

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CALCITE

28



The newsletter of the
Highland Caving Group
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Note to all recipients of "Calcite". Can you advise the editor what copies of "Calcite" you and/or your club have; this refers especially to issues '25' onwards.

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EDITORIAL-

Officially I was HCG Librarian for 1978. In point of fact I tended on the one hand, to be at the centre of some of our squabbles, while at the same time being able to help Rik and Ev get "Calcite" published again. This became a three man editorial committee from which it appears I've emerged as the new editor - this is quite handy in conjunction with being secretary.

However I must give due credit to Steve Bunton. Steve put together the makings of two projected editions, then thru commitments to a few other things - notably the Atea expedition - he left it to us hack boys.

Seeing as "Calcite" was hopefully being revived and, hopefully, to be a bimonthly, we decided at the time of producing '25' that we preferred to use fairly recent trip reports and disregarded some of the older ones offered (some were up to two years old). We also dropped one or two other articles which left us with only sufficient material for one issue, '25'.

So much for Steve's editorship; however our aim at the time was to restart "Calcite" as a regular bimonthly with fairly up to date material as, after all, it was meant to be a 'newsletter'.

In the interim my view of "Calcite" has modified. HCG of recent years has been producing two publications: the "Journal" and "Calcite" with each playing a different role in communicating the activity of the club. The "Journal" is devoted to finished articles and such like, while "Calcite" is for trip reports and news. News should persay be up to date; by publishing regularly this can be achieved. Likewise 'recent' trip reports will hold the interest of members who will like to see themselves and their activities in print. As such the newsletter should mirror what the club is doing 'now'.

However, I dont believe this concept should exclude any relevant trip reports and article which may be a bit dated but none the less interesting to members of any era. To this end I've included in this edition a few trip reports from earlier last year. I believe all trips should be reported in some fashion; this can only enhance our documentative ability.

Further I hope to resurrect a few articles from some old "Calcites". Only a few copies of some old issues still exist, and while they dont warrent a full reprinting, some articles from them should at least be of historical interest - after all HCG and "Calcite" do have a tradition we can uphold.

Chris Dunne

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THEY ALSO SERVED-

Evalt Crabb, Rik Tunney.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 1978-

PRESIDENTS-

As with every other community group, HCG has suffered a decline in support during 1978. There have been lightning trips for specific purposes, there have been slack trips to many areas which raised little interest, and many things were simply not done. Outstanding though, is the reincarnation of "Calcite", which hopefully will once again play an important role in spelec communications.

The key to the future integrity of the club lies in how well we develop an environment based on people - a close unity and loyalty between members, and an appreciation that 'any' person having become a member is an important part of the club and should be supported.

In standing down and not seeking re-election, I would like to wish all the best to the incoming executive with the hope that they will maintain those philosophies which give HCG its unique character.

Evalt Crabb

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SECRETARYS-

My main aim this year has been to make some order out of the secretarial stuff. A filing system has been started and all correspondence is classified according to subject. We now have files for each caving area, internal and external correspondence, ASF, NSW Speleo Council and a few others. This allows the secretary firstly to keep all the correspondence neat and secure and secondly to have available all previous correspondence on a particular subject.

I should like to thank Evalt for making his post office box available to the club and for bringing to my attention any urgent matters. Evalt has agreed to do this again in the coming year and I am sure that the new secretary will appreciate this help.

During the year many members brought mining application advertisements to my attention and we were able to quickly inform the relevant societies about these. The most worrying of these was an exploration application over Wyanbene Caves which was (unsuccessfully) challenged by CSS.

A major task of the secretary is to assist in the production of "Calcite" and to post it after production. This has been achieved with the assistance of Telecom this year, but next year we will have to do it ourselves.

I have not given, as some clubs do, a list of statistics of the number of letters sent and received, the average number of words per line and the standard deviation of the weights of letters (and I don't intend

to). Suffice to say that I wish the new secretary well in the position.

