HIGHLAND CAVING GROUP

CALCITE

Newsletter of the Highland Caving Group.

ISSUE - JUL - DEC 1970

P.O. BOX 154
LIVERPOOL N.S.W.

CALCITE JUL - DEC 70

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of all who contributed to this issue of "CALCITE", especially Miss Annette Peters and Mr John Baker.

EDITORIAL

Once again I must commence my editorial with an apology for the lateness of this issue of CALCITE. The delay was due mainly to an unexpectedly protracted stay in Singapore early in the year and to increased official responsibilities resulting from that visit. It is planned to get the next issue (Jan-Jun 71) out sometime during July so, please, get your trip reports and other contributions in as soon as possible.

One of the problems in producing a club magazine of this nature is the collection of suitable material. This is where you can help - let's have any articles, jokes, ideas etc which may enter your mind at anytime, provided they are of caving interest. For too long the magazine has depended on the few regular contributors.

Conservation is a very popular subject today and one hears of it in connection with most aspects of modern life. Cavers have a particular interest in the subject as the very future of their hobby depends on the protection and preservation of our caves. We are all aware and no doubt feel strongly about the threat to caves arising from planned quarrying activities at Colong and Marulan. There is, however, another threat to our caves which is much less obvious but nevertheless capable of doing irreparable damage. I refer to the actions of cavers. One has only to visit areas such as Wee Jasper, Bungonia and Chiefden to see evidence of this threat - muddy footprints, broken and dirtied formations, toffee papers, tissues, spent carbide, spent batteries, flash bulbs cigarette packets, etc throughout the caves and the heaps of bottles and tins littering camping areas frequented by cavers. Unfortunately few of us are free of blame as despite all our good intentions we are frequently guilty of careless or thoughtless acts which cause damage in some form or other to caves. We are all aware of the rules covering these things and must make greater efforts to ensure that we do not offend and that newcomers are given proper guidance and set a good example in conservation matters.

(W. PATRICK)

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1970

Over the past 12 months the Highland Caving Group was a little more active than it has been previously. We have had 13 applications for membership from which we have so far received 5 full members.

A total of 21 trips were held throughout the year with an average attendance of 7. Areas visited were Bungonia (7 trips), Wee Jasper (5 trips), Colong (4 trips), Cliefden (1 trip), Tuglow River (1 trip), Wyanbene (1 trip), Cooleman Plains (1 trip), Mudgee (1 trip).

Last April as a result of a request from the newly formed Sydney Teachers' College Caving Club a form of affiliation was agreed and the two clubs have been caving together ever since. New friendships have been made and our group has received a welcome lift from the enthusiasm and interest of our new friends.

Another move towards increase co-operation between clubs was the formation of the Central Regional Council which represents MSS, BMSC and HCG. As a result of the activities of this council the three clubs combined in re-opening the Mudgee area and holding a very successful rescue practice in the Punchbowl Cave at Wee Jasper. In addition a combined Christmas Dinner was held in Dec 70.

During the year we were approached by the Scouts on two occasions for assistance in caving matters and on our August trip to Wee Jasper a number of scouts accompanied us. It is hoped that this co-operation will assist the scouts in their activities and will provide a useful source of new members for the group.

Calcite is not dead, it was just sleeping! Thanks to the efforts of a few people it has started rolling again and has emerged as one of the best of the caving club publications. It is intended to produce it twice a year from here on - in January and July so it is up to everyone to assist by contributing.

In addition to Calcite, a club newsletter was started and after a somewhat shaky start produced four issues for the year. It is intended to use the newsletter as a medium to keep members informed of the day to day activities and plans of the Group and to reserve Calcite for items of more lasting interest.

Over the past year a few problems were encountered within and outside the Group but, in spite of this, HCG has emerged as a more active and adventurous group. It is up to all members to keep up the good work and put HCG in its rightful place among the caving clubs of Australia.

(K. OLIVER)

BITS AND PIECES

Heard during a TV programme on the problems of waste disposal as a suggested solution to the problem of the ever growing mound of discarded car tyres at Houston, TEXAS - "Dump them in a cave in KENTUCKY" - Fortunately the idea was not taken seriously.

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Extract from LONDON TIMES of 14 Sep 70 - "BOY FALLS 80FT DOWN POTHOLE. John Mellor, aged 16, of Southside Middridge, Shildon, Durham escaped with slight injuries when he fell 80 ft down a pothole on Casterton Fell, near Kirkley Lonsdale, Westmorland, yesterday. He landed in three feet of water. Seven other members of the Bishop Auckland Caving Club brought him to the surface."

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A good caving team became permanent on 19 Dec 70 when Trudy Brandenberg and Noel Patrick were married in Canberra. The wedding was attended by a number of their caving friends. We all wish them much happiness and plenty of caving in the future.

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We had an unexpected visit from Frank Crome in August. He flew down from Mareeba to Canberra to take delivery of a CSIRO landrover which he had to drive back. Good to see him and his slides of our Colong trip earlier in the year. We all envied him the landrover - just the thing for Cooleman Plains.

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Hard luck story. After being freely accessible to all comers for thousands (?) of years the Cotter (Paddys River) Caves were closed by the Dept of the Interior on 28 Sep 70 - Just in time to interrupt a survey which was commenced by our Canberra section (plus Ken Keck and Keith Oliver) on 26 Sep 70. Needless to say the map is still not finished.

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Like to see your name in print? Its easy - just send along a few contributions to the next issue of CALCITE - now in preparation.

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IF there is a Fast Way Down —You'll FIND IT.
RICK


GOTTA MATCH ROY?
RICK


THIS CAVE IS FULL OF LITTLE MUD PUDDLES YOU CAN WALK THRO
RICK


PRESIDENT H.C.
SEC H.C.
NOTE
EXTRACT FROM TRIP REPORT "THE NEW HELMET HAS BEEN TESTED AND FOUND SATISFACTORY
RICK

OLDHAM MINERS CAP LAMPS
RECHARGING AND MAINTENANCE

Many club members now possess Oldham Miners Cap Lamps. These lamps are ruggedly constructed and are fully waterproof so they are an ideal light for caving purposes. However to get the best use out of your lamp proper care and maintenance is essential. The following notes provide guidance for the proper care of your equipment.

Description

The lamps consist of a two cell "lead acid" battery of approximately 12 amp/hrs at 4 volts. The supply is used to feed the main bulb at 1 amp or a smaller pilot bulb at .46 amp. With the battery in good condition and fully charged the main bulb should give continuous reliable operation for at least 12 hours. The smaller bulb will last more than double that time.

