

THE JOURNAL OF THE FREELANCE CAVING GROUP.. ISSUE 5.

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## FROM THE EDITOR:

Till next month, cheerio!

(NOT necessarily those of the Editor!)

They tell me that John Powell is still putting a scaling pole together but that at present he is having trouble getting 3" copper piping. Can anyone help, please?



In certain caves like the Grille at Bungonia, it is very wise to make constant checks. This is best done by means of lighting a match or candle. However, in some locations where the concentration is very gradually increasing, it is much better to go by the way you feel. The average reaction to Foul Air is to feel warm and comfortable but other signs are sleepiness, yawning, a general quickening of the breathing rate, acidic



If you find that you are in foul air, the following rules should be observed:

1. Don't Panic.
2. Proceed to quietly exit by the way you entered that part of the cave, or if this entails going to a lower altitude, proceed to a higher part of the cave, checking to make sure that the concentration there is not dangerous, in order to rest. Then at some later time, exit the way you entered, unless some more logical choice is apparent. But be prepared for a headache.
3. Don't light any fires or do anything that might endanger your chances of survival.

A carbide lamp will not keep burning at any concentration above 3%, and a match or candle will go out or fail to ignite at a concentration of about 1%. A cigarette lighter (flint type) will not normally burn at much above 0.5%. In foul air, the flame of most objects tends to rise from its source, thereby extinguishing itself.

If you are unfortunate to have some member of your party collapse due to foul air, immediately remove him to some place where the concentration is not dangerous, and proceed to apply artificial resuscitation until he regains consciousness. However, this need never happen if you are reasonably careful, but please, if you strike air which is bad; don't press on in the hopes that it may thin out, as you may end up the way that a man who lit a fire in a poorly ventilated cave did ... "not just stunned, but moribund!"

Next month ..... The theories on the formation of caves.....

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 THINKING PHOTOGRAPHICALLY.....(2).....

with Evalt Crabb.....

With the varied nature of caves, we find that we have either too little or just enough, or too much space for photography. The main problems exist under conditions of too much or too little space. With the in-between category, good lighting can be arranged easily.

With too little space, the problems are: (1) You don't seem to be able to get everything in. (2) There isn't enough space behind the camera for your head. (3) The lens can't be closed down enough to suit the flash guide number. (4) The closeness of the flash produces very deep, sharp-edged shadows, with burnt-out highlights.

Numbers 1 and 2 are really the same problem, and the only answer here is to ignore the viewfinder and just aim the camera, guessing the area of view and the direction, holding the camera and flash as far into the recess as is physically possible. This is a common candid technique and can lead to some surprisingly good results.

Problems 3 and 4 are also tied in together. One solution here is to diffuse the flash using a white handkerchief, or better still Kleenex tissues - they're constant. The diffuser can be attached to the flash head with tape, preferably with the material bulging. Exposure determination is largely a matter of experience, but a rough starting point is to open the lens two stops for three layers of Kleenex.

An alternative to diffusing the flash is to bounce the direct light but this is only possible where there is an area of live calcite deposit in the area. Use the calcite as a mirror for the flash, with the gun about 12" to 18" from the wall. Again the lens could probably be opened up two stops.



The other awkward situation is when the cave is too big, the flash too small.

Open the lens, the back of the cave is nicely exposed, but the foreground burnt out. Close the aperture and the foreground is OK but the background is black. This is where multiple flash is needed. Either a string of guns synchronised to the shutter, or the gun popped off at different parts of the cave - remember that the flash guide number applies to the distance between flash and subject. With multiple flash, it is possible to close down the lens to give depth of field, arranging lighting to suit. Interested? .... Here is one way of doing it. Set up the camera on a tripod, and use a locking cable release to hold the shutter open. Have a mate hold something in front of the lens except when the flash occurs, as this will prevent headlamps, etc, being recorded on the film. (That's if you have that sort of mate!) Now walk around and fire the flash at a portion of the cave at a time, making sure that your body is not between the flash and the camera. Repeat this on different parts of the cave then close the shutter.

There is, however, one thing to remember; that is, until you have gained experience at this sort of thing, all the light should come from one main direction. Don't use frontal, side and back-lighting together in the one shot, unless you want a horribly confusing picture.

Next month:...."The nature of light."

-x-x-x-x-x- THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH -x-x-x-x-x-

SOMETIMES THE PHOTOS WORK OUT; BUT GENERALLY, DON'T ROOF-LESS STALACTITES LOOK SILLY?

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#### HOW'S YOUR CAVING I.Q.?

Here is a small quiz to test your caving know-how. There are no prizes but the answers will be published next month, if you need them.

1. What is the science of caving known as?
2. An activity which is currently being enjoyed by several members is - ?
3. What is the scientific name for "mysterries"?
4. Limestone is the material where most of the caves are found; name three other rocks where caves can exist.
5. Name the two main geological periods to which most limestone caves in New South Wales belong.
6. Where are the Naracoorte Caves found?
7. Which were the first caves which were known to exist in New South Wales?
8. Who was the man responsible for the early mapping and surveying of most NSW caves?
9. What are the names given (a) to formations which hang from the ceiling of caves; (b) the formations which grow up from the floor; (c) the excretion sometimes found issuing from cracks of cave walls?
10. What is the chemical name for foul air?