Rik Tunney

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TREASURERS-

Balance as at 20th November 1977

- \$173-68

Income

Membership Fees 98-00
Sale of T-Shirts 9-00
Bank Interest 4-88

Total Income 111-88
Add Balance b/f 173-68

285-56
Less Expenditure \$32-50
\$153-06

Expenditure

ASF Capitation Fees 73-50
Speleo Council Levy 10-00
Purchase for Library 12-50
'Cavconact' Proceedings 8-00
Back-issues of 'Spar' 7-00
Security lock & materials
for gate on Phoenix Cave 21-50

Total Expenditure \$132-50

Balance as at 19th November 1978

- \$153-06

Bruce Waddington

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LIBRARIANS-

HCG should, from mere longevity, have a well stocked library; this is not the case. We have several foreign language speleo publications which could well belong to the ASF Library; we also have some back issues of 'Helectite', 'SUSS Bulletin', 'JSSS', 'Nargun' and 'Trog', as well as odd issues of various other club newsletters and several individual publications. Most of these have been donated by members in only the last couple of years!

What there is of a club library has spent most of the past twelve months at the home of yours truly. Amazingly we have continued to receive newsletters from such clubs as VSA, TCC, KSS, SUSS and UNSWSS, while we have only recently returned them copies of our recent "Calcites". I can hope the new librarian will make the new arrivals more readily available to members than I did.

Of note during the year was our idea of microfilming our collection of early 'SUSS' newsletters (donated by Rik), this is still a possibility; however as we allowed SUSS to photo-copy our copies in the

absence of any copies in their own library, it is unlikely we will be able to sell the originals to them. These may be offered to the ASF Library or the Mitchell.

The idea of microfilming blossomed into a scheme for putting the whole library on film and thus being able to store it more easily. It seems this has been dropped, as it makes accessibility more difficult. However, now Ev has left the inner circle of the club officialdom, he may have a few innovations of his own to spring on us.

Chris Dunne

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THE NEW COMMITTEE IS-

President	Rik Tunney
Vice-President	Mike Finger
Secretary	Chris Dunne
Treasurer	Bruce Waddington
Journal Editor	Graeme Smith
Calcite Editor	Chris Dunne
Librarian	Evalt Crabb

The November AGM saw the disappearance of Peter Dykes as a committee person. Peter has since been notified of a job posting to Dubbo and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish him well; we hope to hear from him often.

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NSW SPELEO COUNCIL-

A meeting of the Council was held in Goulburn on Saturday 2 December. Ev Crabb's Membership Report was adopted. Peter Dykes' Report on Scout Caving was adopted with minor modifications after much discussion. A Mini-Conference is proposed for the 25-26 August at Macquarie Uni. It would consist of a Council meeting, speleo sports, a trog dinner, seminar/workshop and a draining trip. A two-week followup trip to the Kempsey region was also proposed. CTCG's application for ASF membership was endorsed by the Council (they have subsequently succeeded in attaining ASF membership at the recent Conference).

Attention was drawn to the NSW News feature in 'ASF Newsletter 80'. Ian Bogg hopes to continue this feature to keep members more abreast of happenings in NSW. We need to be more conscious of club and individual interaction both within this state and at a state level (see also Steve Bunton's letter to the editor in ASF Newsletter 81).

Ian Bogg and John Dunkley are preparing a constitution for the Council.
To top it off, yours truly was elected (by default) to the position
of Minutes secretary to the Council.

Chris Dunne

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NOTES-

Members are forewarned that fees are now due and can be paid at the
next meeting (Sunday 18th). This is the last "Calcite" you get on
your 1978 fees. Fees are: \$4.50 to HCG, plus \$3.50 to ASF, making
\$8.00 to members who pay their ASF Capitation thru HCG. Most of the
Capitation Fee goes to the cost of 'ASF Newsletter'; while most of
the fees to HCG is spent on production of "Calcite".

NPWS have given us copies of an article 'Caves in National Parks'
originally published in the May 1978 edition of their magazine
'Parks and Wildlife'. These are to be distributed to members.

HCG had hoped to commence a resurvey of Tuglow Cave in the absence
of a map from those who should have pulled their fingers out yester-
year. However we've gone the same way with this mammoth undertaking;
the cave 'is' a difficult one. Still, it augurs poorly for NSW speleos
that such a major NSW cave still has no available map.

Rik Tunney gives notice of a motion for amendment of the Constitution,
viz: That the membership section of the Constitution, have added to
it the following:

1. The society may, in recognition of outstanding service to the
society, elect at a General Meeting, by a two-thirds majority
of those attending, an Honourary Life Member, who shall:
 - a. be elected for life or until he terminates his membership.
 - b. pay no fees.
 - c. exercise all the rights and priveleges of other members.
2. There may be no more than two Honourary Life Members elected
within any five year period.
3. Nominations for Honourary Life Memberships must be notified
in the issue of "Calcite" prior to General Meeting.