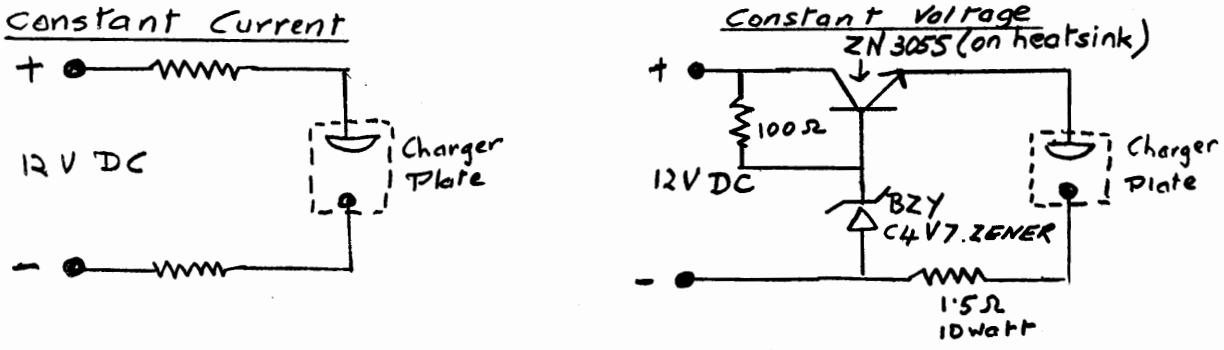
Charging

As with all lead acid batteries there are two main methods of charging. They are:

Constant Current. This consists of a charging current of predetermined value (1 amp maximum in the case of a miner's lamp) being applied to the battery until its amp/hr capacity is reached (Note - amp/hr is a charge or discharge rate of a certain amperage for a certain time eg. 1 amp for 12 hours = 12 amp/hrs). However, due to certain losses which occur in re-charging of any lead acid battery extra time has to be allowed. In a miners lamp this is 20% extra eg. a lamp discharged for 10 hrs would require to be re-charged for 12 hours.

Constant Potential. Is when a constant voltage (4.9 to 5v in the case of a miners lamp) is applied across the battery. The battery will only draw current as long as the battery voltage is below the charging voltage. When the two voltages equalize the battery takes no more current and "floats" on the supply. This system is ideal as it keeps the battery fully charged between caving trips.

The diagrams below illustrate the two methods of charging:



Maintenance

Other maintenance necessary to keep the battery in good order consists of topping up with distilled water at intervals not exceeding 75 hours operation. This is done by unscrewing the filler plug, tilting the battery 10% with the filler hole forward and topping up each cell to the level of the bottom of its filler hole. Care should be taken not to over fill.

A lamp must never be stored in a discharged condition as this will seriously shorten its useful life. If the battery is not in use it should be discharged and re-charged at regular intervals (every 1 to 2 weeks).

If these simple rules are followed your miners lamp should give you many hours of reliable light over a number of years.

(Noel Patrick)

Reference: Oldham - Charging and Maintenance of Electric Cap Lamps.

SECRETARYS REPORT - 1970

During the last year letters have been sent to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Kosciusko State Park and to several property owners requesting permission to enter the parks or properties concerned for caving activities. It is gratifying to report that not one request met with a refusal. At the moment we are attempting to gain authority for access to other properties containing unworked limestone areas and hope that this will also be successful.

(K. Oliver)

More Caves - International Co-operation

By invitation from Game News - an American magazine-following an article on caves in Pennsylvania a letter was sent to the National Speleological Society suggesting a swap, on a one for one basis, of slides and information. This was accepted and we are now in the process of arranging the first 60 odd slides for exchange.

Lets hope it won't be long before we can show interested members some slides of caves in the U.S.A.

EXTRACT FROM GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE VOL XL NO 8 DEC 67

NIAH CAVES OF BORNEO

by Nigel Cameron

In the jungle of Sarawak is a vast complex of caves seldom visited except by local birdsnesters and guano collectors.

Borneo, the world's third largest island, is a jungle. Even its high mountains are jungled over their crowns. Dropped into the country, it would be impossible to tell whether you were in Sarawak, Brunei, Sabah, or Indonesian Kilimantan, for these are political divisions with little geographical meaning.

Distant Hazy Mountains

The boats shuttling between Singapore and the Malaysian segments of Borneo - Sarawak and Sabah - sail coastwise after a call at Pending near Kuching. Between Santubong's sugar-loaf peak at the mouth of the river and Miri, 290 miles to the east, the land is almost flat, relieved by distant hazy mountains. The coast is edged with mangrove and nippah palm, the seabed shelving down so gently that at Miri boats anchor two miles off. Launches come out to ferry cargo and passengers ashore.

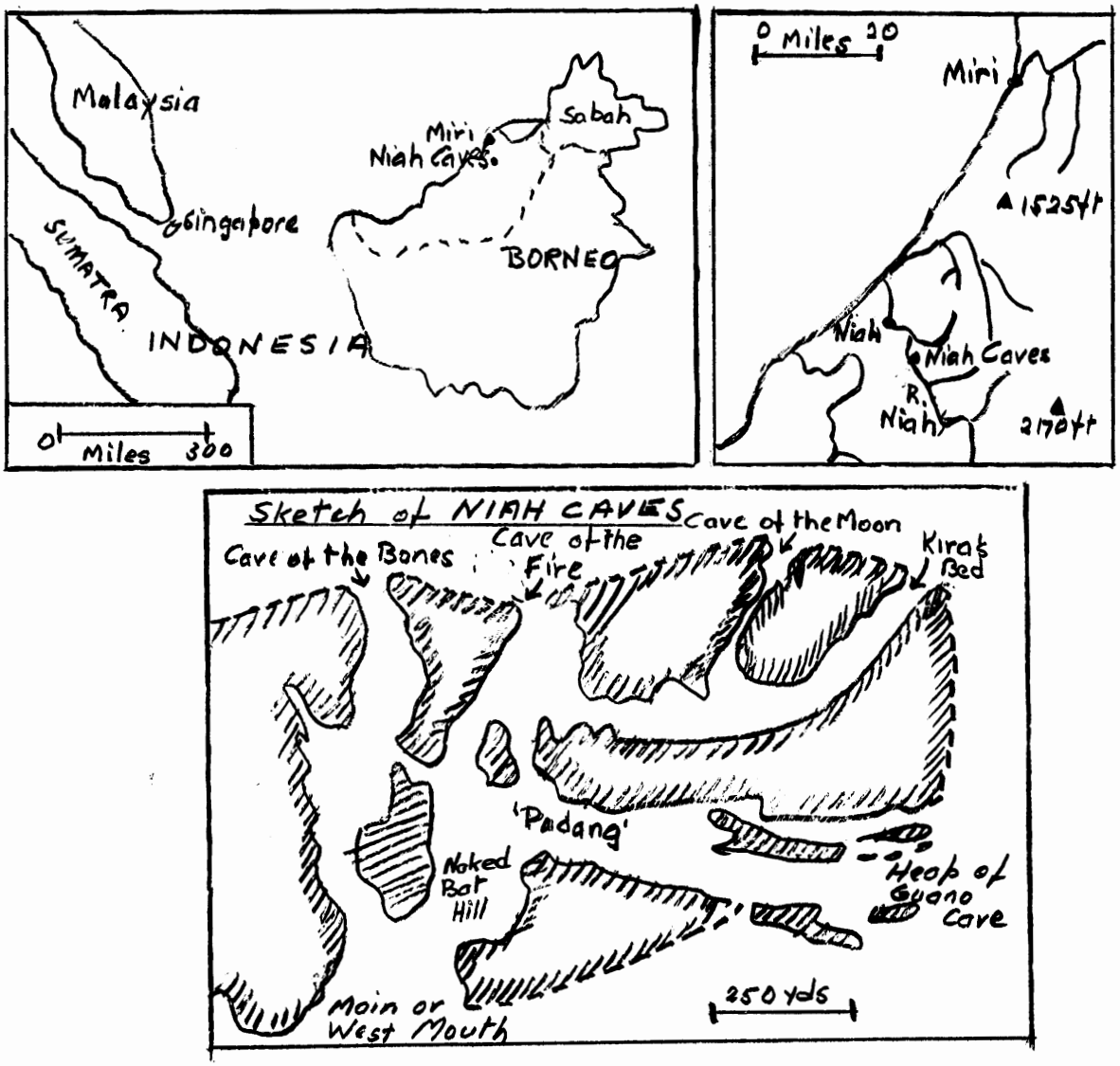
The small Miri River, like all others on this northern coast, is guarded by a shifting bar covered at low tide by a mere foot of water, and at high tide by perhaps half a fathom.

