SUSS BULL 50(2)

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2011

Lumen in Tenebris

SUSS

Founded 1948

Bulletin of the Sydney University Speleological Society

Cover Photo: **Goats Head cave, Jenolan.**
Alan Pryke

http://suss.caves.org.au

PO Box 35 Holme Building, Sydney University 2009

NEWS AND GOSSIP

Internal maps help fruit bats navigate
from our reporter Guy McKanna

GPS technology can make our travels easier and more efficient. But for many animals, the ability to successfully navigate a landscape is not just a matter of convenience, their very survival depends on it.

for more see http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-08-internal-fruit.html

Ancient menagerie uncovered in Australia's Nullarbor
from our reporter Guy McKanna

Dozens of fossilised species, including a marsupial lion, giant wombat and new wallaby, have been discovered in an underground cave on the border of Western and South Australia.

http://www.cosmosmagazine.com/news/4703/fossil-treasure-trove-found-australias-nullabor-plain

How blind cavefish can tell the time
from our reporter Guy McKanna

Despite living for millions of years underground, completely isolated from the day-night cycle, blind cavefish are still able to 'know' what time it is, using an internal circadian clock.

http://www.vision6.com.au/ch/8123/2dfb11n/1497381/f25b3jq8y.html

Bats only roost with their closest buddies
from our reporter Guy McKanna
Bats prefer to rest with their closest pals rather than with bats they don't know very well, researchers have discovered.

http://www.physorg.com/news/2011-09-roost-closest-buddies.html

Overheard

New Member (*on the way out of the cave on an epic Wiburds Trip*)
"Can we rest now?"

Experienced Member
"You can rest when walking back to the cabin"

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the Spring 2011 SUSS Bull.

In recent months SUSS has spent considerable time in the South Valley while at Jenolan. Beneath the dry river bed of Camp Creek there is an underground river, affectionately known as the Hirsute Hippopotamus. It is hoped that it is big enough for humans to explore. Camp Creek sinks up the valley and re-appears at Barralong Cave.

Much of this Bull is focused on explorations, re-discoveries, and mapping of the caves of this valley.

This bull contains several maps and descriptions of the small caves located in the area. Several of these were sketched about 40 years ago and published in the 70's. We are now progressively maping high grade surveys. You can expect to see more write ups of this area in future editions.

Many thanks to the mapmakers, including Phil Maynard and Ian Cooper, for their maps.

While Jenolan is a great place, SUSS goes caving at other places. When you attend a great trip, and want to tell other people about it, write it up and send a copy of your story to the person running the trip. There is a high chance you will see your article in print.

If you take a great photo and think it is publishable then email me a copy.

And for those who have submitted articles and are yet to see them, I am intermixing unpublished articles from the recent past with current articles. I am still keen to get new articles.

Rowedita

Competition - Photo Caption

At a recent Jenolan trip a row of " Six Flash Ferraris" were spotted and our intrepid cavers were interested. Provide a suitable caption. The prize:

you get your caption published in the next Bull.

Errata

As is often the case typographical errors occur. In the previous Bull, 50(1) the following are significant corrections:
Page 13, 107m3 should be 10^7 m^3
Page 13, 2.5x109 should be $2.5x10^9$
Page 17 'Musings' should be a heading starting a new paragraph.

The editor apologises to the author for the typesetting.

A LAZY SUNDAY'S CAVING

BY ERICA DAVEY

Participants: Phil Maynard, Andy Trafford, Will Slee, Deborah Johnston and Erica Davey

7th May 2011

We thought we would challenge ourselves a little on a frosty morning in May and headed down the hill to tackle Serpentine. After making our way through the entrance series we met the 180° squeeze. Following some guiding words from Deborah and Phil, I headed through, and after a little adjustment and contortion, I popped through on the other side. Will was next entering the squeeze, with some battery belt manoeuvres creating a challenge, and removed his helmet and battery, passing it through in front. However, he decided it was a little too much, and would watch Deb go through to get some pointers. Deborah was next, and again a helmet popped through to join me on the other side of the squeeze. Deb got a fair bit of the way through, before decided that she didn't really feel like bending in the necessary way, and had been through before so didn't need to torture herself. Meanwhile, Andy was poking around at all possible points, looking for some other way past, and repeatedly (and rightly) saying there was no way he was going to get through there. He did however, give it a good go, before resigning with the excuse of his barrel chest. Will had another attempt, and decided (again) that his body was not going to fit through. Instead of making me go back through the 180, Phil joined me, not even out of breath, on the other side and we headed onwards while the others went back to the surface.

