

Cave Rescue - 13th, 14th July 1963 - Jenolan

At the invitation of S.S.S., to which we are extremely grateful, five members took part in a cave search and rescue trip at Jenolan. The trip up included driving through a substantial snowfall, and repairing the lost party's car at Hampton. Arriving at five-thirty (am), we were awakened at nine by one Mary, trying to convince us that a party lost in a nice warm cave, were badly off!! The assembled people were grouped into parties of six, and a systematic search began at one end of the allotted area, gradually working toward the other end. At lunch-time Saturday, the radio gear arrived, and this was put to work to co-relate the activities of the different parties to a central control. Late on Saturday afternoon, the lost party was found in a cave other than the intended one, by a party entering a cave other than that to which it was directed. By midnight all search parties had been found, including the two searchers that never went past Caves House. Sunday was spent in playing around with walkie-talkies and radio direction finders, in just trogging, in just looking, and by some, in relaxing with man's best friend.

One interesting aspect of this search was in that it appeared that previous knowledge of an area was not a necessity; in fact, some individuals, contemptuous of any side passage, regarded it necessary only to race to the bottom of a cave. To avert this tendency, choice of party leaders is of utmost importance.

Much advantage could be seen in the use of two-way radio, contact being made on a half hourly basis, with a relay outside the cave. Personally it is felt that hourly would be better, to minimise disruption to a fast moving party, but it is realised that use of this equipment is still at the formative stage.

One minor point is that on a trip such as this, food should be easily prepared for maximum mobility - our party was so prepared, but many others spent far too much time cooking.

Following much discussion, it appears that our group could be useful to a cave rescue organisation, and we now have an internal group to this end. Further detail will be available in a separate report.

E. Crabb

FUTURE TRIPS: :::::

31st August - 1st September - BUNGONIA. Trip Leader: B. Pearcey.
Purpose: General Exploration, caves and Gorge.

14th September - 15th September - TUGLOW. Trip Leader: B. Pearcey.
Purpose: Thorough Exploration and mapping of Tuglow Main.

A FULL LIST OF FUTURE TRIPS IS BEING COMPILED AND WILL BE ISSUED WHEN READY

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CAVES AT BUCKAROO

INTRODUCTION:

During the past 10 weeks, several visits have been made to this area. A Special Bulletin will be issued shortly and will be available through the normal channels, but in this article it is proposed to give a short outline of the work and results obtained thus far in this area.

LOCATION:

The limestone at Buckaroo, 6 miles from Mudgee on the Crooyal Road, is in the form of an isolated surface outcrop of Jurassic origin, approximately 1 acre in area, rising to a height of 25 ft above the level of the plane. Several isolated outcrops of lesser extent are fanned out from this outcrop.

EXPLORATION AND EXCAVATION:

The area has been visited by the Highland Caving Groupon 4 occasions, 2 of which were devoted to the excavation of various "holes".

A total of 470 man-hours has been spent in working on this area, and blasting has been carried out in two places.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Results of excavation in this area have been very dissapointing - at one stage it was thought that the caves (if present) would be completely silted up.

Access was recently gained by the author after clearing away debris from the blasting, and revealed that, in at least two places, a system of caves does exist, which is sparse in formations, and which is filled to a large depth, with water.

CONCLUSION:

It is felt that before any further work is done by the Group in this area, some attempt should be made to remove the water from the system, either by pumping or draining.

B. Pearcey

ABSTRACT

The Lava Caves of Victoria - C.D. Ollier, M.Sc., - University of Melbourne
Helictite Vol. 1 No. 4 - 1963

Following on last month's issue of Calcite, in which mention was made of the lava caves at Mt. Eccles (Vic), the latest issue of Helictite contains The above article.

(continued page 4.)

This article is profusely illustrated with maps of the caves mentioned (typical of all Helictite articles) and it is hoped that those members of the Group who do not already subscribe to this journal, will be prompted to do so.

It was also interesting to note the theories of origin of this type of cave, and it would be interesting to see a further thesis as to the origin of the various formations in lava caves.

B.P.

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ABSTRACT

Cave Animals and Their Environment - Aola M. Richards, M.Sc., Ph.D.

Helictite Vol. 1 No 1 - 1963

University of New South Wales

" This is truly an article which all who aspire to Speleology, whether they hold an interest in this subject or not, should read.

Dr. Richards has written with great understanding on all aspects of cave meteorology, with particular reference to its effects on cave-dwelling animals.

In addition, a detailed description is given of the food, reproduction, adaptation - including colouring, reactions and sense organs, and origin of cave animals.