Ashore in Sarawak

Tying up at Miri wharf you are surrounded by the life of the little town - sugar and guano in sacks, a casual Customs shed, a street of Chinese shophouses behind it in the hubbub of commerce, and the pungent smell of Chinese dried vegetables.

Once you are ashore in Sarawak, communications in the modern sense hardly exist. To reach the Niah River, a mere fifty miles east along the coast from Miri, either you take a bicycle and pedal laboriously along the shore where beaches stretch all the way (not recommended except for adventure) or you board a Chinese coastal launch which looks as though it might have been familiar to Maugham and possibly quite new in the time of Conrad.

Four hours later, after two more navigational dramas crossing the Miri and the Niah River bars and with luck still in possession of propeller and rudder, the launch ties up at a raft of decaying logs. Here, at Niah, with luck again, a long slim perahu, grossly overpowered by an outboard engine, takes you



skimming and shuddering on wings of spray between the green walls of the jungle, forty minutes or so upriver to Pengkalan Lobang Niah Caves (Quay for the Mouth of the Niah Caves).

At Miri, time seems to have gone back to Conrad, but in this jungle between the river and the caves, enclosed in the floral and faunal warfare of primary forest, the feeling is of some remote pocket of the past magically persisting in the now faraway world of the present.

It is an arduous hour's tramp to the caves, partly on plankwalk in stretches liable to flooding form the little Subis River that winds round the foot of the Niah outcrop.

A sharp clamber from the cicada hiss and the echoing birdsong of the jungle with its parasite encrusted trees, and the first cave is reached.

Here in the dim interior are the roofless huts the birdsnesters inhabit in the season of collecting. Here under the slope of the long roof with its contorted stalactites, the algae of striking greens and the ferns of the floor which turn like a regiment to face their commander the sun, glow with the coming of afternoon and the reflected sunlight.

Mouth of the Great Cave

Through this cave and out along the face of the outcrop the West Mouth of the Great Cave suddenly yawns like the jaws of an enormous shark, toothed with stalactites, its throat diving back into deep, bat-smelling gloom. Here the jungle sounds give way to the high-pitched screaming of swiftlets and bats whose cries and whose echo-sounding clicks, as they wheel in and out of the cave continue all day and all night long.

Between six-thirty and seven o'clock in the evening perhaps about a million swiftlets flood into the cave from their day of insect-hunting over the treetops. At the same time the huge naked bats raise an ominous, heavy flutter of sound as they congregate ever nearer to the mouth while the light falls. Then, punctually at a quarter to seven, they emerge in single file along a given path under the cave-roof and fly straight and swift into the night sky.

Inside the upper lip of the cave-mouth the limestone is white, shading as the dome arches more than 200 feet above the floor to greens and textured blacks. Farther in, over a floor of earth that becomes moist purple guano as you come under the nesting areas, the two throats of the cave, separated by a massive stone wall, recede into darkness loud with birds.

Mounds of guano rise precipitously, the product of millions of years of bat and swiftlet droppings. Their surface is alive with guano-flies. On one mound, called Naked Bat Hill from the colony of this species of oily-skinned and hairless bats living in the roof above it, you can catch your breath a moment and look back towards the glare of light in the cave mouth, pencilled with verticals that are the tiang or wooden poles used by the birdsnesters.

Up those 200 foot poles suspended from crevices in the roof, the men, who are racially a mixture of Malay, Punan, Iban and Melano people, climb with surprising speed. Once up in the galleries of the roof, they pull their poles up after them, each pole equipped with a scraper for dislodging nests of

the three species of swiftlet (Collocalia). These are the edible birdsnests beloved of the Chinese.

In Niah there are three grades of nest, ranging from a whitish type to one of dark grey. But all the Niah nests are mixed with feathers and much work has to be done down-river before the dried saliva of which they are composed can be separated from the unwanted feathers.

Torch beams, when you switch on to go deeper into the caves, lose themselves in the vast dark spaces, and you climb and slither up and down, an apparently bottomless pit on one hand from whose depths shines a single yellow pinpoint light, and from which echoes up a melancholy song.

Down there is a guano digger with his bottlelamp, digging in the ancient droppings of those millions of birds, filling his sack. Later, he will struggle up into the light of the mouth, staggering under more than 200 lbs of wet, stinking guano, and jog-trot the four miles or so through the jungle to the Niah River.

There he will paddle up or down river with his cargo, to sell it to some Iban longhouse whose pepper vines flourish on this natural manure. Or he may be a member of the local co-operative of guano workers whose product is sent by boat to Miri and sold in bulk.

It is an arduous, in some ways loathsome, way of making a living, and artificial fertilizer is now coming into use. But guano has the advantage that it does not clog the soil round the roots, and many farmers prefer it.

A few more years and the guano-man will have vanished. It will not be anything to lament, for though they are a cheerful crowd, the work is hardly consonant with a rapidly developing Malaysia which is now taking a close look at the 20th century.

Ten minutes hard scramble into the cave from Naked Bat Hill, and the light brightens and a vast cavern gapes beyond fragmented curtains of rock. The padang as it is called, is at least 200 feet high, its floor littered with huge broken boulders, its jagged walls polychromed with moulds soaring up to a couple of rifts in the ceiling where, in mid-morning, the sun pours down in shafts of arc-light blue.

Thousands of swiftlets whirl twittering, water falls in dotted lines as if in slow motion from the great heights to the pock-marked floor. It is the favourite place of the white snakes Sometimes one of them appears, worming its way up a rock face,

using every tiny dent and cranny to get a purchase.

Sometimes, too, a pinpoint of light appears in a hole a hundred feet up the wall, where some guano-sweeper is collecting fresh droppings, or where a birdsnester is edging about on cats-cradles of laced bamboo to reach a swiftlet nest.

