

THE JOURNAL OF THE FREELANCE CAVING GROUP

MAY 1961

Price: 6<sup>d</sup>

FROM THE EDITOR:

Since the last issue came out, many changes have taken place within the club. This I think speaks highly for us as it shows that we are keeping up with the times; this being apparent by the amount of exploration which has been successfully undertaken, and the increased interest as a whole in all facets of the science.

Speaking as one who has not long been a member of the group, and after reading the last issue of "Caverneer", I would say that the tightening-up project has been successful and much scope exists for the members who are keen to further both their own enjoyment and the welfare of speliology in this country.

With this in mind let us continue and then may we all benefit fully from this group.

NEWS &amp; VIEWS

Since the last issue, production difficulties have been overcome, and the Club is now the proud possessor of a 50ft. length of ladder which has been tried and proven. (There's 4 against you on that snake, John!). Another 5 lengths of 30 feet are at present under construction, and volunteers will soon be required to help make it.

Many trips, each with a tale to tell, have been made this year, including visits to Cooleman, Bungonia, Wee Jasper and Colong.

The next trip is planned for Bungonia on the weekend of the 27-28 May, to continue digging the sink. Reports of our previous efforts there are most favourable.

A photographic contest is soon to be held, the main purpose being to raise funds or something, and to let Ev. prove that his are the best slides. An independent judge will judge. Entry forms and full particulars available from our Secretary, Ross Ellis, or Ken Fisher.

A trip to Tuglow is planned for the Queen's Birthday weekend in June, but as yet particulars are not available.



The Barbecue which was built by the club and subsequently used was a great success financially and otherwise, and another is in the plans for the better weather when it arrives.

Yes, we're at it again. If anyone has any articles or views of interest to fellow members, will you kindly just whisper in the Editor's ear some meeting night? You know; full press rights and all that. You needn't write it out, but tell the Editor, who may be able to make an interesting article out of it. Thank you. Also, if you have any suggestion which might be HELPFUL, lets have them also.

A trip was made to Colong Cave during the weekend of the 29-30th April under the leadership of Evalt Crabb (cave) and John Powell (surface), the purpose being to show other members the route to Woof's Chamber.

to wait long enough for it), and then the party set off for the main cave.

Progress was halted at the Amber Cave where we left our packs while an attempt was made to re-locate the passage leading to the cleft prior to Woof's Chamber. This was difficult due to the fact that a major structural change has taken place since the last visit to this portion of the caves by our leader 3 years ago; however, the path was eventually discovered by Ev. and young John.

The hour being late, it was decided that no further exploration be undertaken that night, and the Amber Cave was converted into a bedroom. Prior to bed Evalt treated us to a very interesting display of Flash Techniques.

After ....., we traversed the cleft, where a very enjoyable time was spent with Marilyn Monroe, and where young John was temporarily missed. (Some day someone will improve(???) that cave and chop that formation down).

After this, due to the fact that time was running short, we returned to the base camp and then on to the open again after over twenty hours underground.



## Colong (cont'd)

Here, after another hot dinner; (someone I know, still believes there's a Gum-Tree within a mile of Colong!) we commenced our return journey to the cars, (the sun sets in the west, John) which we eventually reached.

After an exciting (???) trip, we arrived home, which we were happy to see, after a really enjoyable weekend at ... "...Colong, where caving was born...."

Although lack of time prevented the party from reaching Woof's Chamber, the trip served to introduce this challenging cave to some more of our members, who, I am sure, enjoyed themselves as much as I did.

EPILOGUE!

On behalf of our party, I would like to thank our leaders, especially John Powell (whom we have now forgiven) without whose drastic action at 4.30am, we would never have gone to Colong.....

Report by B. Pearcey.

THINKING PHOTOGRAPHICALLY No. 1  
With Evalt Crabb.....

In this day of inexpensive cameras that almost think; Super Size prints for 6d. and many automatic geegaws, it is very easy to produce a photograph. But it is a different matter to photograph that will sell, or place in a competition, be accepted in a salon, make a magazine cover, or even convey an intended impression to an audience.

This series of articles is intended for those people, as well as the author, who wish to produce GOOD pictures.

Before beginning, it would be wise to point out that this article applies to to cave and bush photography, as a completely different approach applies to most spheres of professional photography.

The most important single factor in producing a good photograph is the choice of subject matter.

A few minutes thought before pressing the shutter will save many a bad slide from being forced on viewers.

The question that should be asked of oneself before taking any photo is: "Of what am I taking a photo; and why?" - a question that MUST be indelibly etched on your mind. For example: Take a photo depicting a person and some formations in a cave. Is the photo supposed to be of a person engaged in this subterranean sport, or of the formations; or is it yet another 'Aunt Mary in front of the Cathedral?'

The last alternative we shall completely ignore; I presume you DO want to improve your photography. If the subject matter chosen is the person in caving conditions, then arrange the person in the frame in such a manner that their activity is clearly shown, the surroundings serving their purpose of background only. If on the other hand you are trying to show the formations to advantage, the human figure should not be dominant, but merely used for scale; and by position and turn of head, draw attention to the formations.

Then we turn to WHY?

Is it, as I personally am doing, to build up a series of slides for public showing, depicting modern cave exploration; is it to produce a good record of a trip; is it taken with a potential market in view; or could it be to show others of your activities? Whatever the reason, ask yourself if the photo that you are about to take will serve the purpose.

Remember - "OF WHAT ... AND WHY?"

The next article will give a general outline on lighting in confined and open spaces in caves.

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

CAN ANYTHING LOOK WORSE THAN A GROSSLY OVER-EXPOSED ROCK IN THE FOREGROUND OF A PHOTO?

XX

XX

The Ten Commandments of Caving

1. Thou shalt not enter a cave alone.
2. Thou shalt not enter a cave if suffering from assorted ailments that may create burdens for others (heart trouble, epilepsy, etc.)
3. Thou shalt not enter a cave under the influence of John Barleycorn or Charlie Mopps.
4. Thou shalt wear a hard hat on thy head and use thy head at all times.
5. Thou shalt carry into a cave three sources of light, and matches in a waterproof container.
6. Thou shalt always leave word outside of the cave as to thy whereabouts and expected time of return.
7. Honour thy leader and obey his instructions.
8. Thou shalt sit down at once and wait patiently on the spot if thy lights all fail, thus avoiding injury and making a minimum of trouble for rescuers, who will surely come.
9. Thou shalt never jump. Thou shalt walk or crawl or wade or climb.
10. Thou shalt not kick down rocks on thy fellow cavers, considering their welfare in this as in all other matters.

Above are a few of the commandments which good cavers observe. A few who didn't have found themselves ostracised from caving society.

(courtesy of "Exploring American Caves")

BOOK REVIEW.....

Exploring American Caves: This book, written by Franklin Folsom, and part of which is quoted above, is a worthwhile addition to any Speleological library.

The author is a true American "Spelunker" and it is in this fashion that the book is written, intended as an American approach to the history, science and lore of American caves. Nevertheless, it is a very interesting book, as it serves to introduce the reader to some novel methods of behaviour in caves. Written in 1956, it was the first comprehensive caving manual to appear for quite some time. The text is rich with black and white illustrations, which, in the editor's opinion make it a worthwhile work alone.

-o-

Well, what do you do when you find that you have some space left, but not enough to do much with; well, here we must close. The next issue of "Caverneer" will appear, we hope, in June.

May I extend my thanks, as Editor, to those who have provided material, either intentionally or by spoken word.