This article was one of the first issued in Helictite, and is typical of the fine standard of this journal. Subscriptions are available at £1 per annum post paid. Reprints of articles will also be available. All enquiries, subscriptions, etc., should be addressed to Helictite, Box 183, Post Office, Broadway, Sydney.

B.P.

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VISIT BY LEADING AMERICAN SPELEOLOGIST

Members of the Group were recently privileged to attend an illustrated lecture on the Mammoth Cave given by the visiting American Speleologist, Brother G. Nicholas, F.S.C., Ph. D., held at the University of New South Wales, under the auspices of the Australian Speleology Federation.

Brother Nicholas proved to be an entertaining and interesting speaker, and all present were disappointed when the time came to finish. An educational question time was preceded by the showing of colour slides which adequately illustrated the geology and fauna of these caves. Together with Brother Nicholas' humorous anecdotes, this proved to be a valuable get-together for all those interested in the science of caving.

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REPORT ON TRIP TO TUGLOW CAVES --- 3rd & 4th AUGUST 1963

Seven members and three prospective members proceeded on this trip to Tuglow. An interesting and eventful journey was made to the top of Parachute Hill where the party camped for the night.

Saturday morning found several members in slight difficulty in the crossing of the Kowmung River, due to it being slightly swollen. Nevertheless, all arrived safely, if not slightly damp, at the caves.

A very interesting 6 hours was spent in "just trogging", during which two of the prospectives were introduced to the rigours of caving, and several other members were just introduced to Tuglow!

No remarkable discoveries were made, although persons who had previously visited the area did find out some more about the extensive system. It was thought for a while that a new way of entering the upper section had been found, but this proved to be wrong. Many ways were tried of gaining access to the river, although the party was slightly hampered by the absence of ladders.

Saturday night was spent in comfort around a warm fire, reliving past experiences and generally "drying out". Strangely enough, most were in the bag early.

Sunday morning was spent mainly in felling a dead tree across the river for use as a bridge, and in photographing the spectacular scenery. After an early lunch, the party returned to the cars, thence Sydney, via Jenolan and the Devil's Coach House, after a well-earned, and much enjoyed weekend at Tuglow.

B. Pearcey

ODD BALLS CORNER:

Cal Siet has not seen Mr. X waving a bluey around yet, it's being held over a while, until the stupefaction wears off.

Dropped in on several sub-committees recently, and noticed progress reports almost due to be published - Bungonia, Cave Survey, Cave Rescue, Buskaroo. Believe these reports, which will be available at the usual price, will be standardised, to facilitate filing,

A new arrival to Eddy Powell!!! - its a 55 Holden. Wh. said that means more wenching and less caving? Cad!

Cal Siet's morning paper recently featured old member John Murray, and his part in the recovery of coins from the Dunbar. No wonder the cave diving mob didn't turn up at a Sunday night meeting.

Saw two members walking from Buskaroo to Mudgee one Saturday night; 6½ miles in pouring rain, to arrive there ten minutes after closing time; and the travelled back in a taxi!

(continued page 6)

Odd Balls Corner (continued)

Residents up Castle~~ag~~ way are intrigued by a new exercise -- up and down a wire ladder each morning and afternoon. They don't seem to believe that the agile ones are cavers, testing Eric Kaye's new method of ladder construction.

The committee is in confusion -- is catching butterflies at Bungonia an essentially speleological project???

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK:

The following extract was first published in the "Gulgong Advertiser", 22nd February 1877.

"At Canadian Lead...no more puzzling ground to the miner was ever opened. The fancy spot being chosen for a shaft, down the hole went, only to bottom on a boulder. Thus,...did this weary sinking go on, but soon the extraordinary nature of the workings was unfolded. Caverns of limestone with stalactites festooning the roof, were found, filled full of payable wash dirt.

"Claim after claim had been so timbered, that an underground maze over half a mile long through the limestone formation was available to be travelled by the curious.

"More than one old miner got his quietus in them....

"Though more than one million and a half sterling in raw gold has been raised from this field....."

Eighty years later, Blayne Pearcey, Evalt and Joan Crabb found little evidence of the old shafts --- only sheep grazing on Very Private Property.

E. Crabb

ERRATUM:

FUTURE TRIPS: (should read)

7th - 8th September BUNGONIA Trip Leader: B. Pearcey

Purpose: General Exploration of Caves and Gorge.

21st - 22nd September TUGLOW Trip Leader: B. Pearcey

Purpose: Extensive Exploration of Caves.