Stumbling in the Dark

The padang is perhaps the most spectacular part of the caves - a set for an Inferno, or some epic on a remote planet.

From it you can explore much farther. There are five other mouths to the cave, four of them opening to the east of the formation. An hour's stumbling progress in total dark through tunnels still, even so far from the daylight, crowded with birds on their nests, the home of the robber snakes which live on the birds, the home of scorpions scuttling between the rocks, of the blind cicada-like insect three inches long with antennae of over a foot, brings you to one or other mouth high up on the eastern cliff.

The view across the treetops in the valley is of another outcrop jungled over its summit. Forty minutes' wading through the swamp, assisted by felled logs here and there, and an exhausting climb up a cliff in the outcrop, reveals suddenly the mouth of Kain Hitam (the Black Cloth cave - so called because its owner is reputed to have sold it for a length of such material), known as the Painted Cave.

To reach it is a tremendous relief - a relief from physical exertion, from the incessant insensate screech of birds. For Kain Hitam is silent. The cave is light from end to end, and bats and swiftlets live only in dark or semi-dark, finding their way by that avian echo-sounding clicking in a manner which still defies complete explanation.

Strange and Primitive Rites

The silent cave has brilliant green walls sculpted like the stygian passages from which you have not long emerged, by prehistoric currents in a pre-historic sea. The ceiling is white and almost flat. Through the breadth of the limestone rock the cave pierces, its floor diving downwards to the farther mouth - to a sort of beach on which lie a few lost and pathetic little boats of wood. The 'boats of the dead', ossuaries of perhaps a thousand years ago, rest where they were abandoned in the cathedral of strange and primitive rites.

Under this formation the river runs through a subterranean channel, and perhaps ran there in the time of early man.

giving him (it is conjecture, but possible) the idea that the bones of his dead should pass the underworld river in the familiar safety of a perahu.

Elsewhere on a dry wall of Kain Hitam are the paintings of the same people - significantly of boats crammed with people, of strange figures captured with their arms in the air as if drowning and crying 'Help!', of a pair of fighting cocks (cock fighting is today the popular sport of Borneo), of stylized scorpions.

Curtained off by jungle green, the light filtered green and gold and yellow through the trees at either mouth, its green algae and white ceiling glowing in the genial light, the Painted Cave must be one of the most ravishing natural beauties of all sough-east Asia. There is a great silence and peace there.

ANCIENT CAVERS

More than 700 years ago the Cliff Dwellers of Mesa Verda, Colorado, U.S.A. lived in caves - although not known as cave dwellers they were cavers nevertheless.

The Anasozi Indian knew the game very well as among the skeletons found so far none have shown broken legs or other injuries from falls.

In the Alcoves on sheer rock faces accessable only by ladder and/or foot holds cut in the rock in many instances, rooms - known as the Mesa Verda cave Pueblos were constructed to accommodate up to 400 people.

These people were very skilled in pottery - Textiles and stone work. The clay used in the stone work and pottery was carried some miles to the building site and stored as patties and kept damp till required, Prefabrication at its earliest form. Nat Geog. Feb. 1964. Vol. 125-No 2.

A QUESTION OF SAFETY

ILL-EFFECTS OF HEAT AND COLD

Although cavers in Australia are seldom exposed to extremes in heat and cold the nature of their activities is such that a knowledge of the ill-effects of heat and cold is essential. We could all meet these problems on some occasions, for example walking out of Colong on a hot summer day or on Cooleman plains during a sudden storm in autumn.

The following notes will assist us to recognize these ill-effects and to take the necessary remedial action.

General

For man to survive and remain efficient it is essential that he should maintain his body temperature relatively constant independently of the outside environment.

The body's main source of natural heat is derived from muscular work and other physiological processes. This helps the body to keep warm in cool climates where the main problem is that of heat conservation.

In hot climates, however, the problem is one of getting rid of surplus heat, of keeping cool. Even air breathed into the lungs may be hotter than that breathed out. Heat loss in these circumstances depends upon evaporation of sweat from the skin. Sweat is mostly water, therefore the maintenance of an adequate water intake is the most important precaution against the ill-effects of heat.

Heat Stroke

This is a very serious illness. There may be some warning signs and symptoms of an incipient attack-headache, irritability and restlessness. Or the onset may be extremely sudden; one moment the man appears quite normal and 15 minutes later he may be deeply unconscious with a body temperature of nearly 110° F. Consciousness is lost when the body temperature exceeds 106° F; the face is congested, the skin hot and dry and the breathing fast, laboured and noisy.

First Aid for Heat-stroke

This is an emergency situation-a matter of life and death. The heat-stroke casualty is unlikely to recover if he is unconscious for more than 1½ hours. The casualty must be cooled as rapidly as possible, and the simplest effective way of doing this is to imitate the action of sweat by wetting the skin and assisting evaporation. He should be stripped of all his clothes, his skin kept wet with gently sprinkled water and fanned vigorously. Ice must NOT be placed on the skin as this causes constriction of blood vessels which interferes with heat loss.

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Cooling should be continued until the body temperature has dropped to 101° to 102° F. If no clinical thermometer is available, the condition of the casualty must be the guide-he may complain of feeling cold or even start to shiver. When this stage has been reached, natural sweating is encouraged by wrapping the patient in a blanket. When conscious he should be given sips of salted water to drink. All such cases require the attentions of a doctor as a matter of urgency, and need evacuation to hospital as quickly as possible; they require careful observation because relapses after apparent recovery are common.

Heat Exhaustion

There are several different kinds of heat exhaustion, all of them insidious in onset. There is a gradual onset with weakness, lassitude, headache and giddiness. Appetite is lost and there may be nausea and vomiting. The skin is usually moist. There may be muscle cramps. The body temperature is seldom more than 101° F and may be normal or even below normal. The casualty is usually conscious and unco-operative; he may be mentally confused.

First Aid for Heat Exhaustion

Rest in the shade combined with cool salted drinks produces a rapid improvement in the majority of cases. However, some heat exhaustion casualties become seriously ill despite first aid treatment, and others tend to relapse after apparent improvement. Therefore, all cases should be seen by a dcotor as soon as possible.

Exposure

Exposure - technically known as hypothermia - is usually brought on by a combination of rain, cold, lack of food and weariness. It occurs when the body temperature drops below normal as a result of wearing clothing inadequate for wet, cold and windy conditions. It is not easy to recognize - the victim is exhausted, lags behind, stumbles, is reluctant to carry on and not "with it" mentally. He may be difficult to reason with.

First Aid for Exposure

The first precaution is to shelter him from the wind immediately. Drop off a ridge to the lee side and look for shelter in tussock, scrub, bush, or behind rocks.

It is necessary for him to put on extra clothing and have something to eat and drink.

Recovery can be swift but, if it has not occurred within 15 minutes or if the victim has collapsed, he will be past warming himself.

