



CALCITE

Newsletter of the Highland Caving Group.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of all who contributed to this issue of "CALCITE", especially Mrs. S. Davison.

If your copy of this newsletter has a tick in the square below, you are unfinancial, and it would be appreciated if you would rectify this matter, as soon as possible.



CALCITEJAN 1971 - DEC 1972EDITORIAL

THIS ISSUE HERALDS THE RETURN OF CALCITE AFTER AN ABSENCE OF A LITTLE MORE THAN TWO YEARS. DURING THIS TIME, QUITE A FEW TRIP REPORTS HAVE ACCUMULATED, AS WELL AS EXTRACTS FROM MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND ODD BITS AND PIECES. HOWEVER, THESE CANNOT ALL BE PUBLISHED AS A LOT OF THE MATERIAL HAS ALREADY APPEARED IN THE NUMEROUS SPELES PUBLICATIONS FROM THE OTHER SOCIETIES.

THIS ISSUE WILL MAINLY CONTAIN THE BETTER TRIP REPORTS FROM 1971 THROUGH TILL THE END OF 1972, SO THAT THE BACK-LOG CAN BE CLEARED UP, THUS MAKING THE WAY CLEAR FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TO CONTINUE IN THE ORIGINAL FORMAT PLUS THE UNIQUE SITUATION OF BEING UP TO DATE. TO REMAIN UP TO DATE AND HAVE THE MAGAZINE COME OUT REGULARLY, TRIP REPORTS WILL BE NEEDED FOR ALL TRIPS, AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST SUBMITTED.

FOR TOO LONG NOW, CALCITE HAS BEEN CARRIED BY 3 OR 4 CONTRIBUTORS. UNFORTUNATELY ON MANY OCCASIONS TRIP REPORTS WERE NOT FILLED IN AFTER TRIPS WERE COMPLETED AND THEREFORE, THERE IS NO RECORD OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN A COUPLE OF AREAS. THESE AREAS BEING BUNGOVIA, WEE JASPER AND CLIEFDEN.

SO, IF MEMBERS WISH TO SEE MORE CALCITES, THEN PLEASE KEEP ARTICLES COMING IN.

SAFETY

In general Australia has an enviable record of cave safety in comparison with other countries. We have had no tragedies such as have occurred at times in the United Kingdom, Europe and the U.S.A. This however, does not give us grounds for complacency, as from observations made over several years of active caving I am convinced that our good record is due mainly to sheer good luck and to the absence of really severe caves in Australia.

As members of a caving group we are all fully aware of the basic safety rules caving but do we always observe them? How often do we enter caves without alternative light sources or without having advised others of our destination. I, personally, have heard members boast of climbing ladder pitches of 60-80 feet without a safety line. If we persist in this disregard for the rules it is only a matter of time before we become involved in a serious incident.

In addition we have all, on occasions, met groups of people in caves inadequately dressed and shod and with very limited lighting and, what is even worse, no idea of the possible dangers involved in their activities.

As cavers we are all involved in this as we would be obliged to assist in any rescue operation and would be, through the press, grouped with the irresponsible people who are most likely to cause or become involved in accidents.

As members of the Highland Caving Group we have two grave responsibilities - to ensure that we, ourselves, observe all safety measures at all times and, whenever possible, guide, assist and educate others in the principles of safe caving.

(W. PATRICK)

EXTRACT FROM " PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY" - APRIL 1972.

(Article on tourist potential of Tonga)

On the west side of the precipitous island of Kapa is the famous Swallow's Cave, formerly depicted on a postage stamp. Its high, shapely entrance permits a launch carrying up to 30 people, to glide into its cathedral-like interior. The water inside the cave is cool, deep and crystal clear. A large rock overhanging the entrance rings like a bell when struck with a wooden oar. This is where the sea swallows build their nests in springtime.

A similar sized cave is found on a nearby island of Nua Papu, but in this cave the entrance is submerged under the sheer cliff face. This is Mariner's Cave, named after the English cabin-boy who was one of the few survivors from the ill-fated British privateer Port-au-Prince in 1806. Mariner was taken to this curious hideaway by two young Tongan friends during his four year stay in Tonga.

Leaving their canoe behind, they dived into inky darkness and found a hole in the wall. After kicking through a 10-15ft connecting tunnel, they miraculously surfaced in what seemed to be another world of eerie, silent twilight. When the mist cleared and their eyes became accustomed to the subdued light, they espied a cavernous chamber of considerable proportions - like a great house with a vaulted ceiling.

On the back wall there was a rock ledge decorated with weird shapes that looked like a pagan altar. Here the three young people rested while Mariner, over a bowl of Kava specially prepared for the occasion, was regaled with various legends about this secret hideout.

TRIP REPORTS

Members of HCG took part in a wide variety of caving activities for this half year (Jan-Jun 71). Trips covered many areas in N.S.W. as well as in Victoria and South Australia and many different projects were involved. Another very pleasing feature of our activities over the period was the cooperation with members of other clubs, mainly, CEGSA, BMSC, MSS and STCCC.

WESTERN VICTORIA and NARACOORTE

Members Present - Bess Patrick, Trudy Patrick, Keith Oliver, Ken Keck(BMSC), Roy Grinham, Noel Patrick, Brian Patrick and Bill Patrick(Trip Leader).

This trip was planned as a follow up to the successful trip of the previous year (see Calcite Jan-Jun 70) and was designed to introduce other members to the various types of caves in these areas and to further our studies of lava caves.

Initially it was planned to combine the trip to Western Victoria to visit additional lava caves at Porndon, Penmure and Parwan and then to spend some time searching the caves along the coast between Port Fairy and Apollo Bay. However, contact was made with David Williams, a CEGSA member, at Naracoorte and his plans for caving activities in that area persuaded us to change plans. It turned out to be a most fortunate decision.

