

Calcite

Journal of the Highland Caving Group



Issue 44-June 2011

Wee Jasper Book Launch

HCG trains with KSS

Coco Creek, NSW

HCG member awarded

Caving lies

A Corporate Member of the Australian Speleological Federation



Highland Caving Group

A Corporate Member of the Australian Speleological Federation

P.O. Box 54, Georges Hall, NSW, 2198



HCG meets every second Tuesday of the month at
NSW Cave Rescue HQ, Klemm St, Bankstown Airport, NSW-7:30pm.

HCG website <http://www.hcg.org.au/>
HCG1 eGroup for members <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HCG1/>

HCG Committee 2011/2012

President	Ian Lutherborrow	president@hcg.org.au
Vice President	Joe Sydney	joes@hcg.org.au M: 0405 039 398
Secretary	Bruce Waddington	secretary@hcg.org.au
Treasurer	Lindsay Matheson	treasurer@hcg.org.au

Non committee positions

Librarian	Ian Lutherborrow	ianl@hcg.org.au
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NSW Speleo Council	Cathy Brown	cathyb@hcg.com.au
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	Joe Sydney	joes@hcg.org.au M: 0405 039 398
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Club fees for 2011/2012

- Member: \$83.00
- 3 month 'trial' membership: \$30 *
- Life Member: \$68.00
- Family Membership: \$136.50

* Trial membership does not include Caves Australia magazine.

What you get:

- HCG and ASF membership
- Caves Australia magazine
- Calcite journal
- Public liability insurance
- Skills training
- Caving information

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Issue 44 - June 2011



Calcite

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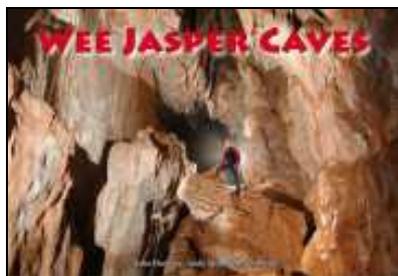
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Feature articles



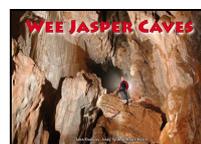
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Coco Creek (2003), NSW 23



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Cover photo

Lyndon Ray /HCG catches the large inflated bat balloon symbolizing the launch of the Wee Jasper Caves book launch. See page 10.

Photo by: Kent Henderson/ACKMA

ASF, HCG Projects and News

HCG AGM & Elections for 2011/12

HCG held their AGM on March 8th. The President, Ian Lutherborrow welcomed members and especially our newer members. HCG has grown over the past few years to what it is today with great members who all enjoy caving.

It seems that the members are happy with the old guard as they have been re-elected for another term. Refer to HCG minutes of March 8th for full report.

Graeme Smith conducted the election of the HCG executive and declared all positions vacant and called nominations for the executive positions. The following members were elected into the following positions:

- **President:** Ian Lutherborrow.
- **Vice President:** Joe Sydney.

The meeting agreed to only have one VP for 2011/12.

- **Secretary:** Bruce Waddington.
- **Treasurer:** Lindsay Matheson.
- **ASF Councillors:** Cathy Brown and Joe Sydney.
- **NSW Speleo Council:** Cathy Brown and Joe Sydney.
- **Librarian:** Ian Lutherborrow.

HCG was also very active over that past year with lots of great trips and organising caver social events:

- Development of a HCG caver training manual;
- Wee Jasper Caves book launch;
- Calcite journal was resurrected;
- HCG/CSS B4-5 paleo-sediment preservation project at Bungonia;
- BBQ on Oct long weekend;
- Inter club social trip to sea cave at Avalon;
- HCG/HSC cave surveying course at Bungonia;
- Jason Moule's 40th birthday;
- Sanctum movie social at Hurstville;
- HCG Xmas BBQ at Appin;
- Dismantling and erecting shelving for ASF in Canberra;
- Trip to Colong Caves;
- BRAG attendances.

ASF library shelf erection day!

By Joe Sydney, HCG

On Sat 22 January, hoards of cavers from various clubs descended upon CHOICE Magazine to disassemble its storeroom metal shelving. CHOICE were disposing of its storeroom and library shelving so it was an opportunity for ASF to use the shelves for its library in Canberra.

John Dunkley of Canberra brought a trailer to CHOICE and cavers loaded it with metal shelving and uprights. It took John 4.5 hours for the return to drive from Marrickville (Sydney) to Canberra which usually takes 3 hours.

On Australia Day, I drove my new Subi Outback with passenger Bruce Waddington to help with erection of shelves. John had also arranged for a group of local cavers and bushwalkers to help. Cathy Brown another HCG member and resident of Canberra turned up to help too.

John showed us where all the shelving was to be placed so I cracked the whip to get the cavers started in assembling the shelves whilst I angle grinded the bookshelves to size. ASF now has two 92 x 92cm x 2m bays and three bookcase type shelves to store its books, maps and library.

At a later date, we will return to assemble more shelving once John works out where the rest will fit. So, stay tuned for a date later in 2011!

Our thanks to all those that helped on Australia Day.



The 28th ASF conference was held at Chillagoe in April 2011. 9 HCG members will attend. Read all about Chillicon in the next issue of Calcite!

Check on updates and pics on the Chillicon website at <http://www.chillagocavingclub.org.au/>

Calcite 43, a journal worth reading!

By Joe Sydney, Editor of Calcite



The previous issue of Calcite seemed to be very popular with cavers nationally and internationally. As soon as it was uploaded, cavers began downloading Calcite immediately. In fact, within days of its upload it was downloaded by

by 228 cavers! In addition, some were sent direct to cavers requesting the PDF so that increased numbers to 236 copies circulated!

Congratulations of an excellent issue were received from most Australian clubs, many cavers as well as international contacts!

Great teamwork HCG!

HCG sees Sanctum!

HCG views Sanctum, the caving movie!

By Joe Sydney



HCG members finally got to see Sanctum, the new caving movie 4 days after it premiered. Cavers from all over Australia were flocking to the cinemas to see the latest in caving movies with HCG members being no different.

With tickets in their hands, 10 HCG cavers saw the movie at Hurstville on 6 Feb 2011. Sadly, not all members could make it with three members dropping out at the last moment.

So what did we think of the movie! Great! Finally, someone has made a realistic movie about caving and cave diving with all the plausible risks. No demons, pointy-eared creatures, blood sucking

halflings, just the real facts as they could happen on any HCG trip! Mind you, some of it was a bit over the top but who cares; it was great entertainment with caves. Well done Andrew Wight and James Cameron!

HCGs' German friends return!

Chris and Michael ex-members of HCG are back in Oz for a short trip. They've hired a 'Wicked' campervan to do a short sightseeing trip from Sydney to Melbourne via Bright (Vic) which at this time of year has its change of season and magnificent display of autumn colours. Before they headed off on their trip, they wanted to catch up with club members. A 'welcome back' BBQ was held on Sunday (6 March) at Joe's home with an invitation to all HCG members.

Funny things do happen, sometimes! Whilst shopping for BBQ food, Joe popped in to Liquorland to buy some Aussie beer for the boys and bumped into the guys at the beer fridge! After a chat and few laughs, they headed back to Joe's place for the BBQ. Bruce turned up at around 6pm so we all had a great time chatting about...caving! The food wasn't bad either, chicken, prawns, swordfish steak, salad and...beer!

Chris and Michael stayed the night at Joe's rather than sleep on the side of the road in their 'Wicked' rental van.

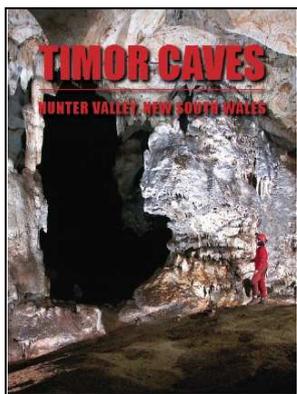
Anyway, it was great to catch up the guys who have extended an invitation for HCGers to attend their next BBQ, in Germany!

What's in Caves Australia? Issue No.182?

The June-September 2010 (No.182) issue of Caves Australia magazine saw an article on HCGs' support of the NSWSC and caver social weekend at Wombeyan Caves with 72 cavers attending, and, the Bouverie Cave clean up after the major cave rescue.

Stay tuned for CA 183 for more exciting reading from HCG.members.

HCG assists NHVSS in selling No.1 Timor book on eBay!



NHVSS approached HCG asking for assistance to sell the No.1 author autographed copy of the Timor book on eBay. Joe set up an auction site and the book was soon sold for \$90. The money raised will help NHVSS in recouping some of their Timor Court challenge.

Need some basic cave information? Why not checkout ASF's Karst Databases.

Many cavers are not aware that ASF has two karst, caves and feature databases. Cavers and interested public can access one of the database for basic karst information. Here is an overview of what the ASF has.

1. KID (Karst Index Database): A web based database that only caters to some feature information. Most of the information is from the 1985 Karst Index however many cavers and clubs have been inputting current information and data. This information is shared to cavers and public.

<http://kid.caves.org.au/kid/>

2. OzKarst an off-line GIS database which holds detailed area, feature and outcrop information. This information is confidential to ASF.

With both databases the information is entered by the club/person who chooses to nominate whether they want to share some or all of their data with other ASF clubs or agencies.

At present OzKarst is still being trialled within ASF and is not available to non-ASF clubs.

Peter Dykes
ASF/NSW Data Co-ordinator

B4 paleo-sediment preservation project update

On Feb 19th 2011, cavers descended on B4 Fossil Cave to see how well one section of the Kings Cross area bridge lamination would fit. Cavers were used to haul the bridge lamination into the cave, see how it fitted, take final measurements, and then take the lamination piece out again.

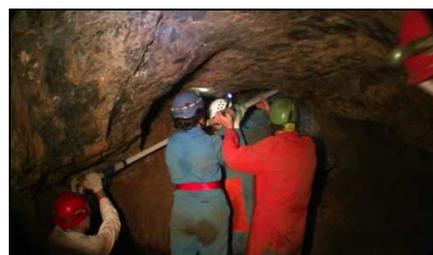
Dirk has completed constructing the main bridge section with May 28/29 set aside for bridge installation. Once fitted, measurements will be taken for the final vertical ladder section to be installed at a later date. Our thanks to all cavers who assisted.



Dirk briefs cavers with their tasks and safety.



The single bridge lamination being lowered at Entrance (P1).



Cavers manoeuvre the lamination through the Letterbox Squeeze.



Luke Gannon measuring the level at Kings Cross void.

All photos by Joe Sydney/HCG.