You must treat him on the spot because he may collapse and die if you try to assist him to the shelter of a hut.

If practicable, change him into dry clothing. Put him in a sleeping bag and have a strong member of the party get in with him. And/or have two fit people, both in their sleeping bags, lie close alongside him.

This is the only safe method because excessive external heat such as a fire can kill him.

Alcohol must not be given.

The patient should not be moved (especially by his own efforts) until fully recovered or only after medical advice.

Meanwhile, watch the rest of the party. Make camp immediately where you can get the most shelter.

How to Avoid Exposure

These simple rules can save your life:

(1) Whatever the length of the trip, prepare for it carefully. Take heed of weather forecasts. Take a parka on every trip into the hills-even for a day or half-day walk.

(2) For excursions on the open tops, add long trousers, gloves and a balaclava to your "must pack" list. Wear woollen clothing; wet wool is warmer than wet cotton.

(3) Have a good meal before setting out and frequent snacks during the day.

(4) Plan the day to reach your destination with time to spare before nightfall. If the weather deteriorates, turn back or take a safe alternative route which will provide all-important shelter.

(5) Remember that there is always a chance of having to spend the night in the open and that a sleeping bag cover, survival sheet or plastic tube can then save your life.

(6) For safety, four is the minimum number for a party. Remember, one man cannot recognise hypothermia in himself. A two-man party is too weak to help itself in a dangerous situation. If four are in the party, one can stay with a sick man while two go for help. Never travel alone.

(W. PATRICK)

COLONG CAVES

The Colong caves are situated about 180 road miles from Sydney in the Kanangra - Boyd National Park. Also in the same area, are the Billy's Creek caves (2 miles away) and the Church Creek caves (4 miles away). The limestone at Colong is of Silurian age and the outcrop is about 5 miles long and ½ mile wide. (ref. Trickett's report to the Dept. of Mines 1889).

The caves were found by Lannigan about 1880, and for some time the following three caves were known, the Key Cave, Lannigan's Cave and Onslow Cave.

a. The Key Cave.

At the time of Trickett's report to the Department of Mines (1889), the Key Cave had two entrances, one being 60', and the other 100' above the creek. One of these entrances was 3' wide and 4' high. The dimensions of the cave being approximately 100' deep by 200' wide and reaching a height of 70'. (ref. Trickett's report.).

In the years since, one wall has collapsed, thus becoming the main arch. Both entrances can still be seen, but with a short climb, it is easier to enter the arch, above one of the entrances.

b. Lannigan's Cave.

This high level entrance is situated about 60' above and to the left of the Key Cave or Arch. The passage is mainly a solution tube with little decoration until King Solomons Temple is reached. In the early days of Colong, (it was Trickett who named the system) Lannigan's cave consisted of the Lizard cave, King Solomons Temple, King's Cross, and the Terraces. (In Trickett's report 1889, he refers to the terraces as pools with white marble walls). Also it was not until recent years, that the Mother and Child was named. The length of the cave was about 600'.

c. The Onslow Cave.

Entry is made to this cave by either of two entrances at the right hand bottom of the Arch. These two entrances join about 40' from daylight and lead through about 400' of passage (which is still well decorated, despite heavy vandalism), to finish up at a small hole. In later years, this hole was pushed, and the cave continued, to finish finally in King's Cross. The small hole then became known as the Harvey-Smith squeeze. In this passage, are numerous links with the underground stream, which even until now, have not yet been fully explored, thus indicating that there is still more cave to be found at Colong.

/2.

There is also a large maze in the Onslow cave from which many an exploration party has had a difficult time locating the main passage from which they had strayed.

Other caves in the immediate area are the Coral and Red caves. The exact locations of these two caves are not now known, but a few reports seem to make them worthy of a visit.

In recent trips to Colong, it is interesting to note that there seems to be a great deal of confusion concerning the location of some of the features and the distances, and chambers of this large system. Below is a list of but a few of these misconceptions:

1. The Lizard cave is shown as a branch of the Onslow cave (ref. Map by Corranbong Speleological Society), whereas in actual fact, it is a passage running off Lannigan's cave, starting immediately behind the Mother and Child formation.

2. The A.S.F. Handbook states that the cave is about 600', but the true length is in excess of 4000'.. (ref Goolwa Conference Papers 1968).

3. The squeeze over the gate on the way to the cleft is called the Maralyn Monroe sequeeze, but the Maralyn Monroe was a stalagmite about 4' high, in the centre of a narrow passage leading away from a difficult cleft. The stalagmite has since been broken. (ref E. Crabb.).

4. The Wallaby Skeleton shown on the C.S.S. map is between 60' - 80' further north.

5. There have been reports of a true and false Woof's cavern, a Bell chamber, and the visitors book being situated in the false Woof's. It was proven on the 18-19 May 1970 by the Highland Caving Group, that all three chambers are one. The visitors book is situated in the first and upper level of Woof's and through at least four large openings (one being a 30'-40' drop), access is easily made into the larger section. The latter part of Woof's has also been called the Bell chamber. It receives this name because of the large bell-like flowstone formation which is easily seen as entry is made into the chamber. (ref. E. Crabb.).

6. There was once a very tight squeeze which was later enlarged to gain easy access from Lannigan's cave to King Solomons Temple. (ref. Original map of Colong dated around 1942).

7. It has been proven, that existing maps of Colong are both inadequate and inaccurate. A new map of this cave is badly needed for future speleological studies.

Conclusion.

The Colong cave is one of the largest in New South Wales, and one of the most interesting. Although a rugged 2 mile hike is required to reach the caves, speleologists, scouts, bush-walkers, and others have visited them. The result is a terrible amount of vandalism.

Although the first sections of the cave have suffered greatly, the inner sections provide some very good decoration. It is up to all speleological societies to try to preserve these and other caves from senseless destruction by vandals on a small and large scale.

The Colong caves are in danger of being mined in the not too distant future, as mining leases have been granted for the removal of Mt. Armour, which contain the Church Creek caves. Every speleologist, caver, and conservationist should do something to try and save this unique area from the claws of progress to ensure that some areas of recreation are left for our future generations.