The party assembled at Trudy's and Noel's flat at Albury on the evening of Monday 28th December, 1970 and the trip got under way early the next morning, when we left for Skipton. The convoy consisted of 4 cars and Roy's caravan - nothing like doing it in style! We travelled at a steady 50-60 mph keeping in sight of each other most of the time. This proved to be reasonably simple on the flat open western plains. Although we carried a large quantity of caving, camping and photographic equipment there was no overloading because gear was evenly distributed among the four cars.

The itinerary of the trip was as follows :

29 Dec 70 : Mt. Widdering - examined Skipton Lava Cave.

30 Dec 70 : Mt. Hamilton - examined Mt. Hamilton Cave, Sausage Cave, and Insect Cave.

31 Dec - 4 Jan 71 : Mt. Eccles - from here we spent

two days examining the Byaduk Lava flow
and caves and climbing Mt. Napier. At Mt.

Eccles itself we visited all known features

- Tunnel Cave, Gothic Cave, The Pit, The
Alcove and The Shaft, which we all found
most interesting.

On a day off (Sunday 3 Jan 71) we went to
Port Fairy for a swim (freezing - 64°F in,
60°F out) and on the way back visited Tower
Hill, a most interesting crater with lakes
and minor caves between Port Fairy and
Warnambool.

4 Jan - 7 Jan 71 : Naracoorte - where thanks to the
assistance of Dave Willaims, Peter Tunbridge
and David Hawke all of CEGSA - we were able
to inspect the following Caves;

Blanche (Big) Cave)	
Alexandria Cave)	
Victoria Cave)	Tourist Caves
Tomato - Sticks Cave)	
V D C Cave)	
Fox Cave)	Outside Caves Reserve
102 Cave)	

A visit to Beekeepers Cave was foiled by a
Tiger Snake occupying an unassailable
position at the foot of the ladder pitch -
this resulted in a record making ascent
by Noel Patrick.

8 Jan 71 - Return to Albury

9 Jan 71 - Party dispersed to Canberra and Sydney.

CONCLUSION

The trip proved most successful overall and enabled all members to do a
lot of interesting caving. Of particular interest were the features in the Byaduk
Lava Flow, the bone dig in the Victoria Cave and the Shaft at Mt. Eccles.

We were all grateful to the CEGSA members who did so much to make the
Naracoorte section of the trip a success.

W. PATRICK.

MILLTHORPE : 6 - 7 March 1971.

Members Present - Keith Oliver (Trip Leader), Laurie Maguire, Ken Ward and Steve Mahoney (STCCC).

As a result of information provided by a member, permission was obtained from a Mr. Purcer at Millthorpe for a visit to his property to examine limestone outcrops and other features. With the assistance of Mr. Purcer and one of his employees the following features were visited;

- a. A small limestone outcrop about 100 x 120 ft and up to 15 ft high. Three possible digs were noted in this outcrop.
- b. A small dry creek with exposures of limestone in its bed.
- c. An area of subsidence approximately 4 acres in area which had occurred during the 1949 - 50 wet season. A spring had also appeared in this area at the same time.

At the request of Mr. Purcer we also examined another area which sounded hollow when he rode over it on his horse. This proved to be a granite outcrop with a swampy area at its base.

Although no caves were located the area has been listed for another visit with a view to doing more digging at the outcrop.

K. OLIVER.

COLONG : 21 - 22 March 1971.

Members Present - K. Oliver (Trip Leader), W. Patrick, G. Bruce, L. George, R. Kennedy, G. Thompson and E. Wright.

The aim of this trip was to continue the mapping commenced in August, 1970 and photography.

As soon as all members had arrived at Batsh Camp (around 2am), it was decided to walk straight in to the caves. One and a half hours later saw all seven safely at the base of the arch, and after a quick snack, all bedded down for some sleep.

9.00am saw everyone up and around, and after a quick breakfast, the party split into two, the photography party keeping just in front of the mapping party. Having reached the visitors book in Kings Cross, both parties joined together and stopped for lunch. We were soon interrupted by a group of 20 or more bushwalkers.

With the bushwalkers gone and lunch finished, the party made its way up to the Dripping Water Cavern, The Terraces and the rockfall for photography, and after poking around some hobs, found ourselves in the Pride of the Valley. We then made our way out via Lannigans Cave and upon reaching the surface found that it was raining cats and dogs. The party rushed down the hill to get sleeping bags, food etc. under shelter, but when reaching the bottom of the arch, we found that another group had moved them for us. Camp was made again, but this time under the shelter of the arch.

After a meal and some sleep, the group made its way into the cave again, but this time to go to Woofs Cavern. On coming out of the low tunnel it was noticed that the creek at the base of the Amber Cave was flowing at a depth of 2 - 3 inches. In the distance, the pounding of a sump could be heard. Further into the cave, it was noticed that the rimstone pools just before Woofs were once again full. On reaching the low section of Woofs, the rate of water flow seemed to be no faster than on previous trips to Colong. After some more photography the group again made their way to the surface.

WEE JASPER: 9 - 12 April 1971.

Members Present - Bess, Bill and Brian Patrick, Roy Grinham, J. Heath, L.

Maguire, L. George, G. Bruce and Keith Oliver (Trip Leader)

Visitors - S. Wynne, F. Heath, B. Grinham, STCCC Members.

Due to the large number of people, caving was restricted to either night or early morning caving. An early attempt was made to go into Punchbowl, but on arrival, we found that there were already two ladders down the pitch and three parties had already entered the cave. On top of this another two groups were getting ready to abseil in, so we made a hasty retreat.

Five members then went down to Church Cave. Whilst in the cave, eight dead bats were found, and the bands removed from them to be sent to the C.S.I.R.O for identification.

5.30 on the Saturday morning saw a group heading for Punchbowl, and this time, we were the first in. On our way out at 10.30, two persons from another party had come down another ladder, that had been put down the pitch. Two of us got up to the top, to find about another 14 preparing to come down. With the O.K. given from their leader, one of their party went down and one of ours came up, with belaying being shared by both groups. By the time all of our members were up no less than 30 people were either in or getting ready to go in.