B4 project update!

B4 project update: June 18 2011

23 ASF cavers descended upon Bungonia B4 Fossil Cave to install the bridge and ladder! The bridge has been installed so stay tuned for an article in Calcite and Caves Australia!

Caving 'Apps' for Touch Screen Phones

By Joe Sydney

There is a shift from old keypad type phone technology to next generation touch screen phones that also use internet for access to information. This opens the door to a new whole world of information at your fingertips which includes 'apps'. If you own a touch screen type phone, here are a few tips.

What is an 'app' and how can it help cavers?

Apple originally developed an 'app', or application, for its iPhone but apps are now available to other brands of touch screen type phones. An 'app' is a small software program that can be downloaded directly by the cell phone, or downloaded to a computer and transferred to the phone. Whilst some are free whilst many charge a small fee of around \$2. There are many very good types of apps such as: Google Chrome, Google Earth, Gimp (drawing), Gmail, Facebook, banking, finance, health, games...and some caving! At last count, iPhone list over 700 apps with hundreds more on the internet! So, knowing this, which will be the world's first caving club to offer an 'app' as a direct link to their club website!

A search for caving apps shows some interesting results, here are a few.

Caving Dictionary

From iTune/Deep Powder Software
Category: Sports
Cost \$1.19

<http://itunes.apple.com/au/app/caving-dictionary/id347205047?mt=8#>

If you are into caving, new to caving or are interested in caving then this application is for you. This app has a plethora of caving terms, abbreviations, with descriptions of all terms, slang, etc. Search through the database in alphabetical order or search using any keyword. Although it uses US terminology, it is still useful.



Cavers

From: iTunes/André Biasi
Category: Games
Price: \$0.99c

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cavers/id415036165?mt=8#>

For cavers with an iPhone, there is a great caver game app. Choose between 3 unique flying ships and manoeuvre through an ever



changing cave full of dangers. Avoid giant bats, rocks and be careful with the crystals, they will change the speed, acceleration, weight and controls of your ship or make it invulnerable for a few seconds. How far can you get? If you are a fan of helicopter games, this is a game you will enjoy for sure!

CavingTube - a caving video lounge

From: iPhone/xhumans
Category: Entertainment
Price: \$0.99c

<http://iphoneappsplus.com/entertainment/cavingtube---a-caving-video-lounge/index.htm>

Sit back and watch some of the best caving videos available on the iPhone. CavingTube is the premier place for caving videos. Its main feature is a spectacular selection of caving videos.



Need sunglasses, check out Pilbara Geological Supplies

Tinted Safety Glasses (Aust. Standards Approved)



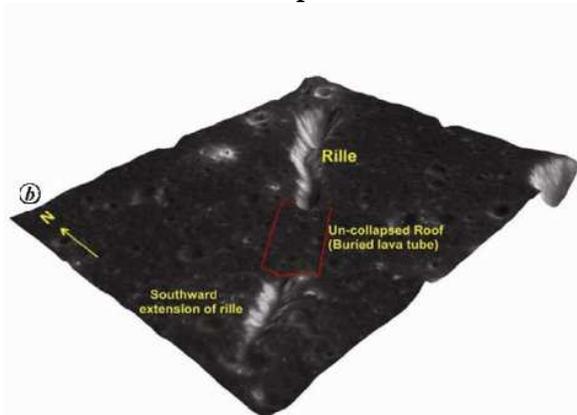
\$7.50 each less 5%
A great pair of sunglasses as trialled at Chillicon-FNQ! Pilbara Geological Supplies are offering a 5% discount on all their products (except hand held lenses) to HCG members and cavers.

Quote 'HCG2011' for your discount.

www.pilbarageology.com.au

HGG moving to its new moon base, once it works out how to get there!

ISRO finds cave on moon; can be used as an outpost!



NEW DELHI: ISRO scientists have discovered a giant underground chamber on the moon, which could be used as a lunar base by astronauts for interplanetary missions. Scientists at the Space Applications Centre (SAC), using data gathered from Chandrayaan-I's Terrain Mapping Camera and Hyper Spectral Imager (HySI) payloads, found a 1.2 km long buried, uncollapsed and near horizontal lava tube. The hollow cave situated just above the lunar equator on the nearside of moon, can accommodate a large number of astronauts and scientific instruments, and also protect them from hostile lunar environment. "Such a lava tube could be a potential site for future human habitability on the Moon for future human missions and scientific explorations, providing a safe environment from hazardous radiations, micro-meteoritic impacts, extreme temperatures and dust storms," a team of scientists led by A S Arya of SAC, Ahmedabad said reporting the findings in 'Current Science'. Scientists said identifying sites for permanent base for human settlements on the moon is important for further exploration. "Lava tubes provide a natural environmental control with a nearly constant temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius, unlike that of the lunar surface showing extreme variation, maximum of 130 degrees Celsius to a minimum of minus 180 degrees Celsius in its diurnal (day-night) cycle," they said. The scientists said the lava tubes offer a dust-free environment and adapting them for human use requires minimal construction. The structures also shield its occupants as after 6 metres depth, no effects of radiation due to or induced by galactic cosmic rays were observed in simulation, they said. "After less than one meter, no effects of

radiation due to or induced by solar particle events are observable. Natural or induced radioactivity does not play a significant role in the lava tube exposures," the scientists said. "Thus lava tubes are not only a safe natural cavity, but also a readymade structure for a lunar base, being a habitat," they said.

Source:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/7562900.cms>

Pics source from original report:
<http://www.ias.ac.in/currsci/25feb2011/524.pdf>

Cave surveying news update! Leica Disto conversion kit!

By Joe Sydney-HCG

The faithful DistoX/Leica Disto A3 upgrade kit is no longer made owing to discontinuation of parts. A recent email by HCG to the designer Beat Heeb in Switzerland, states that he is in the process of designing the new upgrade kit for a later models, the DXT. According to Beat, he will shortly start to test a first prototype but expects several design cycles until a final kit is available.

More information about the DistX and new upgrade for the DXT can be found here.

<http://paperless.bheeb.ch/>



The newer Leica DXT, more robust and waterproof.

Petzl recall Gri Gri 2



Recall for replacement: GRIGRI 2

Concerns all GRIGRI 2's (D14 2O, D14 2G, D14 2B)
with the first five digits of the serial number
between 10326 and 11136.

Petzl has discovered that exerting excessive force on the fully extended handle of the GRIGRI 2 can cause internal damage, such that the GRIGRI 2 handle may become stuck in the open position. Contact Spelean for more details

grigri2@petzl.com.au
+61 2 9966 9800

Bungonia BRAG bat biscuits!

During the Oct 2010 BRAG meeting, Julie Bauer gave Joe a box of bat objects which included a biscuit cutter. Audrey, the Parks Ranger jumped on this immediately and stated that she and fellow members were expecting bat biscuits at the next BRAG meeting. Sadly, Audrey could not make the next meeting but the biscuits did.

Here is a recipe that should make reasonable bat biscuits!

Ingredients

-  200g unsalted butter, softened
-  200g caster sugar
-  1 egg, lightly beaten
-  2 1/3 cups (350g) plain flour
-  1/2 cup (50g) cocoa powder, sifted
-  Ready-made white 'writing' icing for 'eyes'

How to make bat biscuits:

Line 2 trays with baking paper, or, grease well with cooking margarine. Using electric beaters, beat butter and sugar in a bowl until just pale and creamy. Beat in egg, mixing well. Fold in flour and cocoa to combine, then tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead briefly to form a smooth dough. Enclose in plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour.

Halve dough. On a floured surface, roll out each piece to about 5mm thick. Using a bat shaped cutter, cut out shapes and place on trays, leaving a 2-3cm gap between biscuits. Chill for a further 30 minutes on the trays.

Preheat oven to 180°C. Bake biscuits for 10 minutes until dry. Transfer to a rack to cool before decorating with icing. Makes about 30 biscuits!

Enjoy!

Self-explanatory 'caving Lies'.

We've all been on caving trips when things go wrong, well, here are a few 'caving lies' that we've all heard before...

- 'It's a horizontal cave system!'
- I thought you had the map?
- Of course I can navigate!
- I know the cave well!
- 'You can't get lost.'
- 'It's all walking passage.'
- 'The trip should take us about 4-6 hours.'
- 'It's dry.'
- 'There's a short free climb.'
- 'Sure, I know the way to the cave.'
- 'Of course it goes!'
- 'No, you won't need a wetsuit.'
- 'It's just a short duck-under.'
- 'Leave your pack behind, you won't be needing it.'
- 'There's plenty of room to turn around.'
- 'I know exactly where I'm at!'
- 'Don't worry, you won't need knee pads for this cave.'
- 'Just a couple photos...'
- 'Virgin cave is just waiting!'
- 'Just a quick dig...'
- 'We have permission.'
- 'I found a new cave no one has ever been in.'
- 'It's a short walk.'
- on a map..." ends"
- on a map..."borehole"
- I thought you had the key?
- Yeah, it'll take your weight!
- I know the cave like the back of my hand!
- You won't need a belay!

Contributed by Harry Marinakis, West Virginia, USA who located these on the National Speleological Society's site CaveChat with a few extras by Joe Sydney of HCG.

(Republished from Troglodyte 20 issue 2 Dec 2010)

Wee Jasper Book launch

Launch activity
co-ordinated by
Joe Sydney of HCG

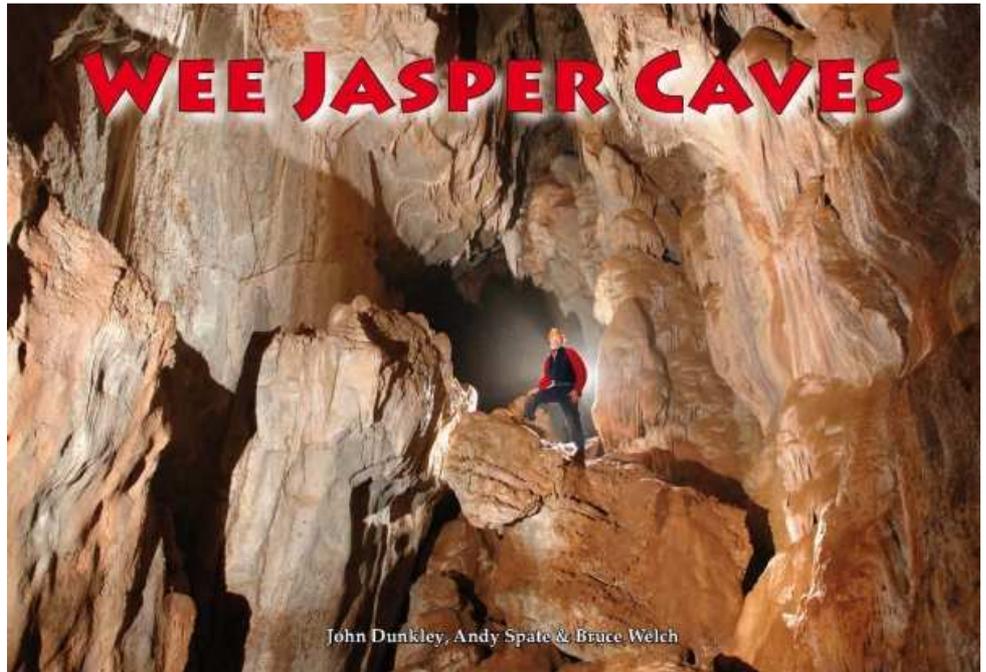
Attendance

HCG

Fiona, Greg, Lyndon, Jeremy, Tahlia and Willow Ray, Joe Sydney, John & Jeanette Dunkley, David Rothery, Bruce Waddington, Lindsay Matheson, Cathy Brown, Ian Lutherborrow, Ian, Anna and Rebecca Binnie, Phil Fleming and Graeme Smith.