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A small caption in one of the morning newspapers last week stated that the Sydney University Speleological Society were planning to go to the Wee Jasper region during Queen's Birthday weekend to explore new caves recently discovered in the region.

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#### REPORT ON WEE JASPER .....Easter Weekend 1961

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On this weekend a party of twelve people in three cars left for a week-end of caving at Wee Jasper, an old sheep and shearing settlement in the Yass district.



Wee Jasper (cont'd)

General exploration work was carried out; the main known caves being thoroughly and ambitiously explored, on Friday. John P. and Roger explored the surface looking for new potholes, but their search was generally disappointing - "they all seem to go about twenty feet and stop."

Unfortunately, over the weekend, the group seemed to be very prone to accidents, and many narrow escapes were encountered, including Dave nearly drowning in six feet of guano! Science has also remarked how dangerous it is to throw guano. Ken also took some photos, which have subsequently been enjoyed by all, and the shutter-bugs were there in force.

I also hear that our group was material in assisting a group of the weaker sex in one portion of the caves while one of our members was himself in need of assistance.

Unfortunately space does not permit any fuller details about this trip, but it suffices to say that it was a success and well worth another look at a later date.

[illegible]

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

in which correspondents express opinions and ideas for your comment.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,

We recently came across an ancient, yellowed manuscript, which is reprinted here; it may interest readers.

There once lived in the ancient city of Lunigiana, two married persons: Filomena and Dionos, who had their own dwelling. They had very many acquaintances, who visited this dwelling every moon and more. Their coming was seldom, if ever, announced, and was even encouraged by writers of scripts. The desires of the couple were never considered, their approval never sought.

Now Filomena and Dionos were proud of their little dwelling and constantly sought to improve it, but alas much time was spent after receiving visitors. Spent tobacco dust was always found on the floor and furniture; and even the ends of smoking sticks in these and less accessible places. Non-smoking visitors deposited the ragged remains of betel nut in various places. Articles belonging to the dwelling were often dropped anywhere, regardless of their storage place. In all this, various furniture and even the walls of the little dwelling became damaged, with burns, scratches, smears and stains; and even as Dionos rebuked, so this damage was being done, sometimes by those seated on easily damaged belongings.

A folding structure used by Filomena was often taken by these visitors without asking if it might be used; yea, indeed, on some occasions she requested this object, yet could not obtain it until the visitor had finished. This made Filomena very angry, as she was always very busy and could not afford time to be wasted; also this object was soft and easily damaged by sharp, heavy objects and careless hands.

Whenever these visitations occurred, the many people were hungry, and expected to be fed, leaving the preparation of such foods to their hosts. After partaking of these foods, nary a one would lift a finger to restore the pots and pans; the advent of this task triggering a noisy mass departure without ever a word of thanks to their hosts.

## Letters to the Editor (cont'd)

All this made Filomena and Dionos very angry, and they beat their breasts and tore out their hair, because they wanted so to improve their humble dwelling but were frightened of further damage. Then, one day, Dionos said to Filomena, "I Shall cut myself away from these strange people, for our love is more important to me than the games that I share with these who appear so wanton. From now on our doors shall be closed to all except personal visitors, whom we both appreciate."

But later that evening, Dionos was reading a horoscope given him by the wizard, and he was pleased, for he read that soon he would be reborn in a country not yet known, which would be called "Australia;" where everybody would be given a strange gift called - "A Fair Go. "

Signed.....Anon (name supplied)

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PHOTO COMPETITION (SLIDES) RESULTS.....

CLASS 1. Cave Activity (inside) 1. R.Ellis 2. K.Fisher

CLASS 2. Formations: 1. D.Thompson; 2. K.Fisher; 3. K.Fisher

CLASS 3. Campsite: 1. E.Crabb; 2. R.Ellis; 3. K.Fisher.

CLASS 4. Landscape: 1. K.Fisher; 2. D.Thompson; 3. L.Lewis.

CLASS %. General: 1. K.Fisher; 2. R.Ellis; 3. insufficient entries.

There were 39 entries altogether, and all first place-getters were awarded a cash prize of 10/- each.

Many thanks to all those who entered, and congratulations to those who got places. To those who did not, best of luck next time.

[illegible]

Speaking in General.....

Trips were made to Tuglow by two parties under the leadership of Ross Ellis and Ken Fisher during the Queen's Birthday Weekend. A full report on these will appear in next month's "Caverneer".

Also, starting next month; "FAMOUS LAST WORDS". Watch for it, and send in YOUR suggestion, if possible, accompanied by a rough sketch depicting it.

The trip planned for Bungonia has again been postponed until a more suitable date.

MISSING PERSONS BUREAU. KEITH WOODS, who is currently trying out or being tried out on - New Guinea Parks and Gardens. Last seen walking from Sydney to Darwin in order to catch the plane that he missed. Best of luck, Keith, wherever you are.

ROGER O'GRADY, who has been transferred to New Zealand..... or somewhere, so my spies tell me. Best of luck to you also, Roger.

NEW SECTIONS DEPARTMENT. Next month, we hope to be starting a series, if space permits, in which the characters, etc..., of members will be brought out.....so watch out, IT COULD BE YOU!!!!