After tea whilst everyone was sitting around talking about the days caving a member from one of the groups camped on the hill, came down and told us that one of their members had gone for a walk in the bush and had not returned after three hours. By now it was dark and she had no light. Word quickly went around and cavers emerged everywhere with ropes, ladders, spare lights, food, warm clothing and first aid kits. As soon as the groups had all congregated in their, a Mini pulled up and out got the missing female. She had walked over the hills and got a lift on the other side and was then bought back.

On Sunday, we decided again to try and go into Dip. Originally, one party of seven was to go, but this grew to fourteen. On reaching the Dip, the group was split into two, the first to go into the rubbish tip entrance, and the other to go down the 65ft drop into 4 series. When half of us were down, we began wondering when the others would be coming in from 3 series, when one of the members of the other party came down the ladder. We then asked what had happened, and were told that they had to queue up to get through the rathole. When all the party were down, seven went into 5 series whilst the rest of us concentrated on photography. On regrouping, the group once again used the ladder to leave the cave.

Other caves visited during the week-end were WJ22, Gas-Pipe, Signature, WJ26 -27 and Dog-Leg. One lesson was learnt on the week-end, NEVER go to WEE JASPER at Easter Time.

K. OLIVER.

COLONG : 24 - 26 April 1971.

Members Present - G. Bruce, S. Cook (VSA), J. Eager, S. George, J. Heath, R. Kennedy, K. Morgan and K. Oliver (Trip Leader).

The aim of the trip was:

1. To explore the passages above the terraces.
2. Follow the course of a new stream located near the Amber Cave, and
3. To attempt to relocate Red Cave.

Friday 23 April - The party assembled at St. Marys and after packing the gear, set off in two cars. On arrival at Batsh Camp it was that 10 camps were already established and two more were expected. As a result it was decided to walk into the caves immediately. At 2.30am (Saturday 24 April) the party arrived at the base of the arch and established camp.

Saturday 24 April - Immediately after breakfast the party entered the cave with the intention of following all streams, including the two in Woofs Cavern. Our first stop was at the Piano where it was found that the right hand passage was very wet and had to be traversed towards the end where it closed down. The sump in the passage at the left hand side was full also and prevented further progress. Next the River Cave was visited - this showed no significant rise in spite of the previous heavy rains. The group then proceeded to the stream in Amber Cave which had been flowing when visited on our previous trip. This time, however, it was dry and the passage was followed through a squeeze until further progress was prevented by a small but deep sump. The next stop was Woof's Cavern where the group followed the creek from Woof's into the large chamber on the right of the canyons. The creek beyond the Maze was also examined and although it was dry a large pool was located but because of the confined space no further work could be carried out. After about eight hours work we returned to the surface where night had fallen.

Sunday 25 April - After breakfast it was decided to have a search for Red Cave, as everyone from the other parties had appeared to be going into the main cave. The party split into two groups. One group taking the left hand side of the outcrop and the other, the right.

Although Red Cave was not located, one entrance approximately 8' x 4' was located, and on the other side of the outcrop, a series of silted and rock filled shafts were seen. After about six hours, both parties returned to camp.

After tea we again went into the cave via Lannigans entrance and went straight to the Terraces. The connection from the Terraces to Amber Cave were made then the passages above the Terraces were looked at. Starting at the Pride of the Valley, groups of two were sent into each cave hole and it was found that two of the passages join together, and a third leads into the top of the rockfall chamber.

The formation in this section is not large, but some active white formation is present. It was noticed, that only one piece has been vandalised, and that mud had been thrown at it.

The passage leading to the Shoejammer squeeze was looked at briefly, but this will be looked at with more detail on the next trip. As lighting was due to start fading at anytime, we began to once again make our way back to the surface, and some well earned sleep.

Straight after breakfast on Monday morning camp was broken and we headed for home.

K. OLIVER.

MUDGE : 29-30 May, 1971.

Members Present - K. Oliver (Trip Leader), G. Bruce, J. Eager, L. George, K. Morgan, L. Maguire and P. Richards (M.S.S.)

The object of the trip, was to search for possible cave entrances, and the exploration of caves known on Mr. Clarksons property at Appletree Flat.

The party left Sydney about 8.30 on the Friday night, and by 1.00am were setting up camp on Clarksons property.

After breakfast we strolled down to the house to see Mr. Clarkson to explain what we wished to do, then we began to move off towards the caves. The caves are approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile walking distance from the house, and so far, only three are known. The first cave, Lemon Tree Pot, is a small tight solution tube running into the side of the outcrop for 60' - 70' and finishes in a rock choke.

The second cave, or the Main Cave, is entered by a 50' ladder drop into a large chamber with some small passages running in all directions but these all unfortunately close down.

The third cave which is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away is approximately the same size, (about 200' of passage) and contains some dry shawls about 4' long. On the other side of a large sandstone exposure, there is approximately 20 acres of limestone, both sides of the creek. This was hurriedly looked at and a few shafts of about 10' - 20' deep, descended, but these were either silted or choked up with rock.

Near the house there is another small outcrop of limestone, but this was not looked at. On the Sunday morning, the group awoke to find that all the gear was soaked following an overnight downpour so we broke camp and made an early start for Sydney.

K. OLIVER.

COLONG CAVES : 12 - 14 June 1971.

Members Present - G. Bruce, I. Cook, J. Eager, S. George, L. Maguire, Miss K. Morgan, and K. Oliver (Trip Leader).

Friday 11 June. Upon reaching Batsh Camp, it was found that like the Anzac Day weekend, that groups were camped everywhere, and it was hard to find a place to park the car. The equipment was then transferred into the landcruiser which was then driven to the top of the hill, whilst some of the members walked in. Once those that had walked in had joined us, we kitted up and began the steep descent down the hill. Upon reaching the efflux, it was noted that not much water was flowing as had been seen on previous trips. We then made our way up to the lower end of the Arch, and by 4am the group was well asleep.

Saturday 12 June. Having had breakfast, the party climbed to the top of the main outcrop to search for new entrances. Two sinks were found one being about 14' x 4' and about 15' deep. The other being about 10' x 4' and approximately 20' deep. Both can be pushed, but it seems that they will go into the rear of the arch as there is a large collapse at the rear of the arch itself. Two entrances were found going into the side of the hill. The first with a tight squeeze about 25' from the entrance, a drop of about 4' then a further 10' of passage. The other has a large walk-in entrance 10' high and 30' wide and 25' into the side of the hill. At one side of the hill is a tight squeeze but this was not tried. The group then went right to the top of the bluff, but found nothing as the limestone is very fractured and weathered. The party then returned to the arch and lunch. On reaching the top of the Arch no less than 14 tents were seen and more groups could be heard coming down the hill.

After lunch the party once again kitted up and headed for the cave via the Onslow Entrance. The first section looked at was the Piano, where it was noticed that the water level was much lower than on our last trip. Where the water had been just over one foot deep and flowing quickly, it was barely flowing and only 6"- 7" deep. On rejoining the main passage, we found fresh carbide marks on the walls giving the directions to the main sections of the cave, and names of persons who had been through. These markings were quickly removed and the party proceeded towards Kings Cross. It was here that we met a group coming through the cave, so we waited until they had left before proceeding.

On the way to the Amber cave, the party waited while three of us explored a passage which doglegged for about 200' before ending in a small sump. On the left of the sump, was a passage going up about 30degrees and ending up in a tight squeeze. Each of us tried to get through, but were unable to. On the way back to the others another squeeze was noticed. Once again the three of us tried to get through, and this time John Eager was successful. The squeeze led to a small chamber running parallel to the passage we were in, with some small but active formation, but again this led to a sump. Having at last rejoined the rest of the group, we set off to the Amber cave. Once again in this section each hole was checked.. Most came back into the chamber, but one went to a deep sump, and another led to a small but well decorated chamber with wet rim stone pools, which in turn led to the terraces. Yet another passage led to the second gate and onto the clefts: After exploring the base of the clefts, the party pushed on to the Pulsating River and another 150' beyond. At this point, after being underground for well over 6½ hours, the group made its way back to the surface.

Sunday 13 June. After breakfast, the party set out to probe for any possible entrances along Lannigans Creek. A number of times the group would move out of the creek to look at something promising, only to find that it did not go or it was nothing at all. After walking about 1½ miles up the creek, the party then returned to the Arch and prepared to go back into the cave. Entry to the cave was made this time by Lannigans cave as it would get us to Kings Cross quicker. Upon reaching Kings Cross, the party made their way to the Pride of the Valley by way of the Dripping Water Cavern and the Shoejammer Squeeze. Between the Shoejammer and the Pride of the Valley, a small maze was found. The party was split into three and each passage pushed. Thirty minutes later, everyone was together again in the Pride of the Valley, and began exploration of the passages missed on the last trip. Off one passage, the group climbed down a hole for about 50' then moved along two passages for about 60'. These passages appeared not to have been entered before as there were no footprints on the floor. From this point we made our way into the rockfall chamber, to try to push it further. Instead of going through the rockpile, we decided to try to go over the top of it. Two groups of two started to move in on either side of the fall, and moved up 50' - 60' before turning back, as the climb became too steep and tight. On reaching the others once more, it was found that one side had shown signs of recent movement, as cracks were seen and that no fallen matter (mud) could be seen in them. But on the other side, there was no evidence of this. From here, the party began to make their way out once again. No work was done on the Monday morning as the lighting was low, so after breaking camp and disposing of rubbish, we made our way home.

WOOLOMBAH : 31 July - 1 August, 1971.

Members Present - G. Bruce, J. Eager, D. Hemple and K. Oliver (Trip Leader).

Having heard from one of our members that there were caves on a property outside Gloucester, a letter was sent to the owner of the property asking permission to visit the caves. Shortly afterwards, a letter was received saying that we were welcome to visit the caves, and that we could set up camp in a large barn on the property.

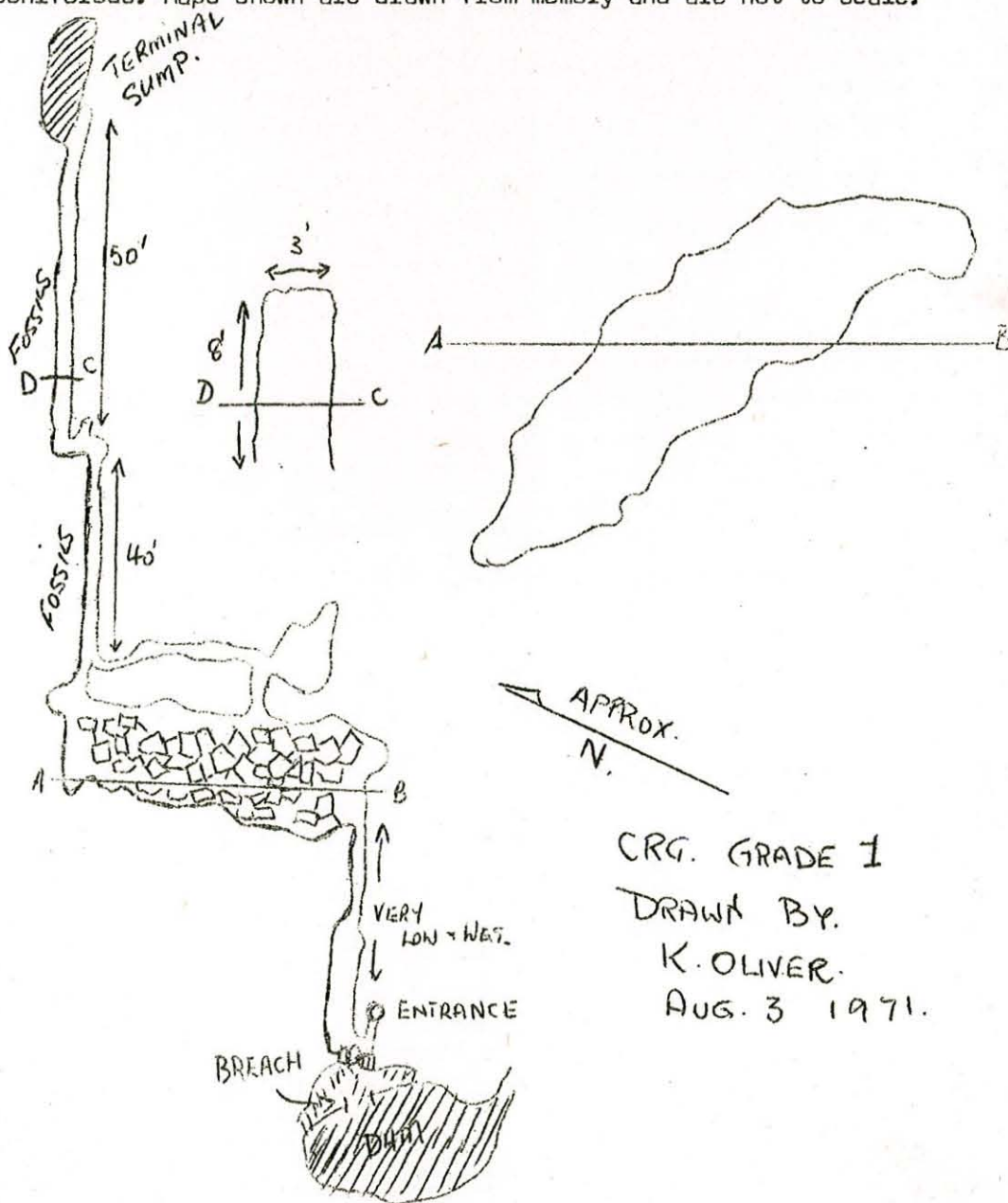
The party arrived late on the Friday night, and we were shown to the barn by the owners son, wasting no time in setting up camp and retiring for the night. After breakfast, we kitted up, and walked up to the farmhouse to meet the owner. With introductions over we were directed to the cave.

The first cave is situated next to a dam which in recent years has breached spilling thousands of gallons of water into the cave. The area in which the water flows into the cave is too small to enter, so access is made by entering a small tight hole about 20' above and 30' away from the influx. From the entrance, the passage is tight for approximately 15' then opens out into a chamber about 8' high. One passage leads off from here, 3' high by 5' wide with 2' of water flowing through it. This passage would be about 20' long and at its end, it opens out slightly, but not enough for one to get out of the water. At this point, the only way ahead, is to go below two hanging rocks causing one to get ones backside wet. Having gone through this section, the passage again becomes a little larger then becomes low again. This time the roof becomes so low that three of us had to lay on our backs to get through. As the last of us came through we looked up to see John Eager stick his head around a rock to tell us that he had found a dry by-pass.

At this stage, we found ourselves at the top of a fairly large chamber that sloped down at approximately 40 degrees to our left, with water cascading all the way down. The party then began to make its way down to the bottom of the chamber. About midway down, a small side passage was noticed and two of the party moved off to see where it went, while John and myself continued down. At the bottom of the chamber a passage was found to lead off to the right. This passage is about 7' high and 3'- 4' wide, length would be 150'. Halfway along this passage, Graham and Dave reappeared, and reported that the passage just winds parallel with the main chamber. The cave extends for another 150' before finishing off in a large sump. We were told later during the weekend that the sump had been dived a few years back by members of either KSS or NTUCSS.

On the way out, it was noticed that in the walls, roof, and in fallen rocks, there was a great number of chronoids, (one measuring $\frac{1}{2}$ " across the stem), in fact the more we looked, the more we found. The cave is devoid of formation, with the exception of two small pieces of flowstone in the area of the sump.

We did not spend very long in the second cave, as we were sopping wet after coming out of the first cave. The entrance is in an outcrop about 20' high. The entrance itself is a crack no wider than 18" with a vertical drop of 13' to the floor. Once again the walls, roof etc. are covered with chronoids, three bentwing bats were seen and also a large colony of glow worms. Small stream flows into this cave, but it is not related to the stream flowing into the other cave. The entrance to this cave has been blasted by quarrying. The limestone in the area is Carboniferous. Maps shown are drawn from memory and are not to scale.



ABERCROMBIE CAVES : 7 - 8 August, 1971.

Members Present - J.Eager, J.Heath, D.Hemple, L.Maguire, K.Oliver (Trip Leader),
K.Ward.

Object of the trip was to work in conjunction with BMSC in Bushrangers Cave, Kohinoor, and the Oblique Slit.

With all members present, Ken Keck (BMSC) and myself reported to the superintendant, Mr.Knox, and after some discussion, set off for the caves. The party moved up into the Grove cave, and four persons were lowered into the dig commenced on the previous trip by BMSC. The rest of the party then made their way to Bushrangers cave and Kohinoor. A field telephone was set up at the beginning of the crawl in Kohinoor, while the other was set up about 60' inside Bushrangers cave, from here, two-way radio would be used into the Pulpit chamber.

On setting up the Radio Direction Finding unit, it was found that the receiver was not working, so it was decided that we would try to make voice contact. After trying this method for some time without success, we decided to take the receiver back to camp and try to repair it. After we had made temporary repairs and had lunch, we again made our way to the caves.

With both parties again in Kohinoor and Bushrangers cave, the RDF gear was again tested, then taken up into the far right hand corner of the Pulpit chamber. At this point, the strongest signals picked up were coming from a narrow passage. This passage was followed for a distance of 150', where it closed off into a tight squeeze. This squeeze could be entered, but only after a considerable amount of digging. A second passage parallel to the first was also tried, and it was found that the strongest signals were coming through the wall of the passage and at right angles to it. This passage was also pushed to about 150'. It is almost certain that a connection can be made between Bushrangers and Kohinoor, but this would require a fair amount of digging.

It was also reported that the party digging in Grove cave had made a break through into what seems to be a creek bed. A few river rocks were removed, but more digging will be required here.

Before leaving on the Sunday, a small party sealed the new entrance to Grove cave, opened up on the last trip. This was done for two reasons, the first one being to prevent the formation from drying out, and to prevent illegal entry to the cave.

K.OLIVER.

COMBINED CRC TRIP - WYANBENE : 1 - 3 October, 1971.

Members Present - G.Bruce, L.George, J.Eager, R.Roche, L.Maguire, K.Ward, K.Oliver (Trip Leader), I.Cook(VSA), J.Deerlove, K.Morgan, T.Lynch, and K.Molloy (all STCCC). Also on the trip were members of BMSC and MSS. Other parties in the area included UNSWSS, BCA and a few freelance groups.

The main idea of the trip was to familiarise ourselves with the caves in the area. Wyanbene, Cheitmore and Marble Arch were all looked at, with the highlight of the weekend being the descent of Big Hole.

K.OLIVER.

EXPEDITION TO WESTERN VICTORIA and SOUTH AUSTRALIA : 25 December 1971 - 11 Jan 1972.

Members Present - G.Bruce, J.Deane, J.Eager, S.George, T.Lynch, K.Molloy, G.Oakes, K.Oliver (Trip Leader), and D.Perkins(S.S.S).

Following interest expressed by new members of the club about the Western Victoria - Naracoorte areas, it was decided to run a third expedition south the following Christmas.

Letters were sent to CEG(SA) and the various property owners, and within 3 months, all was in readiness.

The itinerary was;

25.12.71 Leave for Albury
 27.12.71 Leave for Skipton
 28.12.71 Mt.Hamilton then Mt.Eccles
 29.12.71 - 1.1.72 Mt.Eccles
 2.1.72 - 7.1.72 Naracoorte then return home.

Due to commitments on Christmas Day, it was impossible for all to leave together, so it was then planned to meet at Albury on the 26th December.

Renault 8 containing Deane, Perkins and Oliver left Sydney on the 25th, and stayed overnight at Bill Patricks home in Canberra.

26th December. Left Canberra at 8.15am and met up with the others at Ettamogah, then proceeded into Albury where we made camp for the night.

27th December. Left Albury and headed for Skipton. On reaching the Mt. Widderin property, we reported to Mr.Notman, who then directed us over to the shearers quarters. After settling in, we kitted up and entered the cave.

Time spent in this cave was $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (see description of cave with map Expedition to Western Victoria and the Mt.Gambier-Naracoorte Area. W.Patrick. Calcite Jan-June 1970.)

28th December. Having packed our belongings, the party set off for Mt. Eccles, going via Mt.Hamilton. After finding the property owner, and obtaining his permission to visit the caves, we drove to the base of Mt.Hamilton and then climbed to the craters edge. We then proceeded to the caves. Although only half of the main cave was looked at, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours were spent in it. Sausage and Insect caves were also looked at. (Cave Descriptions in Calcite Jan-June 1970). Arrived at Mt.Eccles at about 7.00pm.

29th December. As Mt.Eccles was to be a base camp for a few days, and we had driven some 760 miles in three days, this became a rest day, with the group walking around Lake Surprise, paying a visit to Tunnel cave and going into Macarthur for supplies.

30th December. Drove out from Mt.Eccles to the Byaduk lava flow, a distance of 12 miles. Caves entered were Terrace, Turk, Church, and Harman 1 and Harman 2. Fern cave was also looked at but not entered as a 3-4 foot tiger snake was observed just below where the ladder would have been pitched. We then made our way back to Mt.Eccles.

31st December. The group drove over to inspect the Gothic cave which is a narrow but deep lava canal opened at both ends but with approximately 150' of uncollapsed roof. The party then moved over to the Shaft, a small cone with a v pitch of some 70' feet. Once inside the Shaft, the visitors book was signed and photographs taken.

Returning to camp, the party set off for Tower Hill another volcanic crater situated on the Princes Highway between Port Fairy and Warrnambool. We then made our way back to Port Fairy to see the New Year in.

1st January. After loading the gear into the cars, the group left Mt. Eccles and headed for Mt.Gambier, taking in Portland and Cape Bridgewater on the way. At Cape Bridgewater, limestone cliffs were seen, and an overhang next to the road looked at, but due to the rest of the group wanting to get to Mt.Gambier, no further time could be spent here. We arrived at Mt.Gambier at about 7.30pm and set up camp.

2nd January. After a quick look at Browns,Caater and Leg of Mutton lakes, we were again on the road.

On arriving at Naracoorte, we checked in with David Hawke and Peter Tunbridge, then set up our gear in the CEGSA hut. Following tea, Peter and David took us through Victoria Cave (S-2) with a party that had come up from Mt.Gambier with Fred Aslin.

3rd January. Caves looked at during the day were Cathedral (S-11-12), Blackberry(S-7-8)and in the evening Wombat(S-122).

4th January. The morning was spent in Naracoorte taking on supplies, and having the cars serviced. On returning to the reserve, David Williams (CEGSA) took us down Fox Cave (S-33), some 5½ hours were spent in this cave. In the evening, Tomato-Sticks (S-9-10) was also looked at.

5th January. The day started with a trip down Little Victoria (S-73), and after a tiger snake scare, three of us succeeded in getting into Beekeepers (S-14), but only to get as far as the sump. Following tea Peter & David led a trip into the Victoria cave extensions. Time spent in here was 5 hours.

6th January. Set off in search of Sand Funnell (S-?), and after 1½ hours searching, finally located and entered it with 30' of ladder. Of the three hours spent in this cave, two were spent exploring its low passages. That evening, the group was taken to the entrance of Bat cave (S-3) to photograph the bats coming out. Victoria (S-2), Alexandra(S-4), and Blanche(S-5), were also looked at.

7th Ja. After packing up our belongings, six of the party made their way to the Barossa Valley, leaving Dianne, Julie and myself to head back towards Victoria to do some more caving. Lunch was had at Mt.Gambier followed by an energetic climb up the slopes of Mt.Schank. After walking around the craters edge, and having a look at the Little Blue Lake, we made a hurried trip across the border to have a look at the Princess Margaret Rose caves, but due to the variations in local time, we found that we had missed the last tour by a mere 25 minutes. We arrived at Port Fairy at 7.30pm and set up camp.

8th January. Left Port Fairy and drove to Warrnambool, in the hope of obtaining information on the location of the Lake Gilleear Guano cave. The only cave that anyone seemed to know anything about was down near Thunder Point. This turned out to be a sea eroded cave measuring some 8'wide by 6'long by 7'high. Up in the roof was a reptillian footprint measuring approximately 18" by 12".

Finally the area within which the Guano Cave was situated was found, but being unable to locate the property owner, we decided to keep going. Our next stop was Childers Cove, where we fought a scrub fire for an hour or so, before pressing on toward Port Campbell, taking in the sights of the Bay of Islands, London Bridge, the Arch and Thunder Cave. After setting up camp at Port Campbell, we set off to watch the Mutton Birds returning in their hundreds to Mutton Bird Island.

9th January. Having left Port Campbell, we stopped briefly at Loch Ard Gorge and the Twelve Apostles, turned inland and headed for Porndon. Porndon Arch cave was looked at, but we were unable to locate the Rubbish Cave. It was then decided to try to have a look at the cave at Parwan. On arriving at Bacchus Marsh, we found it impossible to find a camping spot, so we finally ended up camping on a football ground.

10th January. After leaving Bacchus Marsh, and driving 11 Miles to Parwan,

we had no trouble finding the property on which the cave was located. After seeing the property owner, and following his directions on how to get to the cave, we entered it, had a good look around, and took some more photos. Time spent in this cave was $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

On returning to the surface we packed our gear into the car, and drove the 510 miles to Canberra, the time taking us 10 hours. On our arrival in Canberra we were kindly put up for the night by Bill and Bess Patrick.

The following morning we left on the last leg of our journey, the trip back to Sydney.

Many thanks must go to CEG(SA), for making the necessary arrangements with property owners, and the South Australian Tourist Bureau for making this trip the success that it was. Also thanks must go to Peter Tunbridge, David Hawke, and David Williams for showing us around the area, and also the many property owners who allowed us to visit the caves on their land. Finally thanks to Bill Patrick for information and maps given to us for the trip.

K.Oliver.

CLIEFDEN 31st Mar - 3rd April 1972.

Members present: J.Heath, K.Oliver (T/L), R.Miller, D&M Thompson, K.Harris (MSS).

The main objectives of the weekend were to familiarise ourselves with the caves that we had not seen before, and to carry out surface exploration.

Main Cliefden (CL.1.) was entered was entered, and the party moved down to the Boot Room going via the Laurell Room, then through to the far end of the cave, but nothing new seen.

Murder (CL.3.) was looked at, but since we had not been into the cave before, we did not get any further than the second large chamber. The side chambers were also looked at, and photos taken.

During discussion with Mr. Dunhill, we were told that there was an outcrop that as far as he knew of, no-one had as yet looked at. Having been given the directions to get to the outcrop, three of us set off. The outcrop was only briefly looked at, but one cave (approx 100' in length) was located, a doline on top of the outcrop seen and three entrances with possible digs found. Two other outcrops were checked out, but nothing of interest was noted.

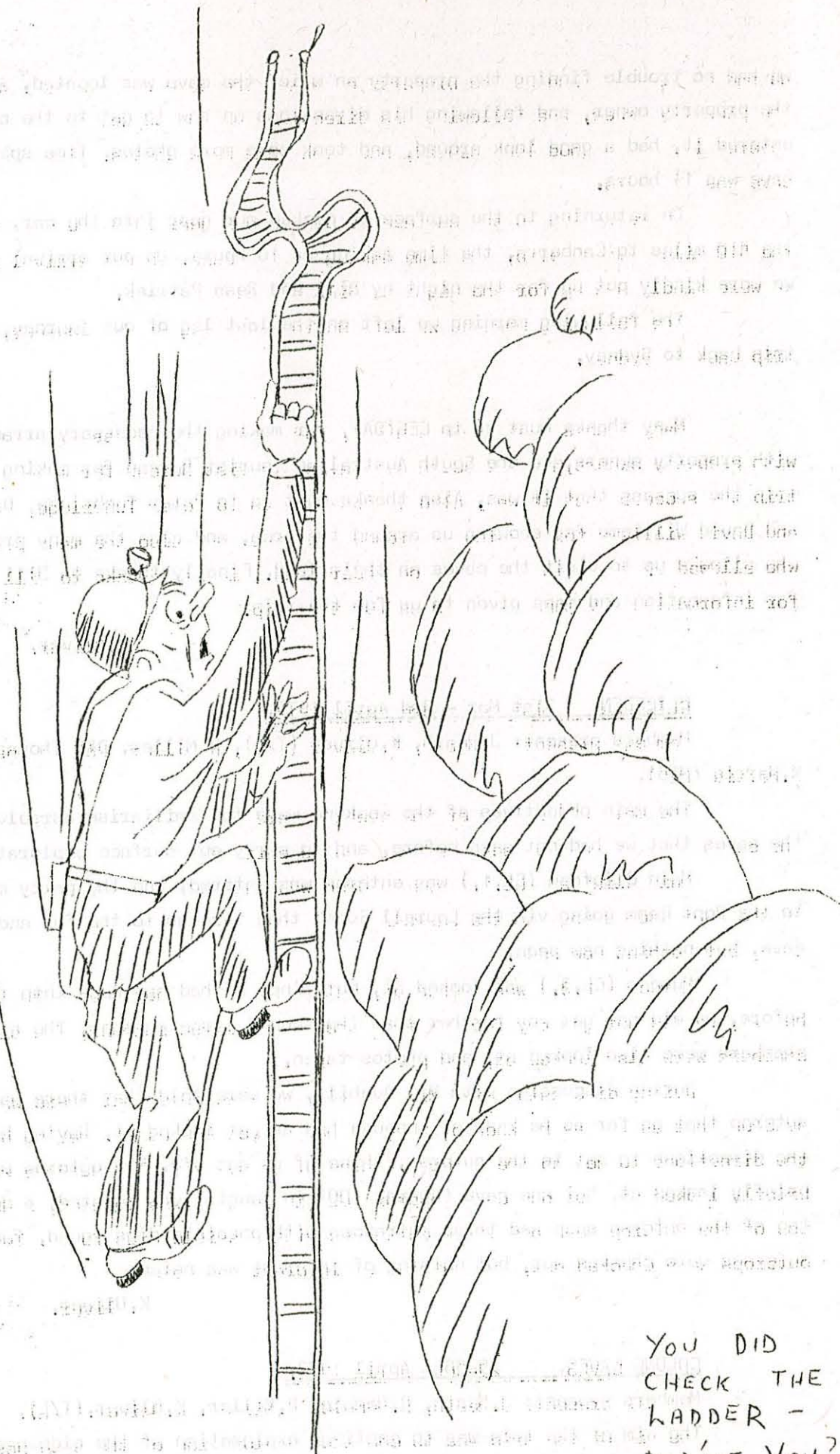
K.Oliver.

COLONG CAVES. 29-30th April 1972.

Members present: J.Heath, D.Hemple, R.Miller, K.Oliver.(T/L).

The aim of the trip was to continue exploration of the side passages of the system.

The party arrived at Batsh Camp at 5.30pm, kitted up and began to walk out to the caves, finally arriving at the base of the Arch at 7.00pm. After setting up camp and having some tea, we were in the cave by 9.00.



YOU DID
CHECK THE
LADDER -
DIDN'T YOU?

A quick inspection was made of the river passage beyond the Piano. It had been noticed that on our way to the caves, that the efflux was running unusually high, hence the reason for our visit to this section of the cave. It was observed that this passage had more water flowing through it than had been seen on any of our previous trips. Also a large number of bats were observed. It was the first time that we had seen bats in this section.

The party then quickly made its way to the canyons just before Woofs Cavern going via the Terraces and the Sharks Mouth. The party made its way down the canyons, and upon reaching the Beach Chamber, the party began to move around the walls searching for passageways. One passage was found, and upon entering it, a bubbling sound could be heard. After crawling for some distance, then going through a tight squeeze, we came upon a sump which was slowly draining.

At this point, the group moved back into the main chamber, through the maze and into another chamber where a large sump being fed by a small stream was seen. Two of us decided to follow this stream. After crawling for some 70'-80' this passage appeared to open up. After trying to push upward for sometime, it was decided to return to the stream and to push it as far as possible. About 70' further on, the stream finished off in another sump, leaving the only possible way on, and that was to go up. Further progress was hampered by a tight squeeze and the roof appeared to be very unstable. So by mutual consent, we made our way back to the others.

On our way back, we went via Woof's Cavern noticing a great amount of vandalism and littering.

We arrived back on the surface at 5.30am.

K.Oliver.

CLIEFDEN. 26th June 1972.

Members present: J.Heath, K.Oliver (T/L).

The aim of the trip was to commence digging in the cave located on the previous trip. (See report previous page).

On arriving at the property, camp was set up next to Limestone Creek, then after tea, went up to Bruce's and showed slides of our earlier trips to the area.

The following morning the digging equipment was taken over to the cave and work commenced. Approximately 12' of passage was added to the cave, and there is a good chance of breaking into more passage, but this will require more digging.

The cave was mapped to grade 4.

K.Oliver.

CLIEFDEN. 2-3-4 October 1972.

Members present: J.Bone, D.Glanville, R.Holt, M.Johnson, R.Miller, K.Oliver, N.Patrick, T.Patrick, B.Patrick and M.Webb.

Saturday 2nd. After a somewhat late start, the party set off for Trapdoor (CL.4.) to familiarise ourselves with the cave, some 4½ hours were spent

22. here, but no new passages could be located. On the way back to camp, the entrance to Yarrowigah was found but not entered.

That evening, slides were shown to the Dunhills.

Sunday 3rd. Following a request from Bruce, two of us took some visitors down Main Cliefden (CL.1.) for the purpose of photography.

Bruce later pointed out a small collapse on the ridge opposite the new cave, and this will be looked at, at a later date.

Later in the afternoon, a party entered Murder (CL.2.). It was noticed that this cave was considerably drier than on any of our earlier trips, and it appeared that several rocks had fallen from the roof in the section above the small drop. This matter was reported to both Mr. Dunhill and OSS.

Monday 4th. Surface trogging of the outcrops along Davy's creek was carried out, but nothing turned up. An interesting feature was noted along Davy's creek that being the very large rim pools cutting across the creek itself.

By early afternoon, the party had packed up and vacated the area.

K.Oliver.

CLIEFDEN 12-13 November 1972.

Members present: J.Bone, J.Deane, R.Holt, K.Oliver(T/L), R.Thompson.

The object was to try and clean up some of the formation in Boonderoo, and to talk to Mr. Dunhill. about the possibility of holding a Nibicon field trip in the area.

After breakfast, the party kitted up and headed for Boonderoo (CL.3) We headed straight to the Blue Stalactite Chamber where it was proposed to clean the Blue Stalactite as well as other pieces of formation.

To clean the formation, a sponge, metal dish and 4 half gallon containers of water were taken into the cave.

Unfortunately we were unable to get the results we wanted with the Blue Stalactite, as a layer of calcite has covered some of the mud, however we were more successful with the stalagmite directly below. Although it took some 40 minutes to get the mud moving, this was completely cleaned, but this method of cleaning was limited to use on smooth calcite. Mud on the formation that was either pitted or had miniture rim pools, had to be left.

On conferring with Bruce later on, we were happy to find out that not only was he happy to have a Nibicon field trip in the area, but he also offered one of the houses on the property for accomodation.

Before leaving, a party entered Trapdoor (CL.4.) to try to get through the squeeze at the end of the cave. But like so many other attempts, this one also failed.

K.Oliver.