With a cast of cavers and friends of Wee Jasper.

21 August 2010



Wee Jasper Book Launch

For some in HCG, the book launch started many months ago, well before the announcement of our impending Federal elections. So, how successful was the event considering the elections and hordes of attending cavers. Read on to find out!

Months earlier.

John Dunkley, member of HCG and co-author of the Wee Jasper book approached me some months earlier to discuss if HCG would consider assisting with the launch of his latest book, "Wee Jasper Caves". I jumped at the opportunity as I felt that it was an excellent opportunity to gather the caving clans to another great event. After numerous discussions with John and Geoff Kell, manager of Careys Cave, we were ready for the event. Book written by John Dunkley, Andy Spate and Bruce Welch

Setting up and organising Friday 20 August 2010

A few of managed to get the day off so it was an early start to the day. The car was packed the night before and was ready for lift off as soon as Graeme Smith arrived. As soon as he did, we were off into the quagmire of Sydney's traffic heading south along M2, M7 then Hume Freeway.

Close to Marulan, I rang David Rothery to see where he was and found that he was just entering Bungonia

village. We finally caught up with him at Bungonia National Park as we had pre-arranged to look at and assess the possible removal of a boulder that had dropped blocking B35 Hollands Hole entrance. A few days earlier, the Ranger had asked for an opinion regarding removal so we decided to pop in for a look considering that we were sort of driving past. On inspecting B35 entrance and boulder, it was determined that it would be an interesting lift as the boulder is estimated to be around 5-600kg! We all put our thinking caps on in various extraction methods and will chat to Parks about it later.

Driving to Bungonia also gave us an opportunity to drop in to see Don Stoneman - ex Bungonia Park ranger, give some equipment and have a very quick cuppa. We were soon back on the road just after 11am and continued our drive stopping once again at Goulburn to buy a cooked chook for our dinner later that night. We caught up with David again just off the side of the Wee Jasper / Yass Roads whilst Graeme and I were having a pie for lunch. We were again, back on the road and on arrival at Wee Jasper,

went straight to Wee Jasper Station to place a few event signs up for cavers. After that, it was off to Careys Cave finding the manager Geoff Kell hard at work getting the cave ready for the event. I said that we would dump our gear and food for BBQ at the Cooradigbee Shearers Quarters and will return to help.

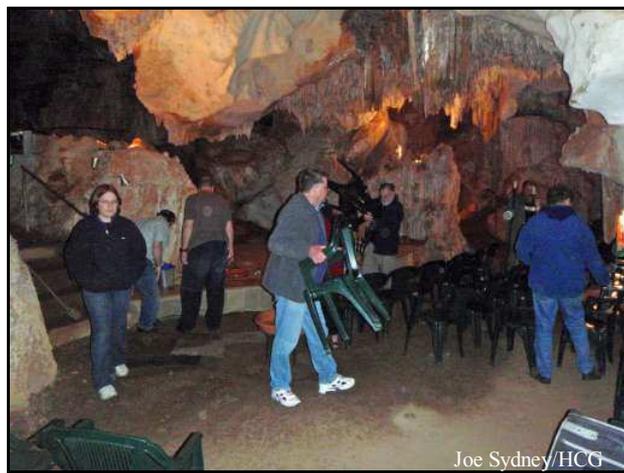


Cooradigbee Shearers Quarters.

We found the Quarters and much to our surprise, it came with lots of commercial and quantity cooking / catering implements, which made the weekend's BBQ and catering much easier. The Cottage where we were staying was only a few hundred metres away so we dumped our gear there and returned to Careys Cave.

First task was to set up the HUGE tarp but we were quite worried as the wind was blowing with some force making the tarp erection challenging. With the help of a few cavers, the tarp was soon erected. So, we then started to help Geoff with putting up electric lights (outside) and a few odd chores around the office area. Inside the cave we all pitched in to help set up the chairs, electrics for speakers/lights and chatted about the proposed program.

It was not long before we managed to complete all the tasks so it was back to the Shearers Quarters and Cottage to work on a few things there. David got stuck into making the jelly needed for the trifle dessert whilst the rest of us unpacked the food etc. By now cavers started to trickle in and as I had pre-arranged the cavers bedding in several rooms, it all flowed smoothly. It was getting late now so we headed back to the Cottage, had dinner and went straight to bed.



Bruce helping out with the seating!

Book launch: Saturday 22 August 2010

A few of the guys got up early and I thought that 7am was reasonable! It was cold, wet and very windy, was not a good omen for the tarp erected the day before. After a hearty full fat bacon sandwich and fresh coffee breakfast, we popped up to the Shearers Quarters to find cavers enjoying a social breakfast. It was at this point that Cathy Brown pulled me aside and said...David's had a turn and he doesn't want you to panic or fuss over him! I found Fiona with David sitting on the deck talking to him. We chatted and noted that his face had lapsed, had slurred speech but he did not show any additional signs or symptoms. The first thing we all suspected was a stroke so I grabbed my medical kit and asked Fiona to complete a patient's observation form, checked his blood pressure and heart. During this, I applied oxygen to David who started to grizzle at all the...fuss. I can now hear you as the reader says, oxygen? Yes, with so many old cavers attending the launch, I had decided to err on caution and take a few extra medical precautions, like oxygen.

Call the ambulance!

Luckily, Ian Lutherborrow had a country phone with car antenna so we were able to ring Canberra ambulance asking for an ambulance to meet David at Uriarra crossing some 1 hour's drive away. David was bundled into Fiona's car (9am) with Cathy Brown and was followed by Bruce in David's car. Later, we were told that the cars were met by Yass ambulance at Mountain Creek Rd turn off and were asked to take David to Canberra Hospital.

At Uriarra Crossing, the Paramedics were waiting and after a quick check-up, they determined that the Yass Ambulance could continue to Canberra Hospital. There he was scanned that afternoon, was given an all clear of a stroke, and was diagnosed with

Bell's Palsy which is much better than a stroke. That was a great relief to David and the rest of us. Now it was time for the remainder of us at the Station to get stuck into last minute preparations at Careys Cave so we were off! On arrival, we were disappointed to find that the winds had blown one corner of the tarp down. This was quickly fixed along with setting up and getting the welcome area ready, but the weather started to change, for the worse!

Guests arrive

People started to trickle in so our car marshals Haley (CWCG) and Ian Wood helped set up and organise the car parking. Most of us popped back into the cave to find that all the larger chores were completed with only a few small chores requiring finishing off.

More people started to arrive and shelter under the picnic area and, so did the bad weather, cold, wet and windy weather. The good news is that Geoff had organised some hot soup and rolls to warm the cockles of cavers' hearts and stomachs to bear the cold and freezing wind

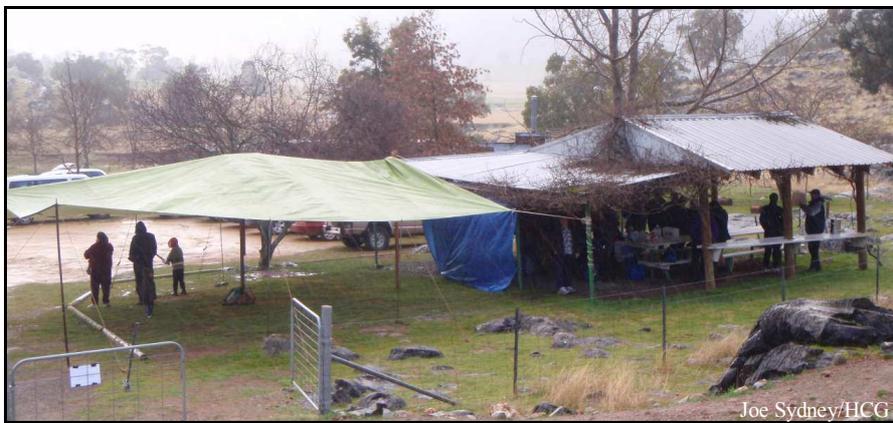
It was not long when Geoff was happy with the cave being organised and safe so guests were allowed

entry. They were greeted at the cave entrance by cavers wearing a mask with hat, and then by myself at the foot of the stairs. They were then passed to Rebecca Binnie and Tahlia Ray (5yo) who ushered guests to their seats.

During seating, guests were entertained with an ensemble of flautist, fiddler and guitar, the last played by Geoff Kell. This was followed by a short song by Geoff supported again by his trio.



Tahlia Ray of HCG with her pet bat.



The hot soup, roll and extra-large tarp helped guests deter the rain, wind and bitter cold.



Then suddenly, the clouds parted and there was a rush for the cave entrance



Kent Henderson/ACKMA

Stage entertainers greet guests.



Kent Henderson/ACKMA

Welcome, introduction and guest speakers

When all guests were seated, Geoff introduced himself and commenced the launch with greeting in Vulcan! The greeting was to mimic the recent announcement by Jenolan Caves that one tour can now be undertaken in Klingon, so it was quite amusing.

Jodie Rutledge, ASF Senior Vice President MCDed the event with a warm welcome to guests. The launch commenced with a video tribute by Andy Spate to Joe Jennings who had done so much for Wee Jasper in terms of scientific world.