Phil and I continued to the climb, him allowing me to take all possible options for dead ends en route and headed up the climb and out J125, all the while that I was becoming rather nervous about heading back down the slope at this entrance. Allowing me to get worried appeared to be all part of Phil's evil plan, as we headed out into the sunshine and met the others, all thoughts about going back into Serpentine via any entrance forgotten. We sat in the sunshine for a little while before deciding we probably should go into another cave seeing as it was not even 1:30pm, and we were meant to be the hardcore group. We wandered around the hillside for a bit, poking our noses into very small holes, before heading along the valley to Hennings, where the other group had been previously. Deborah and Phil decided that this incredibly tiring day had already been too draining and lazed about in the sunshine, while Andy, Will and I pottered around Hennings, enjoying the formation and large passage and taking the compulsory phalicite photos. We headed back to the hut in the afternoon sun, after what ended up being less than 2 and a half hours underground. Definitely the hardcore group, and a lovely Sunday's caving.

The only problem . . . It was Saturday.

Will attampting the 180, Photo by Erica Davey

Resting at Serpentine exit, Photo by Erica Davey

SUSS WINTER BARBEQUE

BY JACK WACHSMANN

Participants: SUSS members on Campus

11 August 2011

All too often SUSS runs a very successful O-Week in February, signing up many new student members, a lot of whom never come on a trip. In the frenzy that is O-Week students often sign up to every club under the sun and caving somehow slips off the radar. As a result of a surge of interest from current members that had their memories triggered by our particularly spectacular and well run stall at Re O-Day it was decided that we should attempt to actively engage with our student members.

Thus the students on the committee set about organising (ie over-complicating) a free BBQ for members on campus. How many sausages to buy? How much to charge non members? How to bloody fill in the funding application form? These were just some of the mind boggling questions we threw our combined intellect against and somehow still managed to run a successful event.

With Denis concentrating hard on not burning (or scrambling) the sausages and Alison spruiking a cheap lunch in the middle of Eastern Ave complete with helmet and photoboard we soon had a steady flow of customers. But fear not! We did more than provide financially deprived uni students with a cheap lunch. We also managed to find some members to give a free feed!

With a healthy gaggle of members and interested parties gathered we had a good old fashioned chin wag about caving. Tales of past adventures were told (and possibly slightly exaggerated) and the benefits of kneepads highlighted to those looking to go on their first trip. We were also able to advertise the triplist which was received with lots of interest, so don't be surprised if trips start to rapidly fill up in the future. People looking to go on their first trip in the next few weeks also found the opportunity to discuss queries and ask for advice in person, a great help.

Not only did we have a good student turn out we also had some more experienced members attend and support the event. Special mention must go to Bruce Welch who explained some of the theories behind the Woolly Rhinoceros [see p24 SUSS Bull 50(1)] and Mike Lake who advocated the benefits of alpaca wool with a very fine and so very soft example.

Overall a great time was had by all. We had 19 members attend and attracted over 50 others for a cheap lunch. The profile of the club on campus has been greatly lifted, although there is still plenty of work to do. We are all looking forward to more events on campus and seeing our new members on the upcoming trips.

NB: Thanks must go to Kat Badiola, Denis Stojanovic, Alison Chau, Rhonda Lum, Thomas Wilson for helping organise, advertise and run the event.

Alison spruiking, Photo by Kat Badiola

Jack BBQing, Photo by Kat Badiola

Saturday July 2, Block J46
Rowena Larkins

Participants: Ashton East, Rowena Larkins, Will Slee, Tommy Low.

Block was a cave I had been keen to explore for some time. I was ecstatic that the permit approval included it. Armed with an 8m tape which, according to rumour, was needed, we headed south. Ian, Tom and Deborah came with us as far as the entrance and there we separated. As Will crossed the dry riverbed, Camp Creek, he made a spontaneous decision to kiss some low lying stinging nettles. When he regained his feet he expressed interest at the tingling sensation such activity produced. We all made sure he was otherwise OK.

