



information..

PUBLISHED BY THE NEWCASTLE
SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
P.O. BOX 86
BROADMEADOW,
N.S.W.

SHEET No: 3.

TRIP REPORT OF CLUB VISIT TO BARRINGTON CAVE.

TRIP DATES: 26-28th. May 1967.

MEMBERS:

Trevor Berman	TL
David Davcy	M
Keith Davcy	M
Ray Jackson	M
Jeff Longworth	M
Colleen Savage	M
Mavis Savage	M
Ted Savage	M
Bill Watson	M
Kevin Woods	M

VISITORS:

Carl Berman	V
Pam Burk	V
Carole Donnelly	V
Paul Fauler	Scout.
Ian Frith	Scout.
Raleine Kennady	V
Mike McCall	Scout.
Dermit McIntire	V
Sue Miller	V
Ronny Savage	V
Neil Stanborough	Scout.
Keith Walker	Scout.

OBJECTIVES:

To locate BARRINGTON CAVE and to fully explore it. Also to find a track to take the vehicles as close as possible to the entrance.

TRIP:

26/5 from BROADMEADOW Ncle. 8.40pm. to GLOUCESTER 10.45pm.
27/5 from GLOUCESTER 9am. to BARRINGTON CAMP 5pm.
28/5 from BARRINGTON CAMP 3.15pm. to SANDGATE Ncle 8pm.

CAVES VISITED: BARRINGTON

ACCESS VIA: NEWCASTLE, HEXHAM, STROUD, GLOUCESTER, BARRINGTON, ROOKHURST, CURRICABARK TURN OFF, CARTERS, GEALS, BARRINGTON CAMP. Same in as out.

VEHICLES: 5 Land-Rovers.

REFERENCE MAPS:

NRMA: LOWER NORTH COAST
LANDS DEPT: GLOUCESTER SHIRE
LANDS DEPT: I:3I680 PIGNA BARNEY 9234-III-N.

CAMPS ON THE WAY: GLOUCESTER PARK: WATER AND WOOD Supplies excellent.

BARRINGTON OUTCROP/ CAMP.

TYPE OF COUNTRY: STEEP HILLS.

The outcrop extends right up Limestone Creek. It is about 200ft. high and 100 yds. in width.

WATER: PIGNA BARNEY RIVER and LIMESTONE CREEK both flow well.

WOOD: At the camp there is little fine wood for starting fires.

NEAREST SHOP: GLOUCESTER \$0 miles.

NEAREST CIVILISATION: Geals Homestead 4mls.

The campsite is unused, large and sheltered by the surrounding hills.

WEATHER: The days were dry and warm. The nights were cold with light frosts and heavy mists.

LOCALS: GEALS, do not seem to object to cavers.

ACCESS:

NEWCASTLE TO GLOUCESTER.

Night.
Good Rd. Sealed and well marked. 1 m of dirt road 1m Sth. of Craven.
78m.
Net Time; 2 hrs.
Stops; 5 mins HEXHAM Ice for eskies.

GLOUCESTER to CRAVEN CREEK ROAD TURN OFF:

Day.
Rd. Sealed except for 2 mls. of dirt.
11 mls.
Net Time; 20 min.
Stops: 10 min GLOUCESTER SCHOOL to vote.
20 min GLOUCESTER petrol.

CRAVEN CREEK ROAD TURN OFF to CURRICABARK TURN OFF.

Day.
Rd has a hard base but could get sloppy in rain. It is dirt. Alright
for 2-W Drive cars. Two large creek crossings.
23 ~~mls~~ mls.
Net Time; 1 hr.
Stops: 5 min 2nd creek crossing for a rest.

CURRICABARK TURN OFF. To 1st GATE.

Day
2 wheel track, good, develops into a dirt road. The road is becoming
quite mountainous.
4 mls.
Net Time: 17 mins.
Stops: none.

1st. GATE to CARTERS.

Day
Dirt Road, very hilly. Cars can get here.
@4 Mls.
Net Time: 20 mins.
Stops: None.

CARTERS to GEALS.

Day.
Red dirt road. It is steep and a bit rocky. Impassible by ordinary
cars in wet weather.
4 mls.
Net Time: 28 mins.
Stops: None.

GEALS to LIMESTONE CREEK. (actually trip out).

Day.
Very Steep. This is a Landrover track, solid and no gullies in the
road. Pigna Barney must be crassed. It is about 8" deep.
4 mls.
Net Time: 35 mins.
Stops: none

TRIP IN: We spent 5 hrs trying to find the way from Geals to Camp.
This involved going right over to the Hunters Springs Rd, and a bit
of gully walking.

GEALS TO SANDGATE TURN-OFF:

Night.
124 mls.
Net Time; 4 hrs 10 mins.
Stops: 32 mins.

BARRINGTON CAVE:

From ENTRANCE to end of SHAFT.

ENTRANCE: Large and vertical. It is at the junction of a blind
gully and a saddle. It is at the top of a hill bordering Limestone
Creek, and facing the opposite direction.

CAVE: A clearly defined tunnel bearing down steeply into the hill.
There is only one side chamber of medium proportions. The last part
of the large tunnel is a 40 ft. shaft which ends in a mud pool.

FEATURES: Nothing of real beauty.

SHEET No. 3. (continued).

TRIP REPORT OF CLUB VISIT TO BARRINGTON CAVE:

GEAR AND EQUIPMENT FOR ACCESS: A rope is needed for the abseil down the shaft and at least a thirty foot ladder to get out.

EXPLORATION: We went down to the shaft and Trev abseiled in. It would have been better if we had brought more than fifty foot of rope into the cave and the thirty foot ladder was of minimum length.

PROSPECTS: In this cave we dig from here on down. An altimeter would be useful. Elsewhere in the limestone, prospects of another cave are fantastic. For speleos without 4 by 4 vehicles it looks as though it would be easier to come in from Hunters Springs.

Report submitted by;
David Davey.

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC REPORT:

OBJECTIVES: To Judge the animal life in the Barrington Cave and to make a rough census of the bat population.

NOTES: Bent-Wing Bats (*Miniopterus schreibersi*) were very common and throughtout the cave a few hundred individuals were seen. Bat guano was to be found all over the floor of the cave and this presents a haven for the smaller forms of insect life. Since our group was only in the cave for a very short period only a rough census was taken. A further trip is necessary to collect specimens of all the life forms to be found in the cave.

1- Tineid Moth, very common, they were flying around and settling on the rock faces. They are not large but are very delicate.

Collecting these in good condition will be a challenge.

Flies, some blow-flies winged their way about us in the cave.

3- Earth Worms, were in the further reaches of the cave where all the water settles after rainfall. It would be difficult to say if these were permanent dwellers.

4- Spiders, very common, live on the other insects to be found in the cave. They live under small ledges on the walls. The webs of these spiders are very fine and only about one and a half inches across.

5- A small Black Beetle: May be a beetle or a Psocid. This specimen will have to be collected to verify this. About one millimeter or less.

6- A much smaller White-Insect, This may be a Springtail. As far as I can remember this insect is much smaller than a Springtail and it did not jump as Springtails do. May be a mite.

RESULTS: Because of the large bat population a lot of fresh guano is to be found on the floor of the cave. Insects derive nourishment from this, and spiders catch the insects.

Quite a sizeable biotic community is to be found in the BARRINGTON CAVE and a further trip is necessary to gather material for the collection at the South Australian Museum. Keith Davey.

Trip Report:

Date: Sunday 21st. May 1967.

District: Waratah Quarry.

Members:

Trevor BERMAN	TL
Carole Donnelly	M
Mavis Savage	M
Bill Watson	M
David Davey	M
Kevin Wood	M
Pam Burk	V
Ron Savage	V

Objective: To teach and practice abseiling.

Arr. QUARRY at 1 pm.

TRIP REPORT OF ABSEIL DAY TO WARATAH QUARRY:

Break for cup of coffee and biscuits during the afternoon.
Lve. QUARRY at 5.30 pm.

ANECDOTE:

Trev set up the abseiling, climbing and safety ropes and then set about to help Bill, Kevin and Carole learn to abseil. They were all successful on their first go. David practiced another type of abseil which amounted to putting two turns of the rope through his Karabiner. David also demonstrated prusiking on a rock face and on an overhang.

Trevor amused himself by going from the top of the quarry to the bottom in one leap and then making the climb out of the quarry look really easy. (It is not...believe me).

Note:

There is a far easier way out of the quarry up the Rubble Slope nearby. It is fairly easy without a rope but to make it safe a rope would make getting out as easy as abseiling in.

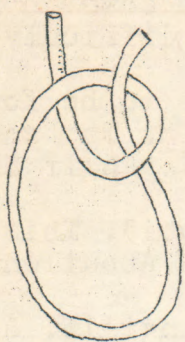
The abseil David was using still has bugs in it for it seems once you get going you cant stop until you hit the bottom. It is also very dependent on the rope being used.

David Davey.

In the last news-sheet I had a diagram showing how to tie the BOW-LINE KNOT.....

How many picked up a piece of string to see if they could tie this knot??

Remember you have to know this one to be a caver.... if you don't, you are a safety risk.... now go get a piece of rope and make sure you can tie this essential knot.



In this sheet and in following issues I will give a list of 100 terms commonly used in caving. These words form the language of the caver.....

Abseil - Method of descending steep slopes using a harness around the legs and thighs attached to a karabiner through which the abseil rope passes.

AROGONITE + Crystalline form of Calcium carbonate, slightly heavier than calcite.

AVEN - Vertical extension of the roof, either closed at the top or open to another passage.

BED - Layer in a bed of sedimentary rocks.

BEDDING JOINT or PLNE - Plane separating two different beds of rock.

BELAY - To attach oneself, as the stationary member of a roped party, to a solid rock projection. This is the main safeguard of mountain climbing and is often helpful in caving.

BIVOUAC - A temporary encampment without a tent. A resting place.

BLUFF - Large jutting piece of ground in mountainous country, very high at one end tapering at the other.

BOOTS - Properly shod boots for caving. They may be shod with Tricouni nails, Hob nails, Winker nails and Vibrams.

BOULDER CHOKE - A collapse of rocks blocking the floor to the roof.

BRECCIA - rock made up of sharp rock pieces not necessarily cemented together.

BONE BRECCIA - Fragments or pieces of bone found in cave breccia.

BRECCIA, CAVE - Sharp pieces of limestone or formation found on the cave floor.