(K. Oliver)

Public Notice in the "Canberra Times" - late 1970:

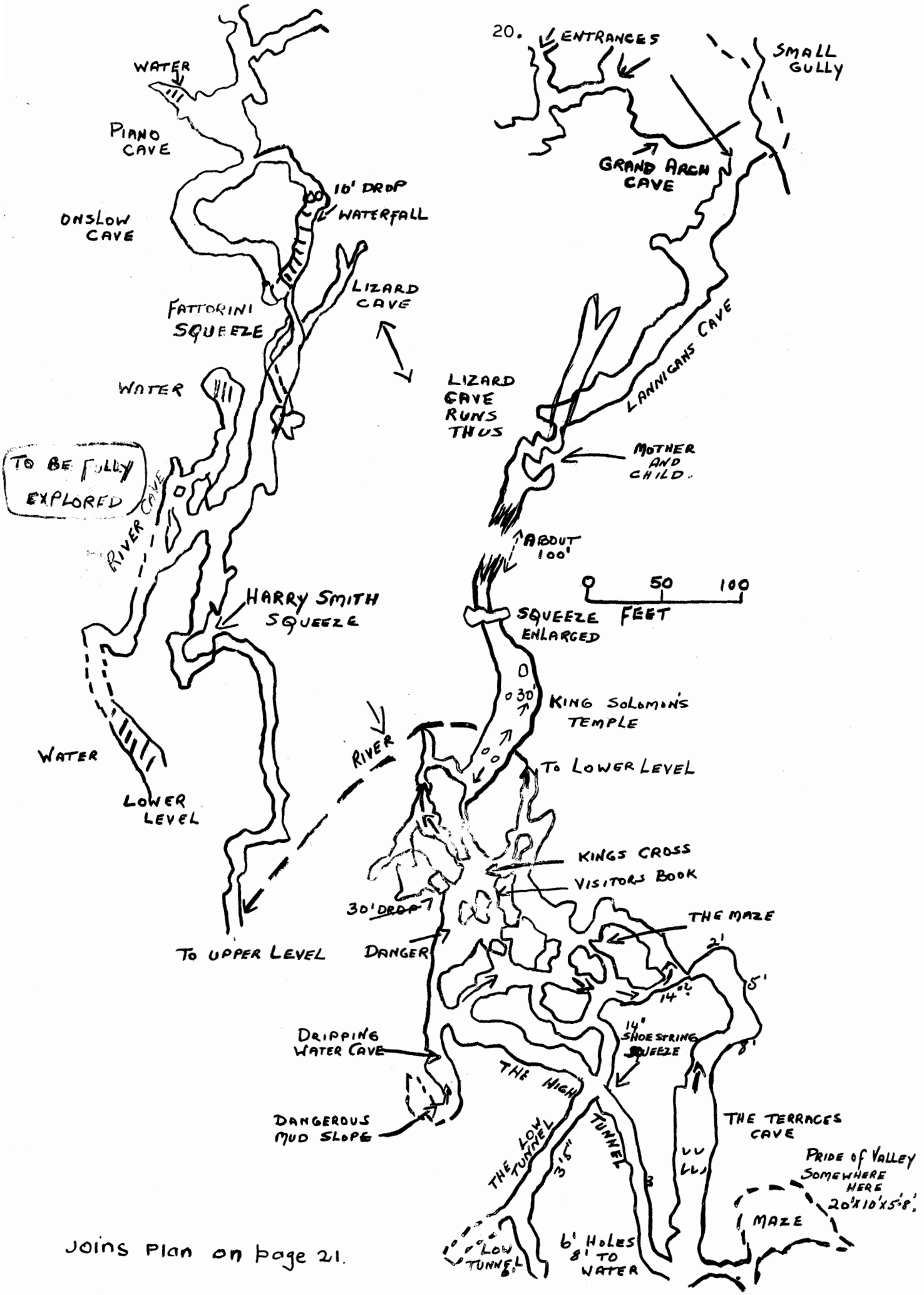
HAVE YOU SEEN

CAREY'S CAVE AT WEE JASPER

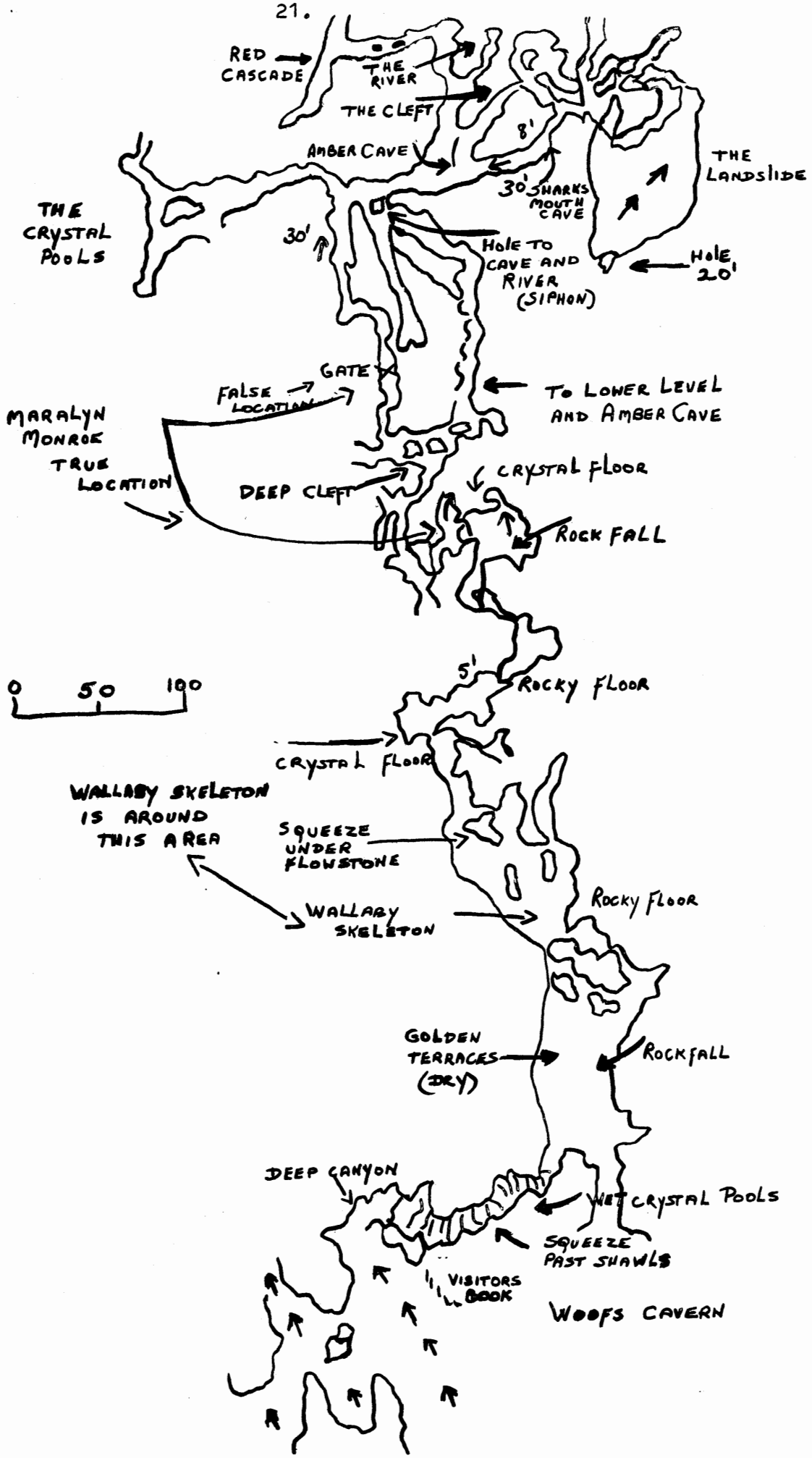
Why not enjoy the magnificent limestone formations to be seen in this cave by taking a trip to Wee Jasper during the coming holiday period? Guided inspections commence at 1pm on Sundays and public holidays (except Christmas Day) but tours at any other time can be arranged by appointment with the Cave Guide. phone Cavan 50 or Wee Jasper 7. Admission charges 70c adults, 30c school children under 16. Inspections other than on regular days are subject to a minimum charge of $7 per party.

Make up a party and see the wonders of this limestone cave located in the picturesque Wee Jasper Valley. Direction signs at Wee Jasper village will guide you to the cave and you only have to walk 50 yards from your car to the entrance.

This cave was developed by the Goodradigbee Shire Council as a tourist attraction and it is becoming a must for tourists visiting Canberra and surrounding districts.



Joins Plan on page 21.


RED CASCADE
THE RIVER
THE CLEFT
8'
AMBER CAVE
THE LANDSLIDE
30' SHARKS MOUTH CAVE
THE CRYSTAL POOLS
30'
HOLE TO CAVE AND RIVER (SIPHON)
HOLE 20'
GATE
FALSE LOCATION
TO LOWER LEVEL AND AMBER CAVE
MARALYN MONROE TRUE LOCATION
DEEP CLEFT
CRYSTAL FLOOR
ROCK FALL
0 50 100
5'
ROCKY FLOOR
CRYSTAL FLOOR
WALLABY SKELETON IS AROUND THIS AREA
SQUEEZE UNDER FLOWSTONE
ROCKY FLOOR
WALLABY SKELETON
GOLDEN TERRACES (DRY)
ROCKFALL
DEEP CANYON
WET CRYSTAL POOLS
SQUEEZE PAST SHAWLS
VISITORS BOOK
WOOFS CAVERN

TRIP REPORTS

This period - Jul - Dec 70 - was another very active one for the Group making 1970 a most enjoyable caving year for all. Unfortunately trip reports on all activities are not available for publication.

WEE JASPER 7-9 AUG 70

Present: K. Oliver (Trip Leader), K. Ward, P. Connolly Prospective Members; D. Hample, L. McGuire & M. Rowney. Guests K. Kech and 9 Scouts.

This trip was originally to be a photographic trip but due to unavailability of members and an approach by some Sydney scouts it became an instructional trip to introduce the scouts and our prospective members to caving.

After some minor car troubles the group reached Wee Jasper on Friday night and set up camp at our usual spot near Dogleg Creek, which was found to be frozen over when we got up the next morning.

Our first activity was ladder practice which was carried out with the ladder suspended from a tree. After everyone was judged to be sufficiently familiar with ladder techniques the party split into two groups - one led by Keith Oliver and the other by Ken Keck and proceeded to visit the Dip and Punchbowl. Some interesting caving was carried out and the new comers were given guidance in the various techniques. On Saturday night a further visit to the Dip was made for those who had been in the Punchbowl earlier. On Sunday the Signature and Dogleg caves were visited. In all it was a successful training trip with the prospective members and scouts getting instruction in traversing, crawling, ladder climbing and belaying.

Unfortunately the return home was marred for our trip leader when his car developed serious big end bearing trouble at Gunning (it must be a jinx). This made it necessary to leave the car and return for it the following weekend.

(K. Oliver)

COLONG 21-23 AUG 70

Members Present: L. Maguire, K. Oliver (Trip Leader), K. Ward and E. Wright.

Object of the trip, was to commence mapping of the Colong system.

With all members having gathered at Emu Plains, a start was made about 7.30 on the Friday night and all arrived at Batsh Camp by 11.45 on the same night. After some debating, it was decided to camp at Batsh and move down to the caves in daylight. By 8.00a.m. the group was preparing to move off, and by 10.30 camp was being set up at the base of the arch.

Having had lunch, we commenced the mapping, starting from the lower entrance of the Onslow Cave. The only difficulties encountered were the Fattorini and Harvey-Smith squeezes. It was decided before entering the cave, that we would only map the main passage, so we took straight line traverses from the entrance to the visitors book in Kings Cross. A distance of 1062'. As the tape was being wound in, following the traverse to the visitors book, the tape snapped, due to someone on a previous trip accidentally stepping on it and fracturing it. Sections of this passage were explored for future mapping, and the river passage near the maze checked out, with two of the party entering the water but being stopped by the coldness.

The party left the cave about 6.00 pm and after reaching camp, it was found that two of the group had left their rucksacks open, and that the Phantom Possum had struck again. This brought one person to his knees crying and cursing as he had lost seven Battered Rissoles.

After tea, the party headed back into the cave to go to Woofs Cavern, and it was noticed that the main passage was a lot drier than it normally is. Upon checking the river sections, it was noticed that no significant change has taken place. This could be due to the current dry spell. Other dry sections include the deep rimstone pools on the last section into Woofs. (These were completely dry) On the other hand, the lower section of Woofs, like the river sections, seemed to have the same amount of water as usual.

The party again reached the surface about 2.30 a.m. with our unhappy member still mumbling about his seven battered rissoles.

Camp was broken around 12.00 and by 2.30 we were on our way home.

(K. Olvier)

COTTER (PADDYS RIVER) CAVES

These caves are situated about 14 miles from Canberra, in a small outcrop of limestone just upstream from the junction of Paddys River and the Cotter River. There are three accessible caves in all but none are very extensive. They were visited twice by members of the group as follows:

Sunday 13 Sep 70

Present: Bess Patrick, Trudy Brandenberg, Noel Patrick, Bill Patrick, Chris Sullivan, Brian Patrick and Roy Grinham.

The aim of the trip was to test the RDF equipment which was now in working order.

The weather was decidely inclement and the walk from the cars to the caves was made in steady rain. On arrival at the caves it was found that the largest one was full of smoke from a fire apparently lit the previous night. Although the air was barely breathable the fire was extinguished and the RDF transmitter installed in the cave. It was found that the signal was received loud and clear on the hill above the cave but due to lack of knowledge of operating procedures the test could not be carried any further. It was a case forfurther study of the instructions.

Before leaving the area we all had a look at the caves and gave a group of 4 young people a quick cave tour which was greatly appreciated.

Saturday 26 Sep 70

Present: Bess Patrick, Trudy Brandenberg, Roy Grinham, Ken Keck, Keith Oliver, Noel Patrick, Bill Patrick.

The aim of this visit was to survey the largest of the three caves. Our instruments consisted of a prismatic compass, optical level and nylon tape.

Good progress was made for several hours much to the astonishment of numerous visitors who entered the cave throughout the afternoon. With the survey all but completed we decided to close operations and return the next day. Unfortunately Sunday 27 Sep dawned wet and miserable and it was unanimously agreed that we would not go to the Cotter but could finish the survey at our convenience in better weather. Unfortunately the next day the Dept of the Interior put locks on the gates and closed the caves to the public. Our survey is still unfinished because of difficulties encountered in getting our group and the Ranger to the cave at the same time. It was hoped that our plan (which is almost completed) could be included in this issue of CALCITE but as it lacks certain important details this could not be done.

(W. Patrick)

WEE JASPER Nov 13-14-15

Members Present: K. Oliver (Trip Leader), E. Crabb, L. Bennett, T. Hele, D Hemple, W. Patrick, B. Patrick, R. Grinham, T. Brandenberg, N. Patrick and 7 members Sydney Teachers College Caving Club(S.T.C.C.C.)

The object of the trip was photography in Punchbowl and Dip Caves.

With all persons present, an early start was made and after seeing between 30-40 people heading for the Punchbowl we decided to go to the Dip. The group was divided into two lots, with Ev Crabb taking most of the STCCC members into No 4 extension, while the second group led by Keith Oliver entered the No 4 series of the Dip via the 65 foot pitch. The party then proceeded to the far end of Series 5 taking multiple flash photographs along the way. Series 3 and 4 were also visited for the purpose of photography.

Three members decided to leave the cave early via the 65' ladder pitch, whilst the others used the rathole/rubbish tip exit.

After lunch 7 members entered the Dog Leg cave which was flooded and about 1½ hours later emerged soaked to the skin. Later that night a group of six went into the Punchbowl for the purpose of finding a starting point for the proposed "cave rescue". It was originally planned for Wyanbene, weather permitting, otherwise it would take place in the Punchbowl. The group emerged at 4 a.m. Five hours later another group entered the Punchbowl to try and photograph the size and formation in the Far Chamber, Ballroom and Pitch Chamber. For this purpose one large and three small electronic flash guns were used. After using all the film, the party made their way back to camp, packed up, then headed for home.

(K. Oliver)

WEE JASPER 27-28-29 NOV 70
RESCUE PRACTICE

Organizer: Barry McWilliams - BMSC

Present: 8 HCG, 9 BMSC, 8 STCCC, 1 MSS.

Victims: K. Oliver, HCG and G Bruce, STCCC.

The object of the trip was to carry out a practice rescue of a casualty from the Crystal Pool region of the Punchbowl. It was originally planned to hold the exercise at Wyanbene but due to bad weather it was transferred to Wee Jasper.

In the interests of realism each group on arrival at Wee Jasper set up camp and bedded down as usual. The two victims entered the cave at 4 a.m. on 28 Nov (Saturday) and reached the Crystal Pools about 40 minutes later. Alarm was given at about 5 a.m. and the rescue organization went into operation.

It was decided to organize the party into parties of 4 to enter the cave at different times so that regular relief of tired parties could take place.

The first party entered the cave soon after 5 a.m. and after rigging the pitch and lowering essential equipment including a stretcher, first aid kit and ropes, slings etc, located the victims at about 6.20 a.m. It was found that both the victims regardless of their imaginary injuries were really feeling the cold although they had worn extra clothing.

As part of the exercise it was found that one victim was suffering from exposure and shock and the other had a broken knee, broken hip and concussion. First aid was applied, including splints etc for the broken bones and attempts were made to warm the victims by use of clothing donated by the rescuers.

As soon as all was ready an immediate start was made to move the victims out of the cave. The first problems were encountered immediately as it was impossible to use the stretcher in the Crystal Pool Area and the injured victim had to be passed from hand to hand through the squeeze and up the sloping tunnel to the Laundry Chute. It was here that the size of the party first proved to be inadequate as it was most difficult to move the patient with two pulling on a rope fastened around his shoulders with two others pushing and easing him along the constricted passage.

Although all possible care was taken it is almost certain that a real patient would have suffered considerable pain during this operation.

On arrival at the top of the Laundry Chute the casualty was lashed to the stretcher and made more comfortable. At that stage the second party arrived to take over. As four in a group had proved inadequate and some difficult sections lay ahead the first party remained with the casualty and arrangements were made for the shocked victim to be taken out.

Although still difficult, good progress was made down the Slippery Dips and into the Loxin Chamber because of the more open nature of the cave and the increased size of the party.

At the entrance to the Strawberry Shortcut the third party relieved the first, which, as part of the exercise, went to have a meal and a rest in the cave using equipment brought in earlier by another party. The patient was also given a light meal at this stage.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the patient into the Strawberry Shortcut and it eventually proved necessary to remove him from the stretcher and manhandle him over the legs of rescuers. After this obstacle was negotiated the carry through the Mezzanine to the Far Chamber and into the Ballroom was completed without undue difficulty.

The Snicket proved to be a major obstacle and again the casualty had to be removed from the stretcher and passed through by hand. A real casualty would probably have suffered considerably at this stage. Once through the Snicket the victim was again placed on the stretcher and carried to the foot of the pitch where the exercise concluded as equipment to raise the victim up the 35 ft pitch was not available.

In all, the exercise had lasted 8½ hours and had proved to be of great value to all concerned. One of the most pleasing features was the way in which members of different clubs, who in some cases had not met before, combined as efficient rescue teams. It was also found that as each fresh problem was encountered every member had something to contribute.

Conclusions

The following lessons were learned as a result of the exercise:

a. Rescue parties of at least 6 are essential as any less will have great difficulty in moving and **caring** for the patient.

b. Cold was a real problem in this exercise and could have been fatal in a real accident. It is essential that blankets or additional clothing be provided for the patient as early as possible and arrangements be made for provision of warm drinks for both victims and rescuers.

c. A pair of goggles for the patient are an essential as dirt from the passages and rescuers clothing frequently got into the patient's eyes.

d. Communications are essential. We had a telephone but our cable just got through the Snicket and it was therefore of little use until late in the exercise. There is a need to keep all informed of the state of the patient, the progress of the rescue and of requirements for equipment, food, relief parties etc.

e. A doctor or experienced first aider should be available. Although all possible care was taken we were unable to assess the effect of our actions on the casualty.

f. In a real rescue some kind of sedative or pain killer would probably be essential to spare the victim unnecessary pain in tight or difficult places.

g. It is essential that a member of the rescue party be nominated to care for and observe the condition of the patient at all stages during the rescue. Details of the patients's condition, treatment given etc, must be passed on as parties are relieved.

All members present agreed that the exercise was a great success and provided valuable experience in all aspects of Cave Rescue.

(K. Oliver & W. Patrick)

EXTRACT FROM THE "CANBERRA TIMES" OF 30 SEP 70:

"PADDYS RIVER CAVES SHUT"

The Department of the Interior has restricted access to the Paddys River limestone caves "in the interests of public safety and to counter vandalism".

A spokesman for the department said yesterday that the caves were not lighted and there was concern for the safety of unprepared visitors, especially unaccompanied children.

Over the years vandals had ruined stalactites and stalagmites which were some of the chief features of the caves.

Although the entrance gates to the caves had been locked, interested people and groups would be able to enter the caves by making arrangements with the parks and gardens branch of the Department of the Interior.

The caves, one large and two small, are above the junction of the Paddys and Cotter Rivers. They were discovered about 1885 but it was not until the construction of the present Cotter Road, about 1915 that they became better known.