Having no knowledge of what was ahead we entered the cave. After a 4.1 meter drop it headed roughly north for about 10 meters while sloping down at about 10 degrees. A 2 meter scramble down led to a small room with a couple of dead end passages off to the side.

Another slope and a drop of 1.5 meters and we came upon a room with a small hole in the floor. This hole led down a chimney about 8.5 meters where I set up the 8m tape.

Down this climb was the Block Room, a large chamber, with some poor quality decoration on the roof. This room was about 6 meters long, 4 meters wide and 6 meters high. The chimney was to the south side. A quick calculation indicated we were 20 meters below the entrance. A dry stream way entered from the north, progressed across the floor next to the west wall and dispersed into a gravel bed to the south. We explored this room and despite there being a strong breeze blowing through the small entry hole to the chimney, no way on was found.

While checking for leads we found a plastic skull with a glass eye. This was placed strategically against a wall, watching for people entering down the chimney.
We headed up and out of the cave. It was widely commented on that the climb up was significantly more difficult than going down. Those of us with longish legs found it easier to get up the 8 meter tape climb; however the same people found difficulty getting up the 4 meter entry chimney, which was quite tight.

The total trip took about 2 hours.

We headed up the valley to J270 which I had mapped some time before. We entered this cave and I checked my map and made modifications so the plan more closely represented reality.

Sunday July 3, Wiburds

Ashton East

Participants: Ian Cooper, Ashton East, Rowena Larkins, Will Slee, Tommy Low.

In finest SUSS tradition we left the cavers cabin at the crack of 10:30am for a tourist trip to Wiburds. Ian and Rowena led a group of myself, Tommy and Will.

Rowena, Tommy and I attempted to find a way through the rock pile near “Wretched”. We pushed through approximately 10 meters, including pushing a low squeeze, before being unable to find a passable route. I discovered the joys of being wedged on my side, between two unmovable boulders, and inching forward without knowing whether this was leading to a space large enough to turn around in.

We continued down to “yawning gulches” where we found water approximately two meters deep. I can only imagine what it would be like to conduct a dive in this cave when the water is much higher. It was at this point that Will took some time to develop his “corkscrew technique” for climbing chimneys.

After a much deserved break for lunch and jelly beans, we continued in the direction of the Northwest Passage. We came to a large chamber with a steep mud embankment.

It was a great afternoon, neither myself, Tommy nor Will had seen Wiburds before. We saw plenty of decoration, Ian and Rowena provided knowledgeable commentary, and there were plenty of contorting physical challenges for those that wanted them.

Ian suggested that we try to find our own way back out, and after some false starts we emerged into the light (and cold wind) of day. After a successful afternoon we powered back to the cavers cabin for hot showers.

Thursday 7 July, Baralong: The Missing Link

Keir Vaughan-Taylor

Barralong yields slowly its suspected caves and passages associated with the underground river in the Southern Jenolan Limestone. Surprising finds motivate us in expectation of more. Over many SUSS trips we have revisited many of the less visited passages at the furthest areas resurveying and methodically composing maps and understanding of this cave's intriguing structure.

To me, at this time, the cave has two main areas of interest. The first is the small stream found near the start of the cave just on the other side the first rock pile. The Bluetongue lake is a spa sized pool fed by a small stream emerging at the base of an aven, a cylindrical tube rising 6m to abandoned river passages above. Bluetongue lake was dived a long time ago by Ron Allum and later more successfully by Rod O'Brien. He scooped the loose underwater alluvial stream gravels to one side of the lowest point of a phreatic loop sump and pushed his way down and then up again, surfacing in a canyon passage. His efforts completely changed the downstream flow to chocolate brown. He could not find a way on in the canyon passage but it must be there. No-one has been back since and this is a very interesting place yet to be explored.