Earlier on, Geoff had the idea of using the cave ceiling as the main screen and we all looked at each other and said, why not! The screening of



Joe Sydney/HCG

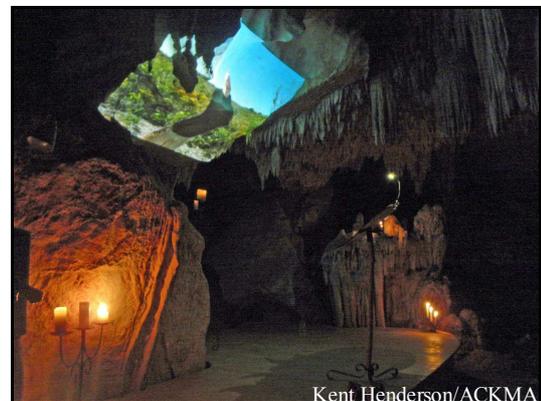
Geoff Kell, Careys cave manager opens event with a Vulcan greeting.

the tribute on the ceiling worked perfectly with sighs of awe coming from the guests. This was followed by Roger Curtis of the Canberra Speleological Society as they have been working in the area for several decades.



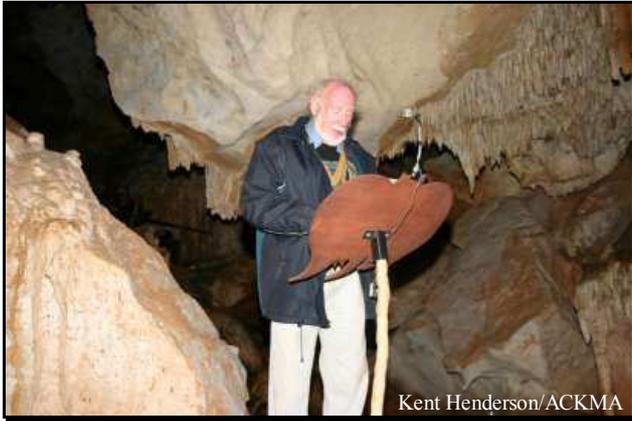
Kent Henderson/ACKMA

Jodie Rutledge, Senior Vice President of ASF.



Kent Henderson/ACKMA

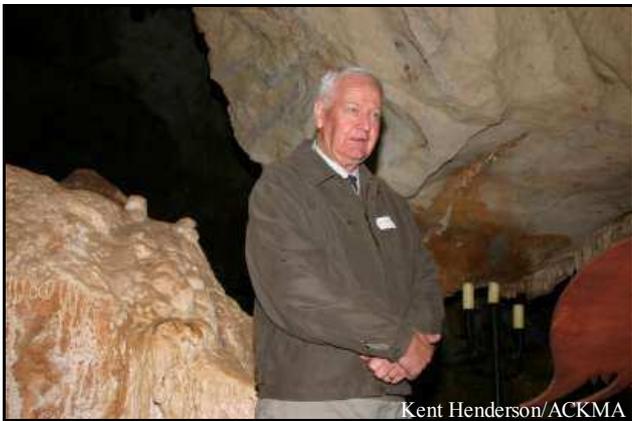
Screening of Andy Spate's tribute to Joe Jennings on the cave wall.



Kent Henderson/ACKMA

Roger Curtis of CSS speaks about early days of Wee Jasper exploration.

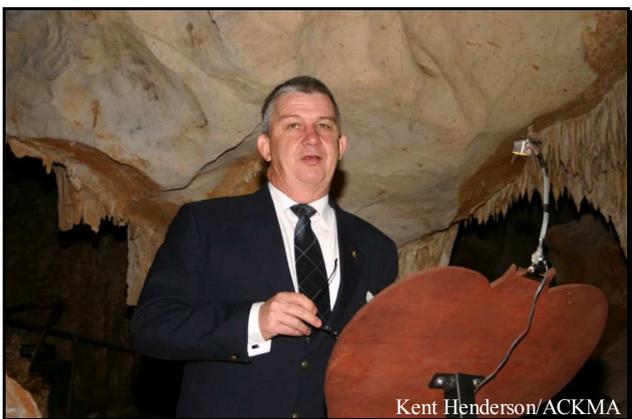
Mr Adrian Carey, son of the first manager of Careys Cave in the 1900s stepped up and gave us a reminiscence of his days of managing the cave.



Kent Henderson/ACKMA

Mr Adrian Carey, son of the first manager of Careys Cave.

Mr John Flarrey, Program Manager of the NSW Land & Property Management Authority spoke also about the history of work by the caving and scientific community in helping understand the Reserve.

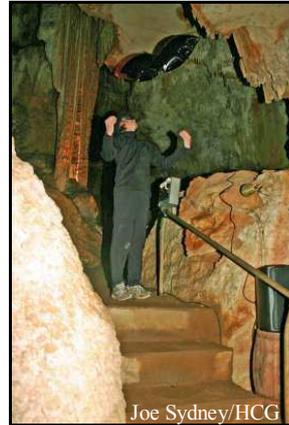


Kent Henderson/ACKMA

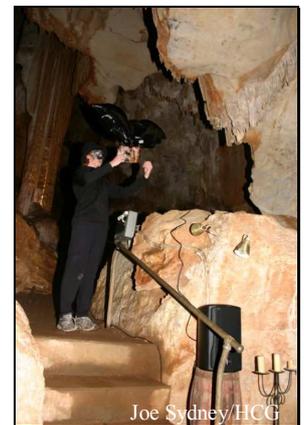
Mr John Flarrey, Program Manager of the NSW Land & Property Management Authority

Launch of the book!

Young Lyndon entertained us with his top hat and mask as the book cover was lowered to him from the cave ceiling attached to a giant sized helium filled bat balloon! Lyndon caught the cover perfectly and handed it to Mr Flarrey and at this point, the book was declared, launched. The cover was returned to Lyndon, re-attached to the bat and launched back up to the ceiling. It was a truly entertaining book launch!

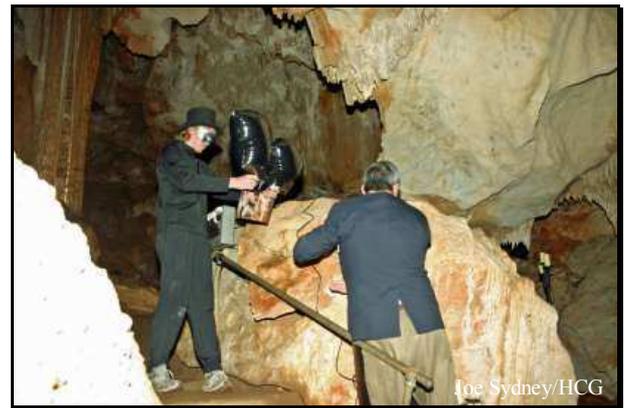


Joe Sydney/HCG



Joe Sydney/HCG

The book is launched, by bat!

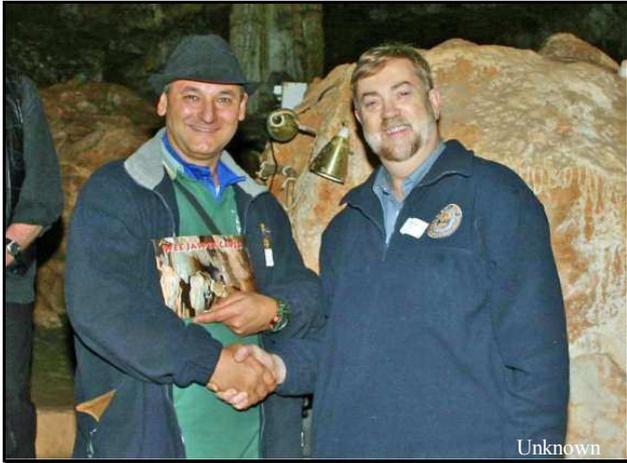


Joe Sydney/HCG

Autographed book No. 1 auctioned

Jodie again provided a few words followed by Kent Henderson representing ACKMA who auctioned the No.1 book as signed by the authors to the hysteries of the crowd. For bidding was fierce and reached \$110 with the winner being myself.

With the official launch now over, guests were invited to take a tour with Geoff or wander around enjoying the cave with their friends. After all of the guests left the remaining cavers helped Geoff dismantle the entertainment area and packed away the chairs. HCG cavers then rushed back to the Shearers Quarters to start organising the evening's cavers event, the BBQ.



Kent Henderson of ACKMA and auctioneer presents winning bidder Joe Sydney of HCG with signed book.

Social BBQ

Ian L fired up the BBQ and started to cook the meat with the help of Peter Dykes and a few HCG members. Back inside I whipped a few covers into helping prepare the salads as some HCG members who went to Canberra had still not returned. Covers were great and rolled up their sleeves once they were given a task. A few others mingled and started their evening's consumption of wine early.

Stop stirring! It tastes better than it looks!

The kids got involved too and were asked to make the trifle dessert! Several kids got involved and I showed them how to make trifle. My mistake was to leave them on their own for a fraction of a second whilst they stirred, and stirred, and stirred the trifle, to death! When it was time to serve the dessert many a caver look in stunned silence to the consistency of the dessert with one commenting, it actually tasted better than it looked! After that comment the reluctant cavers tucked in.



Kids helping make the trifle.



Never leave kids unattended when they're stirring trifle. It tastes better than it looks!

Thanks from John the author

Some hours later and after copious amounts of red were consumed, a few words of thanks was said by John Dunkley author of the book. Jodie also said a few words about the Timor Caves court case and thanking HCG in organising the event.

After even more red was consumed and lots of socialising, we all pitched in to help clean up before the tired ones went off to grab well-earned sleep.



A few words of thanks from author John Dunkley.

HCG would like to thank Kent Henderson of ACKMA for the use of his photos in this article

Buy me!

Where to buy
Wee Jasper Caves book

See page 32

Sore heads and fossil tour Sunday 23 August 2010

I bet some heads hurt that Sunday morning after much of the previous evening's socialising and copious reds. I had to hurriedly pack up and toss out left over covers by

10am as another troop was on its way arriving at lunchtime. A few of us were off to attend the lungfish / placoderm fossil tour that I had arranged with property owner, Ian Cathles.

Fossil find background

The first placoderm or Devonian period lungfish were found around 1876 near Buchan with follow up finds in similar limestone's along the Murrumbidgee River in New South Wales now the site of Burrinjuck Dam and Reservoir built in 1906. Later in the 1950s and 60s after a British Museum scientific visit, more placoderm finds were found on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River on the Cooradigbee property. This find raised the eyebrows of the international community as new genus was found. The interesting aspect of the significant finds is drawn from the quality of the finds.

From complete acid extraction, the skull finds reveal details of the internal structural complexity of the vertebrate brain from 400 million years ago. Only a few other localities in the world (e.g. Arctic Canada; Morocco; Gogo, W.A.) have produced similar acid-prepared specimens with braincase preservation. This is why the Wee Jasper site is so significant.



Ian Cathles, Cooradigbee property owner and fossil guide explains about climate change, how it affected Wee Jasper and fossils.



Looking for fossils along the banks of the Murrumbidgee River.

Cooradigbee fossil tour

We all met at the 'Homestead', which is the luxurious rental property on Cooradigbee Station. The owner Ian Cathles greeted us and directed us to his fossil room to show us numerous examples of various fossils found in the area from placoderm, nautilus corals, shells etc. He commenced the tour with an explanation of the geological and paleontological significance of the Wee Jasper valley. He also gave an excellent interpretation of how climate change has played a big part in Wee Jasper over the millennium and how it affected the coral reefs throughout the ages.

Moving outside we slowly made our way towards the Murrumbidgee River. About half way between house and river we made our first find amongst the many protruding rocks, a few differing types of corals. Closer to the river there were more finds but this time nautilus spiral and coned. Interestingly, there was the odd sandstone rock found on the surface, which contained mollusc.



Start of the fossil tour.



Various coral, mollusc and nautili fossils found on the property.

By now, we had made our way to a long small narrow ridge of limestone and Ian pointed to a small black patch on the rock and commented, "This is a small piece of lungfish and who knows what's inside the rock!" This now excited the cavers, as they knew what to look for. It was not long before the first caver found another piece, then another, then

another. There seemed to be many small pockets of black protruding fossils in the area.

It was now 2pm and a few of us still had chores to finish off so we said our thanks to Ian for the tour and good byes to all.



Looking for placoderm fossils.



Remains of placoderm skull.

We made our way back to Careys Cave to pick up the tarpaulin, thanked Geoff for his hospitality with the book launch, and headed off to Canberra to visit David. Closer to Canberra we rang him and found him at his sister's home. Apparently, he was discharged from hospital on Saturday so he stayed at his sisters overnight. Considering that he was well enough to travel, we took him home back to Sydney. ■



Nautili

Kempsey Speleological Society trains with HCG

Joe Sydney of HCG

Attendance

HCG

Joe Sydney

Lyndon Ray

And members of KSS.



KSS members practising knot tying: Joe Sydney/HCG

10-11 April 2010

Kempsey Speleos train with HCG

Wearing my NSW Caver Training hat, Kempsey Speleological Society (KSS) invited HCG to help with their caver training. Owing to distance, KSS don't get to be that involved with other clubs so HCG was pleased to assist.

Friday night: the drive

Fiona dropped Lyndon off at my work and we departed at 4pm to avoid as much northerly Sydney traffic as we could. It's a 5.5-hour drive to Kempsey passing thru Newcastle, Forster, Port Macquarie and then Kempsey. The drive was long so I played some great 70's and 80's classics that Lyndon seemed to enjoy, well, he said he did! Along the way I said to Lyndon that he could watch some of those sci-fi movies as I have then on hard drive and he could plug it into the laptop, which he did, so he was happy for a while. But, owing to the background noise in the car we decided to plug in the amplified speakers and pop them on the dashboard. What we immediately realised was that it had Police blue LEDs lights lighting up the dash and as soon as we placed it on the dash, the drivers around us immediately slowed 10kph! We had to laugh!

We hit Kempsey around 10pm and filled up then drove onto Glen Bowman's home where we crashed for the night in his extra cottage!

Saturday 10 April: training day

We all met at the Spotted Frog Cafe car park early on Saturday morning as we still had to drive to Moparrabah some 50km and 1.20min drive away along Armidale Rd, Moparrabah Rd and then Willi Will Rd. After our introductions to members we took off down the road to Moparrabah caves property.

On arrival one of the members mentioned that the owners were very co-operative with KSS but were not as inviting to public who wish to visit the caves. As he was also a keen environmentalist, we decided to stay close to the gate and conduct the training there as there was no need to carry all the gear a great distance.





The meeting point, Moparrabah property gate.

HCG has a training package and it was this that was passed to KSS members. The training started with ASF guidelines and followed through a series of chapters as in the manual. We only had time to do Level 1 and 2 and we may return to do some advanced chapters another time. The weekends training consisted of:

- ASF Guidelines and Codes
- General cave visitation
- Personal caving equipment
- Basic caving equipment
- Team member responsibilities
- Team leader responsibilities
- Risk management
- Trip planning-caves
- Moving through a cave
- Caving with kids
- Free diving
- Mapping and surveying
- Bushwalking to caves
- Canyoning
- New Cave or Extension Explorations
- Accident and emergency-prevention and procedures
- Medical and first aid courses
- Lost and cave survival
- Cave hazards-Foul air/Carbon dioxide-CO2
- Technical
- Communications in a cave
- Safety: checking your personal system.
- Knots used in caving
- Basic rigging
- Basic self-help techniques

As you can see, much was crammed into the weekend. By the time the sun started to set, KSS members were feeling quite drained with so much information so we called it a halt around 5pm and all headed home to return on Sunday.

That night we spent at Glen's cottage again. Glen was kind enough to fire up the BBQ so Lyndon and I cooked our hamburger patties for our hamburger dinner! We too felt quite stuffed and before I knew it, Lyndon was already off to sleep, in the double bed whilst I got the single!



Glen and Joe explain about rope characteristics.

Sunday 11 April; more training and caving

It was an early rise, as we had to drive back to Moparrabah some 45 minutes' drive from Glen's home. We brewed a cuppa and waited for whoever could make the day and when we were satisfied, walked to the training area. Having Glen on site was an asset as he is a very experienced caver with caving techniques and training through his previous employer, Total Height Safety. We finished off early so now we had time to enjoy a visit to the caves area.

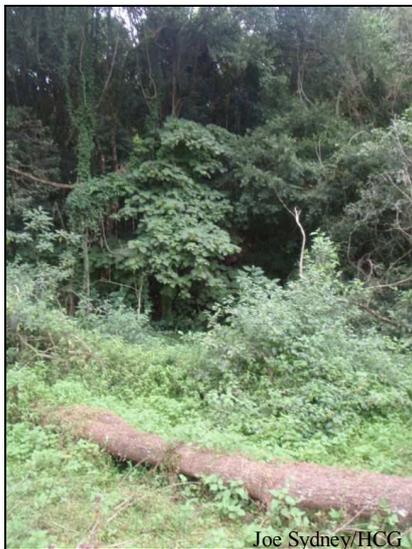
It's a short 20-minute walk from car to caves over a few fences. It's been some 20 years since I was at Moparrabah caves so I could not recollect much at all. Before we knew it, we had reached a break in the rainforest vegetation, popped through it and scrambled up to the main embankment at the foot of the main entrance.



Joe Sydney/HCG

The paddock walk to caves.

There was lots of clear space along the embankment with little undergrowth, mostly high canopy that made exploration easy. Mind you thought, we still had to watch out for giant stinging trees!



Joe Sydney/HCG

The track to caves through rainforest and giant stinging trees.

We trogged up at the entrance and after enjoying a few pieces of dark chocolate and snakes, we popped into main cave. I immediately noticed the fine examples of mollusc shells fossilised in the entrance wall and showed everyone who seemed to miss them. Scrambling on we soon found the upper entrances but decided to look at these on our way out.



Joe Sydney/HCG

Kids single file into the main cave.

A little further on we hit the main chamber which still had a few bats in it so we proceeded quietly to the back of the cave. This is where I stayed to photograph a few bats and noticed that I started to scratch. Catching up with the others I noticed more fossils and different geology at the back of the cave. The rock looked like rounded river rock that may have been washed in from an old entrance some time ago but who knows as we could not find the entrance.



Joe Sydney/HCG



Joe Sydney/HCG

Bent wing bats in the main bat chamber. Note the mites on the bat!

By now the others had started to exit so Glen and I headed back too but this time we looked at the upper exits. We squeezed thru the upper entrance and found ourselves in a side gully some 50m higher up from the entrance. We walked down the gully avoiding the giant stinging trees and caught up with the others.



Glen Bowman of KSS squeezes through the upper entrance.

I have to say that I found this cave very warm so if anyone intends to cave at Moparrabah, cotton overalls are fine but take some bug spray! Why, some days after the trip I continued scratching my ankles and some bits higher up. It seems that the main chamber is crawling with mites or fleas and for some months after the trip, I still suffered, so, spray your overall legs BEFORE entry!



Ouch, that's real itchy!

On an entomological note, I observed lots of Heteropoda cave spiders with a variety of patterns and shades. Some were also lighter or darker in colour, which made looking for them more enjoyable.



Heteropoda cave spider in Main Cave.

Another exciting find were lots of Harvestman (Holonuncia) insects. For those that are not familiar with this cave beastie they are small insects with huge and powerful arms similar to a praying mantis. You really do not want to be close to this sucker if you were a stray bug!



A Harvestman (Holonuncia) in Main Cave.



Close up of the Harvestman (Holonuncia).

The walk back to the cars was easy and we all soon said our farewells but not before an invite to visit David Collett's property close by so Lyndon and I accepted the invitation. Arriving at David's home amazed us. His home sits on the back of a bluff at the bottom of Mt Sebastopol, which is relatively unexplored. We had a quick cuppa and chat and David said, let's go for a 4WD car ride. He and I sat in the front cabin whilst Lyndon sat in the cab with window. Lyndon soon made friends with his dogs who gave their affectionate licks, generously!, thru the window.



Lyndon with a new found friend.

David drove us around following Taites Creek often engaging into low 4WD as it was quite slushy crossing the creek and wet areas. We drove on for some distance over very steep terrain and high grass until we got to a vantage point looking at Mt Sebastopol and further on to Willi Willi Reserve. It was now getting dark so we headed back and said our good-byes vowing to return to have a look at this area.

We slowly made our way back to Kempsey along Armidale Road and just inside of the built up area saw three cars heading our way. As soon as they got to within a very short distance, one of the cars did a U turn in front of us so I dipped the high beam to show my annoyance. To our surprise, we saw a highly reflective Police car some 3-car lengths in front of us so I braked..hard! He pulled up and we continued considering whether we should lodge a complaint but we decide not too as he got the message with the all 4 high beam lights.

The drive back to Sydney was a breeze and we arrived home quite late. Lyndon crashed the night and came to work with me where Fiona picked him up again. That ended another great weekend's training, and, caving! ■



David Collett's property with karst features including Mt Sebastopol.



Main chamber with bats.



one deposit in breccia.

2003 catch up!

HCG is still catching up with old trip reports and news. These are the clubs activities for 2003.

Illawarra Speleological Society 40th Anniversary

By Joe Sydney



June 14 2003 was a significant date in Australian speleology, it was the evening when ISS celebrated their 40th anniversary at Collegian's of Wollongong.

A milestone in speleo history shared with a few other Australian clubs as STC, SUSS, SSS and HCG.

The evening was shared with other past and present members of ISS, ASF Executive, and representatives of other clubs. I am pleased to say that HCG was well represented with five members attending: Evalt Crabb – President, Joan Crabb, Grace Matts, Stephen McCabe – HCG/VP and Joe Sydney.

The evening opened with a welcome speech from Adam Peters – President of ISS which was soon followed by entrée and then main meal.



Lloyd Robinson/ISS introduces Armstrong Osbourne

Guest speaker for the evening was Armstrong Osbourne, lecturer of karst and geology at Sydney University was introduced by Lloyd Robinson. Armstrong commenced with slides and overheads showing caves and their features in karst regions of Australia and Europe. A brief explanation was also given on the current accepted theory on how some unusually shaped caves are formed, caves in area all around Australia. To many, these theories remain

unchallenged by speleos and their scientific peers. However, a few such as Armstrong believe that Australian caves may have been formed differently to our northern hemisphere counterparts.

This is where the dinner learnt of a new theory, not the traditional theory of water seepage or river action but of warm thermal springs pushing up through cracks and eroding the limestone to form the mushroom shaped caves with scalloped ballroom ceilings. This surprised many at the dinner and gave them something new to consider.

After the talk, dessert and coffee was served and it was time to mingle with new and old cavers. Many old time cavers tuned up to celebrate the evening such as Wolfgang Stengal (1963), Lloyd Robinson (1963) to mid 1980's members - Ron & Fran Poulton, Mike & Kerry Armstrong, Rob Kershaw, Walter Werner to 1990's members as The Scobie's and Tony Pezutto.

Tricketts Arch-Jaunter Aboriginal Sites Workshop

By Joe Sydney

There was a workshop on Aboriginal sites and cultural values held at Peter Dyke's property "Tricketts Arch" at Jaunter on Saturday 5 April 2003. Bill Allen from NPWS ran the workshop that covered the NPWS structure, legislation, types of sites before lunch.

After lunch we had a look at four sites on Peter's property that showed evidence of stone flakes, tree carving, stone monuments and rock scouring. The workshop was well worthwhile and showed that there could be many things to look for when walking around karst areas.

Nullarbor Trip

There was trip to the Nullarbor during July 2003 by Ian Lutherborrow, Peter Dykes, Tony Christian, Cathy Brown, Sharon Coff A trip report will be provided later by Ian!

Coco Creek mate's trip or, we came, we saw, we didn't find a thing trip!

By Joe Sydney

Present: Joe Sydney, David Rothery, Evalt & Joan Crabb, Bruce Waddington, Lindsay Matheson and international guests: Mirko & Anke Boldt.

Evalt & Joan arrived early Fri to set up base camp. Soon after setting up and whilst scrounging for firewood, a man & son took pity on them and brought back a car load of wood! This pleased Evalt & Joan as well as the others when they arrived. As this was more a 'mate's trip, Jodie and a friend from NHVSS asked to come along but sadly got a better offer from Kier who was cave diving at Barralong cave – Jenolan and did not turn up on the weekend. Joe's two German friends, Mirko and Anke also rolled up early and introduced themselves to those there.

David & Joe arrived around 10pm & placed signs along road & gate entrance. To our surprise, all those that intended to be part of the trip were already present so the signs were not needed!

Sat: Got up & ate!

Drove to top of Airley Ck where Lindsay left his car. We all piled into Joe's Subi & Mirko's 4WD. At the Ailey Ck ford we parked the cars & walked to Coco Ck. David, Joe, Bruce tried to find the two locations of reported limestone whilst the others wandered around Coco Ck. We found reported locations but no limestone present. Walked back to cars & drove back to campsite after having lunch. At camp, Joe, Mirko & Anke went for a drive to test new 2nd hand 4WD Nissan Patrol. By the time they got back, others had the campfire going & getting into the munchies. Lindsay & Bruce went into Capertee for some ice supplies and ice creams. Sat around the campfire telling the two new comers about drop bears, kangawallafoxes and other interesting wildlife. We all sat around a great campfire eating ice-cream & watching satellites whilst Venus was setting.

Sunday: Evalt & Joan left early so that they could visit their son Neil. Evalt talked about a deposit of limestone on the Glen Alice property so we decided that if time permitted, we'd visit the area. The next few hours entailed a drive to Glen Davis, popping into a garage sale, fixing the Community centre PC & printer and having a pig out lunch at Glen Davis.

After all this, we drove to Glen Alice property to find Evalt's limestone. Sadly, the property owner was not there so we could not look for it. We then drove to Capertee & dropped into local craft/garage sale. As it was really hot, we dropped into Capertee pub for a lemon squash. It was getting late by now so we decided to drive to Pearsons lookout located on the highway above Capertee valley.

Pearsons lookout looks into Capertee valley.

Whilst there, Joe found a dog lead the same time a ute pulled up with a large dog. We were all concentrating on the tourist map and surrounding bush when Joe felt a wet, warm feeling around his toes. The dog had apparently mistaken his foot for a guard rail pole & pee'd on him. After getting off the ground after a fit of laughter, we headed off to find the fossil site. Turning left at the rail crossing, we started to drive along the track. We did not know if the track had gates but we decided to take the risk. It wasn't long until we saw a sign saying 'Moffit track – 4WD recommended'. Joe's Subi led the way followed by Mirko's 4wd and then Lindsay's VW van. It started off rough but got better along the plateau. The track undulated with more rough spots & Lindsay decided to head back home as it was getting latish. Joe & Mirko pushed on.

Sump buster & fossils

On one spot the road had to be modified to take out the 'sump buster'! The Subi was fine after that. It wasn't long until we found where Joe had left a fossil behind a tree during NavShield. With this safely in the car, we headed to the creek where we had to leave the cars for a short walk, to the next fossil site. The walk from the car was only 600m and we walked straight onto it. There was a small shack with a track. It was on the track where Joe noticed a small group of *Glossopteris* fossils (eucalypt leaves) – descendants of Eucalypts. Looking around they found a few more but it was not a big site. Bagging the small bits, we headed back to the car. David was hanging around waiting patiently & soon after we headed off. The track downhill was easy & now we had to get back up. The Nissan Patrol just chugged up the hill and surprisingly, the Subi took the steep dry dirt tracks well. Now at least Joe knows its limit! (Sailing the Subi is another!) The track led us back to the highway and we headed into the sunset and home.

HCG General Meeting

By Bruce Waddington

Saturday 13 December 2003

The meeting was held at Evalt's home at North Nowra (GR 027988 613958) and opened at 13:00 hours with Evalt in the chair.

Present: Evalt & Joan Crabb, Joe & Roslyn Sydney, Bruce & Linda Waddington, Lindsay Matheson, Bryan & Pauline Race, David Rothery and Ian Lutherborrow. **Visitors** – Peter Bauer, Evan

After the meeting, we had a BBQ lunch and later on we all headed off to Bomaderry Creek for a guided walk with Dawn – a local indigenous guide.



HCG members with Dawn our interpreter.

Viva la Guillotine!

By Bruce Waddington

On Saturday 11 January 2003 Bruce, Bryan, Dave and Steve helped dismantle an old heavy metal guillotine that has been sitting in Evalt's garage for #*! Years. It took us a few hours to pull it apart and load it onto Bryan's trailer and Neil gave us a hand with the lifting and we scrounged around the yard to see what else we could throw on the trailer. There was an accident in the hills just south of Albion Park and we got stuck in a traffic jam that detoured around the new estates and back to highway on the Shellharbour Road and this took us an extra hour.

We arrived at Evalt's new home at North Nowra just ahead of Ev and had a look around. The guillotine was unloaded and we managed to work out how to put it back together without any bits left over. Ev shouted us a cold beer then we headed back to Sydney. We will have to plan some social gatherings down there so we can keep in touch with them.

Farewell BBQ for good friends.

By Joe Sydney

Tuesday 14 January 2003

A farewell BBQ for Bru and Barbara was held at Steve's place before they left Australia for their home in the US. Many thanks to Steve and Megan for their hospitality and it was good to be able to catch up with Bru and Barb before they left on Friday to say goodbye and wish them all the best.



HCG members farewell Bru & Barbara with a BBQ.

Long Weekend BBQ

By Bruce Waddington

The traditional HCG June long weekend BBQ was held on Sunday 8 June 2003 at Ian Lutherborrow's at Appin. There was only a small roll up with Ian, Bruce, Lindsay, Phil & Maree and family, the neighbours Ray & Shirley plus the dogs. Evalt and writer friend Karl Hillie were there earlier for lunch and a catch up chat.

It was a chilly June afternoon/evening but once we had enough beers and got the BBQ going we warmed up a bit. After dinner Ian lit the bonfire down the back and this really warmed us up with flames shooting up as high as the overhanging gum tree.

There were no serious pyrotechnics this year but only sparklers for kids (small and big). Ian's new pup Flash was a bit tired by the end of the day after all of the ball chasing.

Caver Teams in NavShield 2003

By Joe Sydney

This was held on the weekend of 5/6 July 2003 in the Pantoneys Crown valley near Lithgow in parts of the Gardens of Stone National Park, private property and Baal Bone Colliery.

The NSW Cave Rescue Squad entered 2 teams, Team 1 was Joe, Scott Lloyd, Pat Dalimore and Peter Brady. Team 2 was Jason & Brett Moule, Mark Bonwick and Andrew Baker who finished 1st in the VRA category (7th overall) and Team 2 finished 12th.

This year was the 5th for Jason and Mark and they both received an engraved pewter cup. Results may be viewed on the NavShield website at:

<http://www.bwrs.org.au/navshield>



Joe Sydney/HCG

*Team 2 finished 1st in the VRA category
Andrew Baker-UTSSS, Mark Bonwick-SSS, Brett and Jason Moule-
HCG*

Threatened Species Trip

By Joe Sydney



Joe Sydney/HCG

After Easter Joe attended a NPWS field trip in the Hornsby Heights area to find and tag a threatened species of Geebung plant, *Persoonia mullisii*. NPWS needs more volunteers on these types of projects so if anyone is interested, contact NPWS/Hornsby Office or Joe Sydney of HCG.

Trip to Tricketts Arch, Jaunter

By Joe Sydney

There was trip to Peter Dyke's property, Tricketts Arch, at Jaunter on 3&4 May 2003 by Joe, David and Michael. They looked around the surface around Tricketts Arch and JA1 and JA2 and the stone arrangement circles on a flat clearing on the way down to the arch. There is potential for some survey and other work to be done at Jaunter if the club wants some project work to do. HCG is considering commencing a project to survey caves and features on the property.

NSW Caver's Dinner 2003

By Joe Sydney

The dinner was held on Saturday 18 October 2003 at the Bankstown Sports Club and a great night was had by all.

HCG had a good rollup with 14 members attending. There was also a good turn out from other clubs including RSS, SUSS, CSS, N&HV and SSS. There was even a guest from Victoria, Nick White, who is an ASF Vice President and member of VSA.

The NSWSC President Megan Pryke did a splendid job as MC for the night. The speleo mind sports didn't quite go the way it was supposed to and it dragged on a bit too long but thanks must go to RSS for running this.

Alan Warild gave a great talk and slide show of his recent trip to the Republic of Abkhazia to attempt to break the worlds cave depth record in Voronya cave in the Arabika massif. Just to get there was an epic journey in itself with all the visas required to travel through Russia and across the border into Abkhazia which is on the eastern shores of the Black Sea. This talk took a fair bit of time but it was a fascinating place that not many people will ever get to visit. Thanks to Al for his presentation.

The ASF President John Dunkley gave a brief talk about the new ASF environmental fund and how it is supposed to work.

The raffle went fairly good especially for HCG who took out 5 of the 7 prizes. No there were no redraws or inquisitions. The auction was pretty exciting with some fierce bidding at times. Thanks to Joe, Bryan, Lindsay and Grace. As Grace collected the money

from the auction on behalf of ASF we didn't how much this raised. The Club talks went well with everyone very impressed with HCG's presentation by Joe. Joe will do a more detailed written report later. A big thanks to Joe and others for a fantastic night.



Al Warild excites cavers with his exploits to Voronya Cave.

Bungonia Open Day & BRAG Meeting

By Joe Sydney

The Bungonia open day/BRAG meeting was held at on Saturday 18 September 2003. It was a very cold and windy day. Bruce, Evalt, Peter and Julie were there. Evalt presented Peter and Julie with their Certificate of Merit from ASF.



Evalt Crabb, President of HCG presents Julie and Peter Bauer with their ASF Certificate of Merit.

Megan and Alan Pryke and 2 others from SUSS were also there as well as Jodie and Michael Rutledge from

NHVSS trying to flog some back issues of ASF Aus Caver.

Andy Spate opened the proceedings as Chair and had some slides of Bungonia. The other BRAG members present introduced themselves. Phil Downes from the Police Rescue Squad from Goulburn had a powerpoint presentation on the history and present activities of the squad. He later showed some slides of a trip down Spring Creek Canyon that I think they did in May 2003 to assess the current situation with the rockfall at the top of the 6th pitch. They by-passed the first 5 pitches as they believed these would be unchanged and entered at the top of the 6th pitch. The photos showed a lot of large loose rock still at the top and near the edge of this pitch and also that there had been a later rock slide from higher up the slope sometime after the first main incident. They have prepared a report following the trip and this will be used with meetings with legal staff from NPWS to decide whether to reopen the canyon or not. One interesting observation that Phil made was that there was evidence of recent trips down the canyon even though it is supposed to be closed.

A BBQ lunch was provided that was very much appreciated by all. The formal BRAG meeting was held after lunch and visitors were allowed to stay as observers. The minutes will be circulated when available. After the meeting most of us went to have a look at the Shaduf Cave (B15) entrance to inspect the collapsing edges of the doline and to try to decide what if anything could or should be done to stabilise the area. I think the consensus was that they take the easy do nothing option for now and maybe monitor changes over time.



The visit to Shaduf Cave.

North Nowra Trip

By Bruce Waddington

Following the meeting last month at Evalt's, North Nowra, on Saturday 9 August the social side of things started. Evalt got the BBQ going and put some mussels on to smoke. We had lunch under his new pergola that Peter had built. Bryan got his boat ready and took Pauline, Joe, Lindsay, Steve, and Michael up the Shoalhaven River for about 17km taking about half an hour up and back.

There was to be a second trip for the rest of us (Evalt, Peter and Bruce) but because it was already 4pm and a bit cold and starting to rain and we were sitting around a nice warm fire having a quiet ale or 3 we decided it was better to stay where we were and didn't bother going up the river. When the others got back we moved the fire into the middle of the pergola so we could all sit around it to warm up and a few more ales, wine and nibbles were enjoyed until it was time for Joe, Steve, Lindsay and Peter to head back home to Sydney. Bryan, Pauline and Bruce stayed the night. Joan arrived home from Randwick about 8pm. A few more ales, wine, pizza and port were enjoyed.

Next morning we had some tea and toast for breakfast sitting out the front in the nice warm sunshine like lazy lizards. Then we went down to the boat ramp and put boat in and went for a trip down the Shoalhaven River as far as Comerong Island and back. As we were heading downstream we passed under the bridge and through the channel markers and we must have been a bit too far to the right side of the channel as we hit something very solid like a rock that stopped the boat. Bryan checked the prop on the motor but it looked alright so we kept going heading left to the next channel markers. Put the boat back on the trailer and back to Evalt and Joan's place, rinsed the motor, packed up the boat and headed back home about midday stopping for a quick pie and Coke at Gerringong arriving at Bryan and Pauline's just after 2pm. Thanks to Evalt and Joan for a great weekend.

Joe's Antenna

By Joe Sydney

There was a big rollup on Sunday 17 August 2003 to help Joe put up his 9 meter antenna (Lindsay, Steve, Bruce, Dave & Jenny, Jason G, Scott, Eberhardt, Fabian and Ros). Jason had even brought along a 40' cherry picker that he just happened to have that weekend. Photos have been posted in the photos folder on the HCG1 Yahoo group. Thanks to Joe for the BBQ afterwards. But guess what happened a week later when we had those really strong winds in Sydney? Yes the antenna blew down onto his neighbour's roof. Joe got the good news from Ros while he was down at Braidwood for a debriefing after a cave rescue exercise at Wyanbene. When he got home he found that one of the guy line bolts had pulled out but damage was minimal. Repairs were made but there may need to be another antenna raising day to put it back up. Stay tuned for the next episode.



Joe Sydney/HCG
HCG members hamming it up on Joe's rooftop.

Claustral Canyon Trip

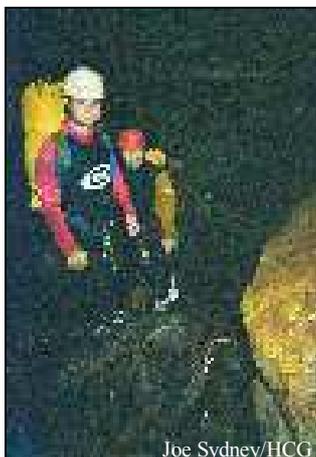
By Joe Sydney

Joe Sydney, Stephen McCabe, Mirko & Anke Bolt
and Michael Rothery

The night before the trip Joe, Mirko & Anke decide to see LOTR III. What they didn't realise is that the 9pm movie is 3hrs long and ended at 12am. Getting up at 5am to do Claustral was not easy but we managed to do it. The trip was slow as this was Mirko and Anka's first canyoning trip! The weather was iffy and we saw a few other canyoners departed, so we did too. The canyon was great with the usual block up of canyoners at Calcutta Falls. By the time we got to Rainbow Ravine we were stuffed so we had a bite to eat and good rest. It was now 6pm so we started to head out. We were all feeling the previous night's jaunt so we took it slow, too slow. The fog started to roll in and hid our track and view. At times we missed the track but we realized this so back tracked. Then because we had no real features to navigate by, making a decision to turn left or right at junctions was difficult. After a 2hr 20min slog and some lucky navigation, we walked up the 600m hill we finally reach the car. Joe managed to drive us all home whilst all the others slept along the way!



Sorting the gear for the trip.

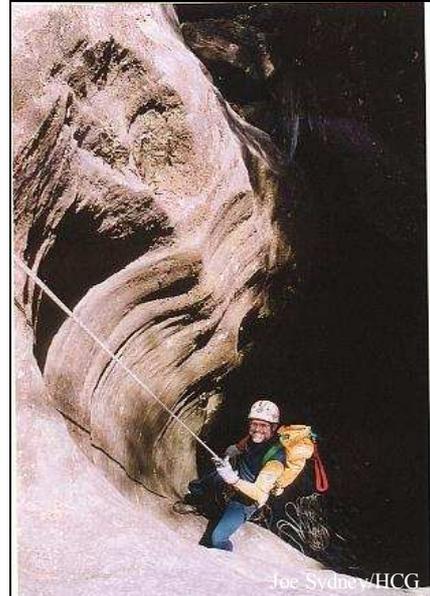


Mirko at Calcutta Falls.

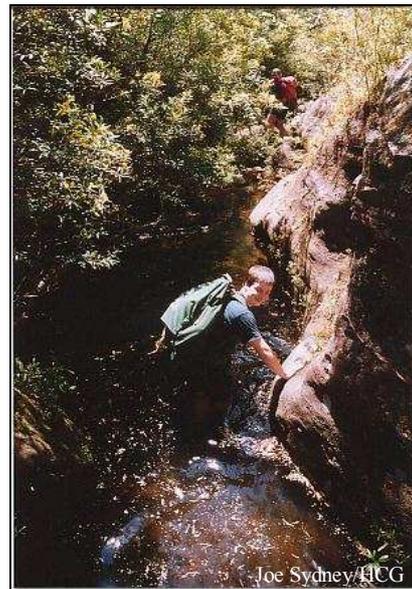
Bowen Creek Canyon Trip

By Joe Sydney

Peter Bauer, Joe Sydney, Isabelle Chu/UTSSS,
Michael Rothery, Bru and Barbara



Bru on 1st pitch.



Michael Rothery in Bowens Creek.

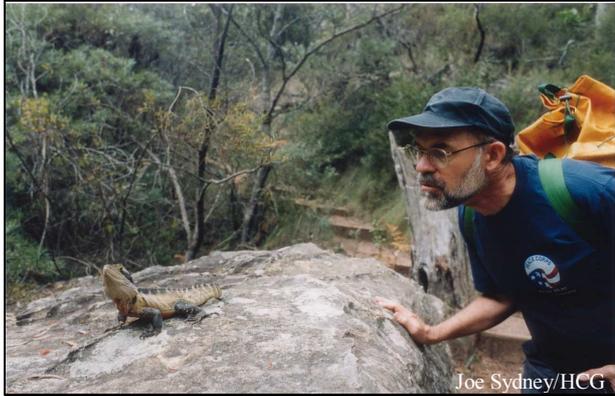


Joe with lunch! A red freshwater crayfish.

Grand Canyon Trip

By Joe Sydney

Joe Sydney, Bru and Barbara
After the recent bushfires, most of the Blue Mountains were still closed. The only canyon open was the Grand Canyon so a few a few of decided to do it!



Bru spots a water dragon along the track.



Barbara being hauled across a pool by Bru.



Bru and Barbara in Grand Canyon.



Bru on the final long swim.

HCG March Meeting

A photo of HCG members attending the March 2003 meeting. Members are looking at journals and stereoviews.



Grace Matts, Stephen McCabe, Lindsay Matheson, David Rothery and Bruce Waddington. Photo was taken by Joe Sydney.

Drum Cave Trip

In search of the Extension!

By Joe Sydney

Joe Sydney, David Rothery, Bru Randall & Barbara Schomer.

Whilst David stayed on the surface, Joe Sydney led a trip into Drum Cave-Extension at Bungonia with Bru and Barbara, our new members from the US. The aim was to visit 'The Extension' as we had heard about the great features of this recently discovered section. Joe took video of the trip and the following pics were captured from the video.

Highlights of the trip was the 50m abseil, bumping into some BMSC cavers at the 3rd pitch, pull down rope to the Extension, prussick up to the Extension, the fossil walls, gour pools, dead bats and, prussic back up the entrance pitch...50m!



Barbara in the Fossil Chamber, the Extension.



Bru at the Extension end streamway.



Bru on 2nd pitch.



Barbara prussicking up the main pitch.



Bru climbs up into the Extension.



The Extension gour pools.



Wall of dead bats.

All photos as taken from Joe Sydney's video!

Wee Jasper Caves

By John Dunkley, Andy Spate and Bruce Welch

Absolutely essential guide to caving at Wee Jasper or a tourist trip into Careys Cave: history, geology, fossils, bats, vegetation, 62 mostly colour photos, 20 map pages, detailed descriptions of Punchbowl, Signature, Dip, Dogleg, 2-page spread of Hills Speleos' superb map of Careys Cave & another of Alan Pryke's photo.

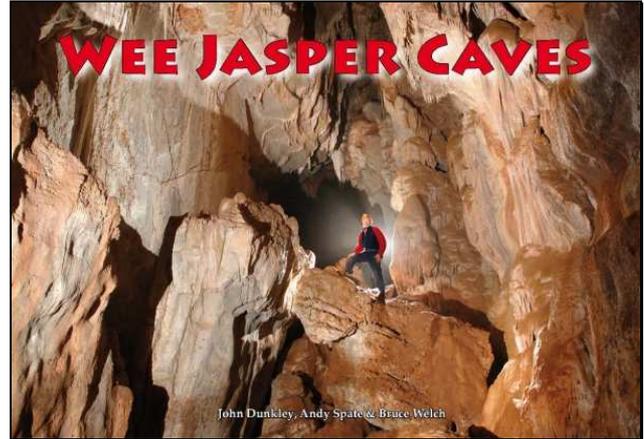
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John Dunkley

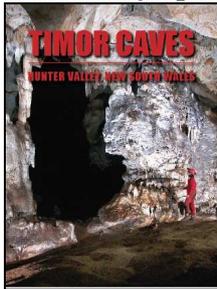
5 Coleman Street, Pearce ACT 2607.

jrdunkley@gmail.com



Timor Caves

By Newcastle Hunter Valley Speleological Society



This is a comprehensive guidebook on the Timor Caves of the Hunter Valley, NSW. **The Newcastle & Hunter Valley Speleological Society (NHVSS)** has been working on this project for the past 3 years, carefully researching and documenting this unique Karst Environment. The book serves as a record of the Timor Caves and Karst for visitors, cavers, local government and property owners. Readers are educated about the fragile nature of karst and are encouraged to visit the caves with care and respect with subjects on geology, vegetation, invertebrates etc.

A4 size soft cover 112pages, 93 colour photos, 8 tables, 15 figures/diagrams, 80 cave descriptions & 57 cave maps

\$35 per book

\$10 postage (within Australia)

Books available from NHVSS:

jodie@rutco.com.au

www.nhvss.org.au

Under Bungonia

by Julie and Peter Bauer



The **ULTIMATE** guide book to Bungonia Caves. This book contains a wealth of new information about the speleology, biology, geology, geomorphology and hydrology of one of NSW's most popular, and enigmatic, karst areas.

All caves have been resurveyed, and this book provides detailed, underground and surface maps of the entire caves area.

Packed with 284 pages of indispensable information, dozens of full colour and black and white plates, and a separate map pocket containing 10 A1 size cave maps.

\$45 for 1 book and map pouch

\$10 postage (within Australia)

Under Bungonia is available from HCG:

joes@hcg.org.au

www.hcg.org.au



Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society

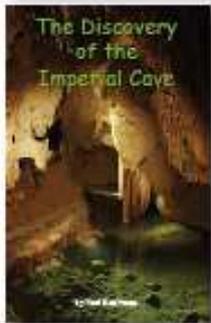
PUBLICATIONS LIST



Steam Cleaning of Orient Cave

This publication describes the steam cleaning carried out from 1968 until 1972.

24pp + cover A5. 10 B&W photos, colour cover.
Occasional Paper No. 5
\$10 (limited copies available)



The Discovery of the Imperial Cave

This booklet follows the discovery and exploration of the Elder Cave, and then the Imperial Cave. Includes extracts from Cambridge & Wilkinson.

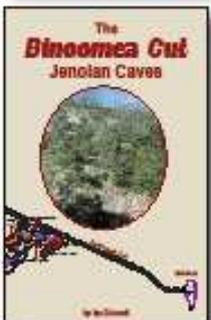
12pp + cover A5. 3 B&W photos, 4pp colour map, colour cover.
Occasional Paper No. 2
\$5



The Discovery of the Barralong Cave

Based on the diary of Ron Newbould, Guide, who discovered the cave in 1964.

28pp + cover A5. 4pp colour photos, 4pp colour map, colour cover.
Occasional Paper No. 3
\$6



The Binoomea Cut

Completely new edition which describes the planning and construction of the Binoomea Cut with additional chapters by Bill Mark & Don Coleman.

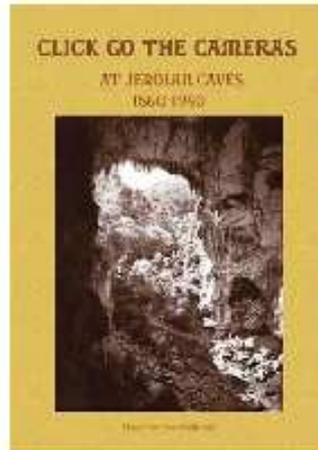
32pp + cover A5. 20 B&W photos, 3 maps, colour cover.
Occasional Paper No. 4
\$5



John Lucas

This publication incorporates the entire text of the booklet published by Lucas in 1863 in which he describes his visits to the caves.

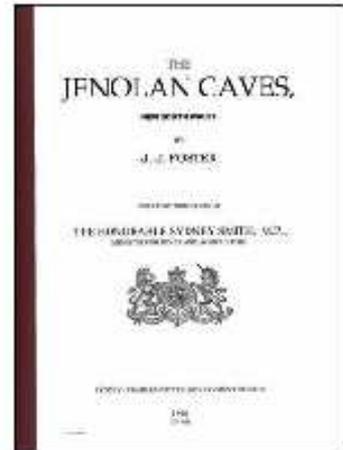
32pp + cover A5. 8 B&W photos, colour cover.
Occasional Paper No. 5
\$5



Click go the Cameras

A comprehensive guide to the photography and photographers at Jenolan Caves.

40pp + cover A4. 61 B&W photos, 6 colour photos on cover.
Occasional Paper No. 6
\$16



The Jenolan Caves by J. J. Foster

Copy of the 1890 book.
62pp + cover A4.

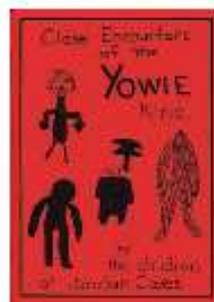
\$20 (OUT OF STOCK - Currently being reprinted)



Jenolan Caves, Guides, Guides & Grottoes

Describes the first century of Jenolan Caves from the 1830s to the 1940s.

72pp + cover B5. 66 B&W photos & illustrations, colour map (Trickett 1922).
\$19.95



Close Encounters of the Yowie Kind

Story put together by students of Jenolan Caves school
Facsimile edition
2008.

32pp + cover A5.
\$5



Souvenir Booklet of the Orient Cave

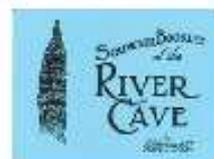
by WL Havard, Facsimile edition; 32pp A6. \$TBA - Currently in production



Souvenir Booklet of the Temple of Baal Cave

by HB Brown & PH Perret
Facsimile edition

32pp A6.
\$5 (OUT OF STOCK - Currently being reprinted)



Souvenir Booklet of the River Cave

by HB Brown & PH Perret
Facsimile edition

32pp A6.
\$5 (OUT OF STOCK - Currently being reprinted)



Jenolan Caves Historical & Preservation Society

Title & Author	Details	Cost per item	Quantity	Sub total
Steam Cleaning of the Orient Cave by Ronald Newbould	Occasional Paper #1	\$10		\$0
The Discovery of the Imperial Cave by Noel Rawlinson	Occasional Paper #2	\$5		\$0
The Discovery of the Barralong Cave by R L Newbould	Occasional Paper #3	\$6		\$0
The Binoomea Cut Jenolan Caves by Ian Driscoll	Occasional Paper #4	\$5		\$0
John Lucas by Noel Rawlinson	Occasional Paper #5	\$5		\$0
Click Go the Camera's by Elery Hamilton-Smith	Occasional Paper #6	\$16		\$0
Close Encounters of the Yowie Kind by the children of Jenolan Caves.		\$5		\$0
Jenolan Caves Guides, Guests & Grottoes by John R Dunkley		\$19.95		\$0.00
Souvenir Booklet of The Temple of Baal by HB Brown & PK Perret	Out of stock	\$5		\$0
Souvenir Booklet of the River Cave by HB Brown & PK Perret	Out of stock	\$5		\$0
Souvenir Booklet of the Orient Cave by WL Havard	In production, price TBA			
The Jenolan Caves Jenolan Caves by J.J. Fosters	Out of stock			
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