Rik nominates as Honourary Life Members: Evalt and Joan Crabb.

In reference to Steve's Tassie trip in the May school holidays (see
trip list), if you're interested, he'd like to know early (well before
April) to finalise transport (by air and hire-car). Estimated cost
is \$2-300.

TRIP REPORTS-

COOLEMAN PLAIN

14-17 April (Easter) 1978

Present: Evalt, Joan, Delia, Wayne & Neil Crabb, Gerry & Jenny Hopkins, Bryan Race & Pauline, Kevin Taylor & Adrianne, Rik Tunney and Bruce Waddington.

Purpose: To continue exploratory work in the upstream gorge and Cliff Cave areas (see trip report Easter 1970 in Calcite 18).

Narrative: The trip proceeded despite widespread flooding for the preceeding two weeks. All vehicles converged on Tantangra Dam at 10am Friday as arranged, for the hazardous bogging, muffler tearing journey to our campsite near the old mine. Successively we met a pair of 4WDs coming out of the closed Mosquito Creek trail, then a Ranger telling us that the Mosquito Creek trail was closed (we weren't going there anyway!).

Camp established, the afternoon was spent in closely examining the NW bank and wall of Cave Creek between Coppermine Cave (CP33) and Main Cooleman Cave (CPl). A very promising abandoned outflow cave was found, masked by low vegetation. Entry was possible by scraping away fill material from the floor, a fill which appeared to be quite deep; dry decoration extended to below the existing floor line. This was earmarked as a possible future excavation site of high priority.

From here we proceeded to the face opposite Main Cooleman Cave, examining various obvious entrances at the top of the scree slopes, at the bluff base. Here the limestone had been sharply folded, in a few places overfolded, suggesting that there may not be caves as such, but merely spaces left by the massive fracturing in small, sharp anticlines. We returned to camp at dusk to eat and count satellites.

Saturday morning, and breakfast was disturbed by a gaggle of 4WDs charging up the hill and thru our camp, regardless of established tracks, abusing us for being in there way. We will appropriately apologise when we next see the driver of (NSW) JGI-512.

Breakfasted, Rik took off on his Yamaha to enjoy the breeze and to look at all the open trails and decrepit huts in the area, with various pillian passengers. This was to be his activity for the next two days. A party set off toward Murray Cave (CP3) to allow the first-timers a chance to see a cave. Oohs, ahs, isn't the sump low (but not low enough) and finally Evalt, Gerry, Jenny, Bryan, Bruce and Kevin headed off upstream.

About 500m upstream from Murray Cave, around a turn to the left, we stopped for lunch, and opened a cave. Located near a right-angle bend in the creek bed, some 30m downstream of where running water sank into gravels, there was an obvious inflow entrance, and a higher-level entrance was effected by moving a few rocks. Altogether there was about 15-20m of passage in the complex entrances, further passage being blocked by flood debris. There was no indication of previous investigation. Our own investigation ceased when we started thinking of spiders and snakes.

Walking further upstream, various remnant limestone exposures on the

left hand bank were casually investigated until our pre-established about-turn time came, without our having reached Cliff Cave. A direct route was taken to return to camp, across the higher ground between Murray and River Caves. Many blind dolines were noticed but not investigated.

Next day (Sunday), the same work party set off again to Cliff Cave, this time via the sink-holes to the SE, crossing over upstream of River Cave (CP6). After an early lunch, the cave was entered and explored beyond the point reached by Evalt Crabb and Keith Oliver in 1970. The reported sound of running water was explained and a 'grade 2' map prepared. Upon exit from the cave, Evalt and Gerry went over the top of the hill, locating the daylight hole, the twin dolines over the rock-pile in the cave and the resurgence. Gerry walked to the limestone exposure to the south, reporting a resurgence and other interesting features. A sketch-map of all these features has been prepared. The return to camp was via the creek bed.

On return, Evalt and Neil Crabb went to investigate a very promising looking hole near camp. Forcing entry thru grass and spiders, this proved to be the known Coppermine Cave (CP33). It was not investigated beyond the entrance area.

Sunday night, Gerry and Jenny decided on an early start to the return trip, only to need assistance thru a creek crossing. Next morning, Evalt needed to demonstrate his skill with fencing-wire to reassemble his car. Otherwise the return trip to Sydney was uneventful.

Observations: Cliff Cave (CP4) is a senile cave, its structure based on two joint planes and formed by a stream breaching a low limestone ridge. Considerable breakdown has occurred at the downstream end, the resurgence now occurring beneath a surface collapse, forming a 'V' gully. Directly above the limit of upstream accessibility there is a rockpile between the cave and two collapse dolines on the surface. Right thru, the cave roof is very high (estimated, up to 16m), and it would appear that little erosion need occur before the cave becomes an open valley. Approximately 13m from the entrance a very large dark-brown cave cricket (female) was noticed. Closer to the entrance some small spiders and complex webs were seen.

It is postulated that Cliff Cave is the only remaining remnant of a pattern of breaches in this area of the of the south-west branch of Cave Creek; all stream channels downstream, feeding from the south, have become decadent valleys. Although variations in surface flow in this area have been observed in the past, it is believed that drainage thru the area is mainly thru detritic sub-surface material, rather than thru developed passages. However, it is considered that passages could exist downstream of the inflow cave opened in the hillside, up-stream of Murray Cave.

Ecological Comment: On the trip there was strong emotional objection to use of 4WDs in the area. On the plains and rounded hills between River Cave and Cliff Cave there are innumerable wheel tracks, apparently needless, grading in effect from an eyesore to the purest of incipient surface and gully erosion.

In the same area there are some remaining dense stands of forest. These have been so undermined by wombat activity that very few trees are in a stable condition. This applies equally to the area surrounding our campsite.

Wayne Crabb

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TUGLOW - KANANGRA WALLS-

23-24 September 1978

Present: Chris Dunne, Wayne Crabb, Norman Neuen, Rik Tunney (HCG);
John Burns & Cheryl, David Haig, Dereck Hobbs, Sue Hinkley,
Belinda Price (MUSIG).

Rik had volunteered HCG to show members of MUSIG thru Tuglow Main; the trip was however, ill fated. We had hoped to have the benefit of Peter Dykes' LR, but he never came. We met at the start of the Kanangra Road and proceeded to the top car-park below Boss Hill. The weather was overcast and likely to rain, so we left the cars here and hiked down the foot track to the cave (T1); the Kowmung was cold and flowing quite strongly.

A short way into the cave, young Norman developed claustrophobia, so Rik wisely took him out; Wayne also exited. Further down two others turned back. Meanwhile a group of Rovers was following us in; they exited ahead of us also. The rest of us reached the bottom, signed the visitors book and explored downstream. Then David and I explored upstream to the 5m waterfall. My only other trip into Tuglow was over three years ago and I really didn't know the upper levels, so these weren't looked at - as it was we spent 5½ hrs in the cave. I decided that if HCG is to pursue its idea of resurveying Tuglow, we'll find it quite demanding.

Outside Rik had gone off to peruse Horse Gully Sinks and the general area, making some observations in regard to local hydrology (more, he said, than he had on any previous trips). In particular he noted the apparent perching of the area over the cave, and other benching, in relation to the deepened Kowmung valley.

We made the long, weary walk back to the cars in the dark, and drove back along the track a few kilometres to a grassy campsite; one car-load of MUSIGs later returned to Sydney.

On Sunday the rest of us drove out to Kanangra Walls and had a bit of a walk around the walls and down to Kanangra Falls. Rik pointed out the views towards Katoomba, Colong, Yerranderie and the Gib at Mitta-gong. I also found the geology fascinating. We returned to Sydney separately.

Chris Dunne

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BUNGONIA-

30 September - 2 October 1978

Present: Evalt • Joan Crabb, Bob Miller & Fay.

A weekend of sloth was the intention, so Bob and Fay stayed from Friday to Tuesday, Evalt and Joan only spending from Saturday night to Monday night. Saturday night was spent Saturday-nighting; Sunday morning an early start was made on being slack, followed by a long discussion with the ranger, Don Stoneman.

After photographing close-ups of various mosses and other organisms dependant on moss, Bob and Evalt trogged up and inspected the B74-75, 81-82 complex. Access was easy, as the local vegetation (all stings, spikes, thorns) had not recovered from the sequence of bushfires, winter and flooding. The flooding had caused considerable physical change, due to the lack of vegetation - the stream channels and entrance rockpiles had been scoured, leaving the rockpiles without the stabilising fill material. We talked each other into pussy-footing thru the rocks, recognised the viability of a floor dig in one of the caves, got lost 10m from an entrance, and gracefully retired to admire a moss variety growing in pendant style near an entrance.

After photographing some more little things in the late oblique light, and having tea, we were disturbed by aggressive animal sounds down the valley. We investigated - reluctantly (bunyips? lions? bears? yeti?) - to find two buck kangaroos fighting, surrounded by a 50m diameter ring of female spectators. Our light barely disturbed them; the fight lasted intermittently for approximately ninety minutes.

Shortly after, we heard and saw a car belting toward the reserve, turn onto the quarry road without slackening speed, followed by a loud crashing sound. After about ten minutes silence, we went to count the bodies, arriving just in time to see an almost written-off car removed from its cushion of trees and rock, still able to limp along at less walking pace.

Most campers left early on Monday, so we were able to do nothing, much more comfortably. One observation was that there was a complex variety of ground plants and depenants unique to one patch where a 4WD had chewed up a permanently moist area. This brought to mind the analysis indicating that 'Phytophthora' (die-back fungus) had been extended into vast forest areas on the catapillar tracks of bulldozers. This suggests that a coplete biological-botanical survey is essential, with periodic checking to ascertain human and vehicle impact. The fragility of the Bungonia Plateau ecosystem is far from our present knowledge.

Evalt Crabb

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BUNGONIA-

2-3 December 1978

Present: Evalt Crabb, Chris Dunne.

Following Saturday's Speleo Council meeting in Goulburn, Ev and I drove out to Bungonia c.6pm. We had a look around in the vicinity of B11, where Ev pointed out B57, 58, 59 and Phoenix (B60) - all the captures to the west of Grille Cave (B44). These appear to be along the line of a one time tributary stream, flowing south to Ev's 'stage three' Bungonia Creek (see Crabb in HCG Journal 1).

We joined NSWITSS - here for a training weekend - and camped the night with them. We also spoke with Guy Cox (SUSS) and later got a visit from Graeme Smith. From Guy I learnt that an article on the Geology/Geomorphology of Bungonia is due to be published soon in 'Helectite'. From Graeme I learnt that he and a group including Julia James, whose camp I later visited, had been canyoning in Spring Creek (to the SE), and were going down Odyssey (B24) on Sunday.

Ev and I left NSWITSS after breakfast on Sunday and went off to peruse the area west of the caves road. Just down the we looked at B93, which is on the edge of the nominal catchment of College Cave (B84); there is another capture further down towards the College doline, it is quite degraded. B93 is in bedrock and is a solution grike to a depth of 3+m, then becomes boulder pile. I negotiated a further 3m depth of this into a small chamber, in the bottom of which is a half elliptical solution arch with soil floor. This floor slopes down from a soil slump which has left a bell chamber reaching thru soil, I'd assume to within 2-3m of the surface (I'd guess if one got a bulldozer in and excavated the soil downslope of the entrance one could open a fairly sizeable solution entrance. We walked 200m north across to Mike Finger's impressive dig in B154 doline, a capture on the western edge of the western limestone (as is B93) - we must get back to some of our digs at Bungonia! Next we walked over the Solar Cave doline (B72) and noted also its capture, the Bunny Room (B), both in 'stage Three' of Ev's scheme (ibid).

From here we drove over to Grille Cave where Ev explained a few of his observations and thoughts on the cave and its surrounding area. Primarily we looked at the breakdown of the cave: large boulders 5+m high chocked on small goolies, forming some of the side and under passages in the top part of the cave. This ongoing collapse has been the subject of several article by Ev in the past (I hope to reprint these).

We went over to the old Argyle campsite where we saw Graeme and Julia et al. returning from B24, and I gave her a copy of Journal 1 before leaving. On our way out we noted Orpheus Cave (adjacent to B99) and Rose Cave (unnumbered) - both in 'stage 0' (ibid).

Chris Dunne

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BUNGONIA-

9-10 December 1978

Present: Evalt, Wayne & Neil Crabb (MCG); various size members of Macarthur Caving Group led by Barry Llewellyn.

The purpose of the trip was to introduce 'W'plus Cave (B102) to MCG; an early start detouring via B154 and B93; then the formal overall ripping as many bodies became sexless in the nasty B102. Much enthusiasm about a dig in the end!

Ambling around on the way back - a new hole! Approximately midway between 'W'plus and Erebus Caves, the entrance had become obvious because of drying out - subsidence - defoliation. Hand excavation was undertaken, yielding two rucksacks full of 'ancient' bottles (circa 1930-50), indicating that this was one of the earlier caves to be filled with farm refuse. Aside: What a superb shopper survey can be made over past decades by the recognition of packaging dumped into local caves by a farm household! A complete character profile has been assembled.

Back to camp for descent equipment; back to the hole where a ladder was rigged - Evalt was too fat, so an MCG 'micro-bod' descended thru the awkward entrance - a 5m descent into a chamber with every possible passage clogged with clay.

Disappointed and frustrated we moved on to Erebus Cave. The entrance gully was well protected with spiders and webs - an MCG aversion - so only Evalt, Wayne and Neil entered the cave. At the base of the entrance pitches (?) there was a large colony/flock/tribe/herd of small frogs (when first entered via the now rubbish-filled entrance in 1966, this was known as Frog Cave). Moving on, it was found that the area at the junction of the two entrance passages had spider-webs blocking the passage, spanning approximately 2m. As this is dark zone and the spiders may have some significance, the webs were not disturbed. We exited via Frog Hollow, returned to camp, had dinner, yarned, slept, and farwelled MCG early Sunday morning, as usual (why?).

We then yarned with Don Stoneman for awhile about the ethics and conflicts of caving on the private properties outside the reserve.

Subsequent discussion led to the proposal that MCG surface-survey from 'W'plus to Erebus to relate cave and surface features.

Evalt Crabb

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COOLEMAN PLAIN-

27-29 January 1979

Present: Chris Dunne, Chris Joyce, Graeme Smith.

As we only had one car-load, we joined NSWITSS for the drive in via Tantangra; this precaution was not really necessary as the weather was fine the whole weekend. They camped with several other groups at Blue Waterholes, while we elected to camp near the old mine, our usual

campsite.

After a bite to eat, we hiked cross-country about 1½km to South Branch Sink (CP32). In marked contrast to our trip in last October, flow was down and the stream was sinking much more quietly into its bed, before the boulder choke; it was audible as usual in the nearby bedrock cleft. We moved 200m downstream to Ev's Cave (CP20) and followed this in thru some 60m of dry stream/rift passage, partly filled with boulders and gravel; no water flow was audible as in October.

Next we walked over to River Cave (CP6), 500m to the NW. Graeme has been spoilt; beginning with a touch of Tassie caving two years ago, some English caving - the real thing - then last year's Atea expedition, if he can't wear his wet-suit into a cave and have a 'swim' he gets 'most' upset. He found River Cave much to his liking, though a little short by world standards (sorry Graeme). We made our way to the 'Junction' where we found what I assume to be a rack of water-tracing equipment placed by Jennings et al. in 1969. We waded upstream to the upstream water-trap, then down to the first downstream one. This 1½m sump was Graeme's main interest in the cave - he hopes to psyche himself into the art of 'sump-diving'. It was still somewhat of a challenge to him though there was a fixed handline thru it which one could see on the other side via a peep-hole to one side, so one knew what one was going into. Chris J. elected to forgo this sump-dive rather than get completely soaked to the skin - Graeme and I both had wet-suits on. We two pushed on to the next sump where the stream flows into a deep pool - at quite a rate - and sumps under one wall - this sump is much more impressive. We nosed into a side passage coming down from the left just upstream, before rejoining Chris. Graeme and I, still eager for punishment (it was cold) had another quick look up the upstream end before exiting after 1hr 40min (see Jennings in Helectite 7:4).

We walked again cross-country to Murray Cave (CP3) on the North Branch of Caves Creek. We pushed straight in to the first sump (at its usual level) which Graeme found intriguing; but we hadn't been able to tell from the map if this sump was 5 or 10m long, so despite its large cross-section (2m wide, 1m high) we left it (Evalt tells me the silt stirs quite readily; per Jennings, it is 20+m long!). I wasted awhile crawling around in the mazy section of the lower branch ('stage iii') passages, eventually coming to a silted up chamber with some still water in the bottom. We exited after 1½hrs (see Jennings in Helectite 5:1 and 7:2).

I hoped we might have made it to Cliff Cave (CP4), some 2-3km further west, towards the tree-line (see Crabb TR Easter 1978), but it was now too late so we made our way downstream thru the gorge. I briefly showed Graeme and Chris Cooleman Cave (CP1). We continued to Blue Waterholes where we took a swim in the river and chatted with NSWITSS. We dropped in on them again for a couple of hours in the evening.

Sunday we made a late start (lunch-time) down to the Blue Waterholes and on to Clark Gorge. This gorge is quite impressive in its own right but Graeme was comparing it to some in northern Spain he'd seen, whose relief was measured in thousands of metres! We crossed over the top of the south side of the gorge and down to Fissure Cave (CP13)? which we merely noted on our way to nearby Barber Cave (CP14-17).

We spent two hours here, entering the dry entrance (CP14); took a few

piccies, and had a pretty thorough look thru the cave, particularly upstream towards the wet entrance (CP15). About half-way along, the cave has some impressive canyoning. Particularly interesting is the width of passage, which in parts reaches 3m - certainly much wider than most similar canyon passages I've seen. We exited via the lower, wet outflow (CP17).

Outside again, we continued down-stream to the falls, noting the sinking some 50m upstream of the falls, of a big part of the flow into a boulder pile on the left bank of a deep pool at a bend in the river. Downstream of the falls, also on the left bank, some 300m is the Easter Cave resurgence (CP21). This cave consists of a boulderpile at stream-level where the resurgence joins Caves Creek. In from this is some 10m of canyon passage whose roof falls quickly to stream-level. The floor inside the cave appears to be at least 5m deep and it is less than 1m wide (flooded canyon passage). Various reports give the dive as between 5 and 20m long, the swim being against the current!

We didn't bother to look at any of the other holes/caves in this vicinity, but returned upstream to White Fish Cave (CP18), immediately above the falls in the left wall of a cliff and immediately above stream-level. This descends steeply to a pool and eventually sumps. Graeme enticed us in and round a corner into a dry chamber; he compared this cave to some he'd seen in Nuigini ($\frac{3}{4}$ hr in here). We returned upstream to warm/dry ourselves by NSWITSS fire, before returning to camp.

Monday, Graeme was pining to make another visit to River Cave, however we got up a little too late (8am) - we wanted to return to Sydney fairly early. We broke camp at 10.30 and left via Coolamine Homestead, Long Plain and the Brindabella road.

Chris Dunne

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VALE GRANT WARREN-

It is with profound regret that we note the untimely death of Grant Warren, an outstanding early member of HCG; he was killed instantly when his speed-boat hit a freak wave and disintegrated, on the Hawkesbury River on Sunday 11 February 1979. A passenger in the boat - Arthur Rose, also formerly of HCG - sustained broken bones in his foot but is otherwise unhurt.

In 1961, HCG found Grant; he was alongside his overturned Land Rover - 'Hatari' - on Two Mile Hill at Jenolan; we made him mobile on condition he join the club. He did. He blazed the present route to Tuglow via Parachute Hill. He broke the cave-diving depth record by diving to -21m in Tuglow sump. He abseiled from Carlotta Arch into a large group of tourists on the roadway at Jenolan. He threw piano-sized rocks out of digs. As well as his colourful performances, he was always there - every trip, every activity - leading, cajoling, demonstrating, enjoying. Those who knew him will miss him.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to his wife Dianne, and children Bradley,

Cassandra, Nathan and Hayden.

Evalt Crabb

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TRIP LIST-

February

17-18	Jaunter	Peter Dykes	524-8723
	Bungonia	Evalt Crabb	607-2142
18	General Meeting	7.30 Liverpool Guide Hall	
24-25	Bungonia	Rik Tunney	982-1947

March

10-11	Bungonia	CRG Cave Rescue Practice	
18	General Meeting	7.30 Liverpool Guide Hall	

April

13-17	Cooleman Plain	Evalt Crabb	607-2142
	Budawang Mountains (bushwalking)	Rik Tunney	982-1947
22	General Meeting	7.30 Liverpool Guide Hall	
28	NSW Speleo Council Meeting - Goulburn		

May

5-20	Tasmania: Maydena-Ida Bay- Mole Ck	Steve Bunton	524-8116
20	General Meeting	7.30 Liverpool Guide Hall	

June

'QB'	Cocinbil Karst (cross-country skiing)	Rik Tunney	982-1947
17	General Meeting	7.30 Liverpool Guide Hall	

August 25 - September 2

	Nullarbor Plain	Rik Tunney	982-1947
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