This canyon passage will eventually lead to the next know appearance of the Southern River in Mud Tunnels which we call River Lethe. Downstream from there has been mapped all the way out to the resurgence in Blue Lake

Then next point of interest, in my view, is at the far back of the cave, the furthest point accessible to above water cavers. Here is the source of the Southern River feeding into the bottom of a Barralong's lake and flowing through a low passage out of the lake chamber. It then pours, kettle like, into a low stream passage heading North, back towards the main tourist caves and back towards Bluetongue. It is accessed by an awkward climb down a sharply bladed wall into a stream. Mostly made awkward wearing wet suits and carrying dive kit. Perhaps explorers of the past were not enthusiastic about this direction because the river was heading back into known cave areas and the great mystery lies to the South and all the hints of cave systems in the Southern Limestone.

Over the years of pushing to the South our repeated attempts to push further encouraged our trips to become much more organised. This is not really a characteristic for which I am famous. Gear packaging was found to be to efficient at moving gear, protecting the formations and protecting our equipment.

Smaller scuba tanks, a better negotiation of the underwater realm, and knowledge of where we were trying to go, led to mapping and extending the cave considerably to the South. The cave section above water passes through many decorated passages and considerable effort went into protecting the floor and nagging people to be careful.

After many dives to the back, the SUSS teams became quicker, retaining energy to do exploration and mapping after reaching the back of Barralong. The divers would fade in the the blue water for a few hours while the survey teams went exploring and measuring more passages. They would correct and add to existing map surveys. There is still more work to be done but the journey to the dive site is a long one to repeat over and over again.

In reviewing the dive South, recall that the dive begins in the back most lake descending through a hole in the bottom of a lake. The onward passage makes its path though a number of jointed rifts passing under a slot at the end of a tunnel accessible to any wet and bedraggled caver after climbing a muddy cliff on the far side after swimming across the Barralong Lake.

The zig zagging through keyhole tubes are negotiated by turning from one side to the other, and sliding our side mounted tanks through each obstacle. Mostly the keyhole shaped tunnels are at about 4m depth occasionally surfacing in small air bells. The shallow passages descend suddenly to 15m, still in rifts, one of which rises to the surface through a tight vertical rift. The surface presents as a small lake and a stream entering into the lake from a crawling tunnel off to one side. While not very warm the crawl along the stream tunnel is obstructed by sharp blades of limestone. In full neoprene, and dangling dive tackle, this onerous crawl regenerates a feeling of warmth but not love for sharp limestone.

There are two or three short sumps with adjoining air spaces. I intend, in future, to make sure that none of these rooms have leads. I'm sure I have checked them but we are always focussed on the far point of exploration that now I am unsure how well we have searched here. From one of these rooms there is a final tight and short underwater rift that slips into a 1m wide rift with a surface.The room has vertical walls providing no rest place out of the water. This rift pool is 6m deep where at the bottom a rounded tunnel with an emerging water flow is blocked for divers at its floor by sand. Moving sand floor out of the way is possible but there are limited places to put the excavation material. A flood might one day do the excavation for us. I find you get more wishes granted if you wish for things that are likely.

This rift may lead to a river significant in the formation of karst features under the Southern Limestone such as Bottomless Pit, Block Cave, Heffalump Trap and the many dolines and collapses seen in the Southern Limestone. The dive to this place is not easy and time to spend at this place is limited by the cold and also limited by a support team, and also limited by the consideration of not keeping the support team waiting for too many hours.

Back to the warmth of the Cavers' Cottage the post examination conversation mixed with wine, port and a good meal tells us there is something there, we just need to go back again.

Phil's maps, (perhaps I should say our maps) show the underwater section to be located below the surface, about where the snout of a mountainside descends to the valley floor, near a small karst feature known as Hobbit's Hole. Facing up the valley, the underground river's position stops short of showing if the underground waterway dives under the mountain on the left or crosses the valleys under Block Cave. We have yet to find if the river is perhaps related to the spectacular Bottomless Pit on the right side of the valley. Contrary to its name Bottomless Pit has a bottom. On occasion I have stood next to the huge fallen boulder on the bottom chamber and you can hear and feel a breeze emanating out of the rocky floor suggesting a huge cavernous presence, something else, that you just can't get to.

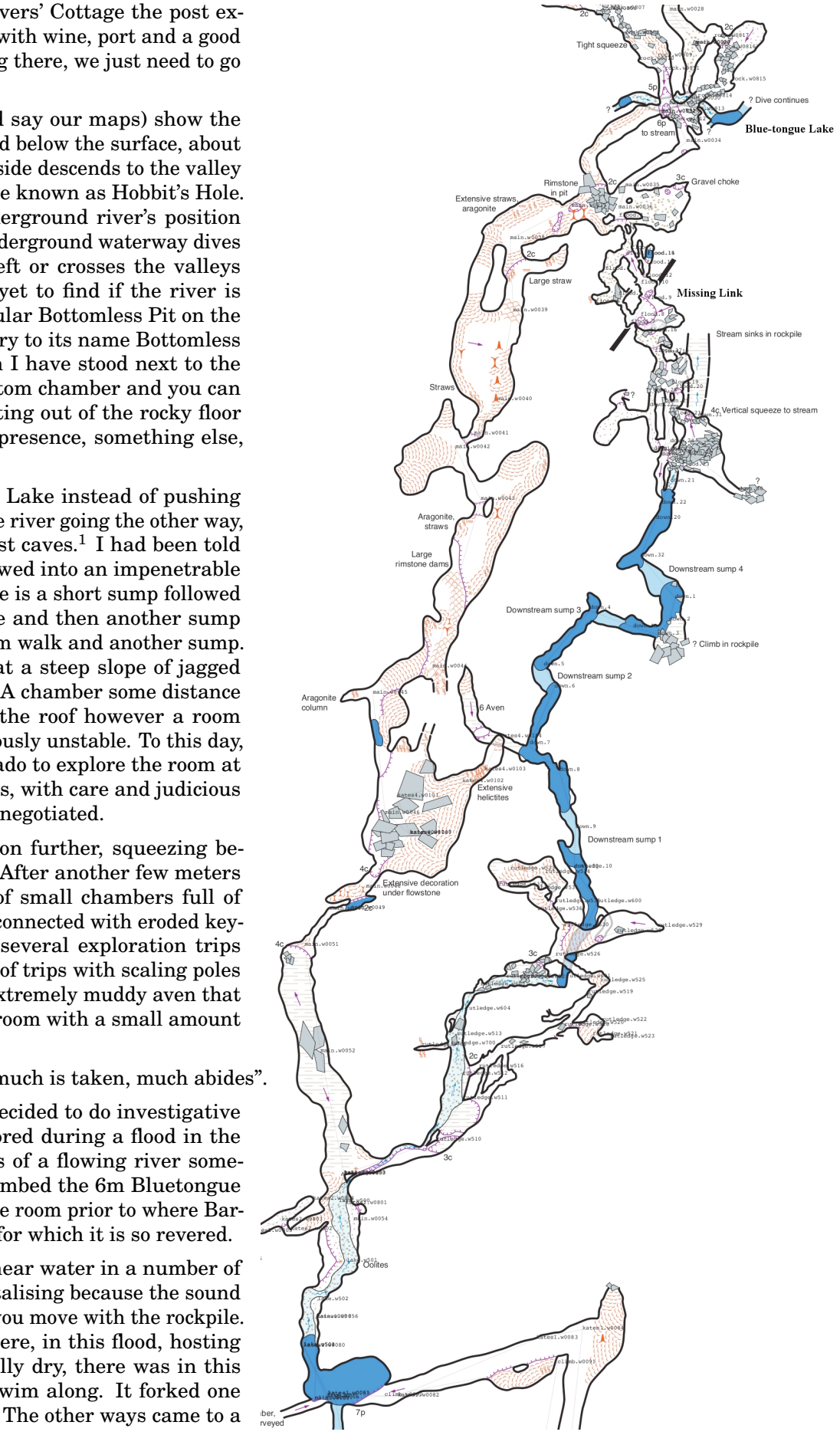
On one dive trip to Barralong Lake instead of pushing South I instead investigated the river going the other way, North, back towards the tourist caves.[1] I had been told in the past that the stream flowed into an impenetrable rock pile. On the contrary, there is a short sump followed by wade along stream passage and then another sump followed by more canyon stream walk and another sump. The canyon apparently ends at a steep slope of jagged rocks at the edge of the water. A chamber some distance up the tumble of rock meets the roof however a room beyond can be seen and is obviously unstable. To this day, no-one has mustered the bravado to explore the room at the top of the slope but perhaps, with care and judicious rock moving, it could be safely negotiated.

Michael Collins found a way on further, squeezing between rocks near the surface. After another few meters the passage opened to a set of small chambers full of collapsed rock pile and loosely connected with eroded keyhole shaped channels. After several exploration trips Michael and I spent a number of trips with scaling poles and climbing gear to scale an extremely muddy aven that finally yielded an uninspiring room with a small amount of decoration. Oh well!

So some progress. "... though much is taken, much abides".

Phil, Kat, myself and others decided to do investigative trips to Bluetongue. We explored during a flood in the hope that we might find signs of a flowing river somewhere in the rock piles. We climbed the 6m Bluetongue pitch and made our way into the room prior to where Barralong assumes its decoration for which it is so revered.

In the flooded state we could hear water in a number of places inside the rocks. So tantalising because the sound of the water seems to move as you move with the rockpile. Slots and grikes in the wall were, in this flood, hosting perched stream ways. Normally dry, there was in this flood, a canyon to wade and swim along. It forked one way ending in a blind passage. The other ways came to a



[1] Editors note: for the full map of Barralong see Bull 47(3):13-17

two meter drop, water falling from the perched streamway into a small lake room.

Within the lake of this room, part of the river was welling up on one side, swirling away and down into another hole. We move a few rocks blocking the holes and tried putting my water proof camera into the inflow and outflow holes to capture an image of what lay beyond.

Kat in the flood. Photo by Keir Vaughan-Taylor

The pictures were poor but showed there was quite a bit of room in both holes and it looked like we should come back with a pair of three litre scuba tanks to have a look under the surface. Information from the photographs was to prove unnecessary and so was the proposed dive. I had imagined the upstream and downstream holes as being the missing link between the dive upstream back this way. It was to transpire both holes were not possible to dive however it did turn out to be the missing link.

At a later date a survey team went to the Missing Link to survey the significant places in the perched streamways where we were now sure the river lay close by. With the flood receded the stream was gone. The perched streams were dry and the holes where water welled up from below were also dry and now, with obstacle rocks moved aside, there was passage beyond. The survey team followed the dry passage and found that upstream, heading towards the diving push caverns, that there was a connection. In all those diving trips no-one had noticed the insignificant hole in the floor where this lead connected in.

Having missed the survey trip I later returned with a mini-team just to have a look and see if there were more leads. The route to the diving chambers is a crawl over fragmented rock. It is a tight squeeze in places but not hellishly so. There is a chance of other passages inside the rock pile but nothing easily presents itself. Does it ever? Crawling through these small chambers the Southern river can be seen trickling across river gravels through a lower, very small, passage underneath. The visible flow doesn't seem to represent the entire flow. We know that part of the flow passes underneath the Bluetongue Pitch and into Bluetongue Pool; even so there may be more.

The river is unknown between Bluetongue Pool and where it next appears in the Mud Tunnels, some distance prior to the tourist favourite, the Pool of Reflections. Downstream from the Missing Link the river should connect into Bluetongue lake although I doubt it will bypass the phreatic loop that Rod dug his way through. No doubt the previous survey group checked it out, nevertheless I wanted to inspect what I could. Struggling a little into the hole I was able to squeeze downstream. For a short way a small stream trickles across stream gravels underneath the crawl tunnel - not the main flow by any means but very interesting.

At a most awkward tight spot I could see, not far ahead, the streamlet filtering between stones packed in a rock pile. In high water conditions the water would back up from this point and create the lake conditions that we had previously seen. It wouldn't take much to move the filter stone aside but would take a smaller person than me with much better knee pads and in a much more determined mood.

It remains to be seen if this new route can change the time and effort for diving the Southern Baralong Waters. This

might be a far more environmental route to the back of Barralong and may dramatically reduce the time to get there. This potential route is low, confined and with sharp rocks lining the route. I really need much more industrial strength knee pads. There are sections for lying down crawling and grunting through sharp rock and a low roof.

After the crawl section continuing on to the very back there are multiple sumps, a stream gravel crawl and an irritating climb at the end up to the lake chamber.

On the positive side there is no formation to worry about, no cliffs to pass gear up and down and the possible impact to decorations in the cave is eliminated. As an air saving safety measure the short sumps joining each of the river canyons might be best passed using small pony bottles and changed to seven litre bottles at the Barralong Lake.

Saturday July 9, Mammoth

Rowena Larkins

Participants: Ian Cooper, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Will Slee, Tim Abbott, Emma McIntosh, Ashton East, Gary Pate, Nat Brennan, Deborah Johnstone, Tom Short

We arose at various times, from 8am through 10, our sleep having been interrupted by the blissfull sound of an alarm at 5am that someone had forgotten to disable. All would have been well had the owner not pressed the snooze button rather than the off button. No-one claimed responsibility the next day.

The long term members proceeded to Baconfest with first time members salivating at the smell of cooking cholesterol, making mournful comments about their plain cereals.

When all the bacon was all consumed the discussion turned to the days activities. As usual there were as many plans for the day as there were people. In the end it was decided that there would be two trips, with the cave weary, such as Keir (who had been caving since midweek) taking a pleasant stroll through the southern limestone in search of J288/289 who's entrances we had photos from the 1980s. The rest of the party would go for a mammoth mammoth journey.

Keir, Deb, Tom, Ian and Nat headed south while Rowena took Will, Ashton, Emma, Tim and Gary north and downhill.

As the mammoth party crossed the dry creek near the Playing Fields a couple of lyrebirds danced into view. After a brief pause to let the dance progress we crossed the creekbed and interrupted three 'roos busy at breakfast. The marsupials hopped up the hill to join three more friends before bounding out of sight.

No further animals were spotted on the short trip to mammoth and after wrestling with the lock at the cave entrance (which someone had closed upside down) the journey underground commenced. Down the jughandle and into the horseshoe chamber via the bypass; A check for worms in horseshoe indicated they were hibernating; Time for a photoshoot up horseshoe aven and then we paused to view the pioneers inscription and the Skull and Cross Bones.

We re-grouped, crossed the Sugar Cubes and headed down to the lower levels.

Next stop was Central Lake which was significantly lower than when I was last there (in summer it was full up to the permanent rope) but today we could still see Central River flowing into it. We progressed through the Middle Bit and I stunned myself by finding my way through the rockpiles without error. At last we came upon the Dry Siphon, which, as usual, was not dry. We crawled through and found ourselves to be "not dry". I had tentative plans to stop for lunch at the junction, but decided against it and headed up towards north passage. We needed to ensure people stayed warm and were not affected by the dampness from the siphon. We wandered up "The Bypass" past the turnoff to "Ohmeneez Squeeze" and paused to admire and photo the spectacular small pools and waterfalls now that central river was flowing.

Back to "The Junction" and up "Northwest Passage" where the decorations provided several photo opportunities. We paused just before Guzova and there Ashton found an ancient glass bottle. We collected the pieces and cleaned up the label which seemed to say something about "welcome chemical company". Having warmed up from the not-so-dry siphon we went back to "The Junction" for lunch.

Knowing that the best way to learn how to get through a cave was to lead, I encouraged the rest of the team to lead the way, one by one, back through "Middle Bit" to Central Lake. I was intrigued to see one of the team exit a low passage which led into a large chamber, decide the best way forward was through a tight squeeze and crawl under a rock pile at the base of said chamber. I stepped across the chamber and waited for the group as they exited the crawl.

Back at "Central Lake" I took over the leading and we headed up the permanent rope and back to Railway Tunnel via "Debouchment". Again I asked the team to suggest the way out. Being totally disoriented the team's consensus was to head further into the cave towards the back of Railway Tunnel; mistakes are a learning experience and I pointed them in the opposite direction. We were out by about 4:30 and Will led the charge back to the shower and the cabin.

When we got there Will was looking clean and happy. Midway through the shower ceremony those from the "Deep South" turned up and commented that they had found the mythical J288/289; The caves had been mislabelled in the photos and the pictures were in fact J268/269.

We enjoyed a pleasant evening with various caving games, good cheese and wine, and a warm fire.

Sunday 10 July, Dwyers Cave J41

Will Slee

Participants: Ian Cooper, Deborah Johnston, