1996)**

Two prehistoric art sites feature in this issue — *Slaughter*

This issue contains stories on a new 450 metre deep vertical cave in Lebanon; the caves of East Sulawesi (Indonesia); a 1.9 kilometre through trip requiring the diving of 22 sumps between *La Finou* resurgence to the famous *Padirac* shaft in France; a major cave, *Tham Jowlarm* in Northern Thailand; cave art in Western Mongolia and a 1995 caving expedition to the Philippines.

**Proceedings of University of Bristol Speleological Society 20(3) (Dec 1996)**

This weighty tome includes an introduction to the karst and caves of Brazil amongst several papers on speleothem formation and paleontological digs.

**Descent 135 (Apr/May 1997)**

This issue describes the diving connection between *Ogof Ffynnon Dhu I* and *II*, the 1996 British expedition to China and there is a discussion on the proposed change of British caving organisation to a model more like the American system.

**Caves & Caving 75 (Spring 1997)**

Three 1996 expedition reports make up the bulk of this issue. The Matienzo region in Northern Spain was visited and over 4 kilometres of cave passage was discovered; the Cambridge University Caving Club went to Austria in July 1996 finding new caves and passages in the Totes Gebirge region and a team of British and Indonesian cavers visited a remote karst valley on the eastern side of Gunung Api in the Mulu National Park in Sarawak.

**International Caver 19 (1997)**

This issue contains reports on the caves of the Purificación region of Mexico, an expedition to Vietnam in 1995, a run down on cave dwelling bats, a report on the 59 kilometre long *Kazumura* lava cave in Hawaii and a caving trip to the Sichuan region in China. There is also a list of the top 50 or so longest and deepest caves in the world.

## USA

*Canyon Cave* (New Mexico) and *Devilstep Hollow Cave* (Tennessee). The new (for the USA) "frog" ascending system is described in the Techniques & Safety column.

**Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 58(1) (Apr 1996)**

This is the new title of the former *NSS Bulletin*. The content and style has changed also. In this issue there are articles on the geology and hydrology of *Sistema Purificación* (Mexico), Pleistocene cave fauna in India, radio emissions detected from bats [it is the April issue-PJA] and two new beetles are described.



**Compass & Tape 40 (Jul 1996)**

This issue provides advice on finding survey blunders, the type where a back bearing is written as a forward bearing. GPS devices get more coverage with an unsuccessful attempt to emulate differential GPS without using a radio link. A full set of instructions on surveying methods in lava caves is followed by a story on the survey of the huge lava tunnel, *Kazumura Cave*, in Hawaii. Finally, we get an insight into the use of line width as an effective tool for the visualisation of cave passages on maps.

**Nylon Highway 39 (Jan 1996)**

After a long delay this journal from the NSS Vertical Section has made an appearance. In this issue the first descent of *Na One* shaft is described. It is a 263 metre deep volcanic vent on Hawaii. A few old wives' tales about neat knots being stronger than untidy ones and the relative strengths of various knots are 'busted' by Bruce Smith's testing. Then comes a lengthy article on the proper care and use of caving ropes.

**Nylon Highway 40 (May 1996)**

This issue is full of reprints from climbing magazines covering topics like putting in bolts for aid climbs, what ascenders work best in mountaineering and so on.

**NSS News 54(6) (Jun 1996)**

This issue contains articles on visiting caves in Cuba, collecting matchbox covers depicting caves and the establishment of a register of cave related personalised car number plates.

**NSS News 54(7) (Jul 1996)**

This issue marks the last from Glenda Dawson — editor of the NSS News for over 12 years. In it we find articles on 40,000 year old bear bones found in Alaskan caves and a major cave gating project in Tennessee.

**NSS News 54(8) (Aug 1996)**

Diving in the shallow lakes of *Lechuguilla Cave* (New Mexico) and examining unusual speleothems ("cave leaves") in *Whispering Cave* (Alaska) are the topics in this issue.

**Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 58(2) (Aug 1996)**

This issue is entirely devoted to the caves and karst of Belize (Central America).

**NSS News 54(9) (Sep 1996)**

This issue contains articles on expeditions to Puerto Rico (Central America) and examines whether human rabies can be transmitted via insectivorous bats.

**NSS News 54(10) (Oct 1996)**

A description and survey of a 400 year old qanat (water supply tunnel) in Mexico and a brief article on a cave in Saipan containing Japanese war relics make up the bulk of this issue.

**Georgia Underground 32(3) (Oct 1996)**

In this issue we are taken on a biological sampling trip into several caves. Then we learn that concerned citizens and cavers can join forces to stop a poorly located landfill operation. We also read about two international expeditions — Sarawak in 1994 and Mexico in 1995.

**NSS News 54(11) (Nov 1996)**

This issue is almost entirely given over to reports of the 1996 NSS Convention held in Salida, Colorado. In a brief article, we learn of the linking of underwater passages in *Leon Sinks System* (Florida) to create a 27 kilometre long flooded system with 27 entrances.

**Georgia Underground 33(1) (Nov 1996)**

In this issue Jim Hewat tells us about blasting and pushing a tight lead in *Close to the Edge*, a cave in British Columbia (Canada) which has a 244 metre entrance pitch!

**Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 58(3) (Dec 1996)**

Thermography (infra red imaging) is the topic of the lead article in this issue. Three over flights with a 'Micom' thermal camera above Horse Cove in Southern Alabama revealed several new stream sinks and risings. Some of these had caves associated with them. Other articles describe ten new species of *Arrhopalites*, provide a fauna list for gypsum caves found in Sinkhole Flat, New Mexico, and give a series of abstracts from papers presented at the 1996 NSS Convention in Salida, Colorado.

**NSS News 54(12) (Dec 1996)**

Exploration seems to be the theme in this issue with extensions to two TAG (Tennessee-Alabama-Georgia) caves described.

**NSS News 55(1) (Jan 1997)**

The lead article in this issue describes the exploration of *Hurricane Hole*, a 772 metre long, 169 metre deep granite cave in Colorado.

**NSS News 55(3) (Mar 1997)**

This is part 1 of the annual conservation issue and contains articles ranging from the dissemination of cave locations through minimum impact caving to setting up cave monitoring and inventories.

## AND NOW, FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

Reprinted from the "Speleo Speil" August 1996

Garth Vader and Drean Gorgan in

# "THE WRATH OF BUTTMAN"

*This is a true story, only the facts have changed.*

### JUNEE-FLORENTINE: 2017:AD

"Over here Drean." Garth called through the intercom. I glanced across and there was Garth hovering about 200 metres to my right just above the tops of the trees.

"According to the GPS, it's got to be in that limestone outcrop down below." He exclaimed as he hovered down through the treetops. By leaning across in the direction that Garth had been, my Anti-Gravity boots flew me in his direction. I took one last look at the bulk of West Mount Field poised in front of me and followed him down on to the forest floor.

We had good reason to be at this place. The Evil leader of S.C.S. who went by the name of Buttman, had found the connection between Dark Cave and Black Pit and we were to try and complete the first through trip.

"Are you sure you want to go through with this?" I said weakly, half hoping the answer would be no. Garth looked at the entrance and then back at me. "We've got to man." He replied. "For Revver."

Revver Trailes had been killed by one of Buttman's Sabre-Toothed-Kanga-Wallaby's after Buttman had caught Revver trying to break into S.C.S. headquarters to steal the survey of the through trip. The animal had been trained to kill by Buttman and it had certainly done a good job of that. Revver's body was such a real mess by the time that we found him. Revver had been T.C.C. Head Commander for many years until he upset a few too many traditionalists in the ranks with his law that all female cavers had to wear G-string Trog suits. Unfortunately he was voted out of power at the next Annual General Meeting. Poor old Revver...

My mind was bumped back to the present as Garth gave me a nudge and said.

"Wake up Bozo. You need to stay on full alert for this trip." And he then disappeared in through the entrance. I turned the thermostat on my Trog suit up a few degrees in preparation for the colder temperatures underground and followed him in. Just inside the entrance we both flicked the switch on our Oakley's to night vision and waited a moment for them to adapt to the dark.

"I'm sure Buttman has got some traps in here somewhere to stop people from bagging the first through trip." Warned Garth. "Make sure your eyes are peeled."

I needed no reminding of what a cunning bastard Buttman could be, as I'd heard enough stories about him from when I was at T.C.C. caving school. As we walked in the entrance past all of the broken formation and the "*Nigel William's woz 'ere 1988.*" graffiti my mind was already on full alert.

It didn't take long following the stream down until we found ourselves at the head of the pitch series looking down into a water spray filled chamber. Garth was just bending down to switch on his Anti-Gravity boots when there was a loud screech from high up in the roof.

"Stuff me mushrooms!!!" Exclaimed Garth as on of Buttman's Giant Guard Bats came swooping down towards him. Garth jumped off the pitch edge just as the bat sailed past where he was, and took a sharp turn in my direction. I froze in shock for a moment, but then the years of training at T.C.C. caving school came back to me as I remembered the A.S.F. code of combat where it states that "*Stalagmites may only be broken off the roof of a cave in the event of being attacked by Giant Bats, and only for the purpose of self protection.*" And you can bet your life that's exactly what I did! Just as Batty was about to wrap his wings around me and finish me off I snapped a Stal off the roof and rammed it up through his throat.

Batty screamed out in pain and fell down into the streamway just as Garth appeared back over the top of the pitch. Garth had his Phaser Gun pointed at Batty writhing around in the stream and as he was about to shoot, I gave Batty a swift kick sending him plummeting off the pitch head. We both stood there and watched him crash down onto the rocks below with a sickening thud.

"That was a close one!" Exclaimed Garth. "I wonder how many of those blighters are hidden in here?"

"Who knows?" I replied as I reached down and switched on my Anti-Gravity boot's and leapt off the pitch head. "It's a safe bet that it won't be the only thing that we'll have to contend with today!"

We had soon descended the pitch series and were standing on solid ground down at base level when Garth looked upwards and remarked. "Remember those old Speleo Spiel's from the 1970's we were looking through the other night? That bloke called Stuart Nicholas who used to do this sort of thing using ladders and ropes? They must have been hard men back in those days."

"Your right about that!" I replied. "Hard, and stupid. Those ladders and ropes sound like they were bloody hard work. And what about those old electric and carbide lights they used to use!"

"Yeah." Replied Garth. "They certainly had to cope with old fashioned technology back in those days. Although I suppose Buttman wasn't around back then."

That's true, I thought as we started crawling through the phreatic tubes. At least you had more predictable dangers to cope with back then...

## THE CONNECTION

Garth and I'd had crawled through the tubes and a flattener without any drama until we arrived in a chamber with a small stream flowing into a large aqua blue sump.

"This must be the dive." I mumbled to Garth as the thought of the cold water rushing in and filling my lungs ran through my mind.

I had never gotten used to the underwater breathing technique used these days, although the thought of carrying all of the scuba gear into the cave like they used to do in the old days was even less appealing! Garth and I took an Aqua-Breather tablet each and waded into the water. It took a minute to adapt to the cold water flowing in and out of our lungs, but we were soon following the guideline through the sump into what was unknown territory for us. The way through the sump was the connection that Buttman had found through into Dark Cave. It had been dived before to a spot where it had become too constricted, but Buttman had found an alternative side passage that had been missed on previous dives. As we swam through, I watched a small species of Anispedes (*Stefanicus Eberhardicus*) crawling along the wall. This species has been known to leave caves altogether and climb up impossibly high walls risking life and limb. They sometimes take huge falls but the sensible ones soon return to the safer cave environment. Also laying on the bottom in a deep sleep was the Tasmanian Cave Newt (*Arthuriscus Clarkescos*). This little blighter tends to spend a lot of time sleeping, but when you prod it into action, it's amazing what they can do.

We were heading upwards now, and at first I thought that we were through and heading back to the surface, but the guide line soon took a turn back down again. It then went around to the left and down, followed by a right, then a left, up, right and another right. We were both quite sure

that there would be a left turn coming up but we were surprised to see the guide line take another right before finally going left!

We then took another 2 left turns and just before we had done a complete circle the line finally went down and to the right, whereupon it took another right, then up, up, up, left, right, up, down, right, down, up, up, up, up, down, up, right, up, and to the right until the sight of an airspace appeared above us and we made a beeline for the surface. Once out of the water we had to stand on our heads against the wall for the water to drain out of our lungs but it sure was good to be breathing fresh air again!

After Trog suit temperatures had been re-adjusted, I looked around to get my bearings and was very pleased to be back into more familiar territory again as Garth and I'd both been into this section of Dark Cave before on numerous occasions.

"What do you think Buttman would do if he caught us now?" Garth asked as we climbed up the mud banks out of the sump chamber.

"Maim, execute, slay, kill and murder are the words that readily spring to mind." Was the reply given. Then again, I'm sure Garth had the same thoughts running through his mind already. Whatever the exact answer would be, we both knew that it wouldn't be pleasant for us if it did happen.

## THE WAY OUT

It only took us ten minutes and we were at the brass plaque that had been placed in memory of an old T.C.C. caver called Chrizdavees who had died at this spot quite a few years ago. He was around in the days when Anti-Gravity boots were battery powered. They worked fine until the batteries went flat in mid-air sending people plunging to their deaths. Needless to say, the Nuclear powered boots came out shortly afterwards...

"We're not that far from the entrance now. Keep a lookout for more of those great big black Buttman Bats." I reminded Garth as we ascended the pitch.

"I'll get out the Infra-red scanner." Said Garth, reaching into his pocket.

We started to walk more cautiously from then on, studying the scanner as we went. "I'm getting dizzy watching this thing." Garth whispered to me. I knew exactly what he meant as I was feeling the same way. "We must be concentrating too hard." I wheezed back to him as I was also finding it hard to breathe. As we walked along the passage, something didn't seem right, as I'd never had this problem before. Was it something to do with Buttman I thought? Garth must have been sensing the same thing as he was starting to look nervous. Just as the Evil face of Buttman flashed through my mind an

alarm went off in my helmet. *Oxygen! We were running out of air!*

"Starve the lizards!" I yelled. "What do we do now?"

"Follow me!" said Garth as he reached into his pocket and pulled something out. "Quickly swallow one of these."

I looked into his hand and he had some Aqua-Breather tablets in it. Of course! Breathe underwater!

As soon as we got to a pool of water we plunged our heads in and the cold water rushed down into our lungs. We didn't have much time to adapt but I was soon feeling better again until Garth pointed out.

"How do we get out of here now? This small pool of water will run out of oxygen pretty quick." I knew he was right and we had to do something quick. It would only take about five minutes until we were out of the cave but there was virtually no water to breath any more after this pool was used up. I suddenly thought about my cave pack! If we filled it up with water we might have enough to get out of the cave if we try and conserve it. Garth agreed that we had no other option so we filled the packs and slowly set off one breath at a time. Twenty metres further up the passage we found the source of our problem.

That sneaky bastard Buttman had a huge CO2 dispenser in the cave pumping out carbon dioxide trying to kill anyone coming through. Garth picked up a rock and sent it hurtling through the control box putting the machine out of action, although it wouldn't help us much as we didn't have time to hang around waiting for the foul air to clear. It was only a few minutes later that we turned the final corner and daylight was in sight. A feeling of relief came over me but it soon disappeared at the thought of one of Buttman's Bats attacking us right now went through my mind. We wouldn't have a hope as we were not trained to fight Giant Bats breathing into a cave pack! Thankfully that was not a problem as we walked out the entrance and into the fresh air without spotting any of them. The glare was a bit much as we hadn't switched the Oakley's back to day vision but we threw the packs away and stood on our heads against the wall to drain the water from the lungs.

Once the lungs were clear we both looked at each other and a huge grin appeared on Garth's face.

"Holy snapping duck dung Dreen. We've done it!" He exclaimed as he jumped up in the air.

"As soon as we get to the HoverJet and fly back to Hobart we're gonna be legends!"

As you can expect, we didn't waste any time switching the Anti-Gravity boots on and flying back to Maydena and the safety of the fully enclosed HoverJet where the reality of what we had achieved finally came through to us.

"Buttman is gonna be spewing!" I remarked to Garth as we fired up the HoverJet and headed back to Hobart.

Five minutes later we arrived back at T.C.C. headquarters and touched down on the Hover pad.

"How was the trip fella's?" Knave Dickless asked when he saw us.

"Piece of cake!" We replied as we jumped out of the craft and ran into Headquarters'. Commander Eberhard was sitting inside waiting for us as we strolled into headquarters trying to hide our excitement.

"We've been expecting you two. Did you catch it all on HelmetCam?" He asked.

"Got the proof right here." Garth replied as he slid the HelmetCam disk across the table.

"Just wait till Buttman sees this. You can bet there'll be blood in the S.C.S. headquarters when this is seen all over the Internet." Said Commander Eberhard as he put the disk in and switched it on. Garth and I watched until the part where we entered the cave and then Garth turned around and said.

"I can't go through this again tonight. How about we get cleaned up and go out and hit the Galaxy Bar? The singer tonight is that Melly Killer woman. She's supposed to be a pretty good."

"Sounds fine to me." I replied as we turned around and headed out the door. "Even legends like us need to relax at the end of a hard day."

Dean Morgan.

***All similarities to any characters, living or dead is purely accidental  
Honest...***



## ASF Cave Accident / Incident Report Form

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your ASF Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick as many boxes as required for the following questions:

**Source of the information:**

I am the:      Victim      ☐  
                 Witness      ☐  
                 Rescuer      ☐  
                 Uninvolved      ☐

**Contributing Factors:**

Gear failure      ☐  
Unsafe Practice      ☐  
Bad Luck      ☐  
Inexperience      ☐

**Injuries Sustained:**

None      ☐  
Minor      ☐  
First Aid required      ☐  
Number of Persons Injured      ☐

Hospitalisation Required      ☐  
Very Serious      ☐  
Fatal      ☐

If known, please supply a brief description of the injuries. Use the back of this form if necessary.

**If rescue was required, how was it undertaken?**

Self rescue      ☐      Assistance Req. (*unofficial*)      ☐  
Assistance required (*Police/Official Rescue Group etc...*)      ☐

**Cave Description:**

Name and Tag number (*if known*) or physical location (*if known*).

Wet (deep standing pool, or running stream)      ☐  
Dry (no water, or slight seepage and shallow water only)      ☐  
Horizontal      Under 200m      ☐      Over 200m      ☐  
Vertical      Pitches <30m      ☐      Pitches longer than 30m      ☐

**Party Description:**

Size of group      1 - 4      ☐      4 - 10      ☐      11 plus      ☐  
ASF affiliated group      ☐      Non ASF group      ☐  
\* Please supply details here (*if known*)

Has the incident been written up in a journal/circular/letter etc? If so, please supply references here:

Please supply any further details that you consider relevant overleaf (*attach extra sheets if necessary*). Also if available, please enclose with the form copies of the relevant articles.

When this form is completed, please send to:  
Australian Speleological Federation Inc.  
P.O. Box 388, BROADWAY, NSW, 2007

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.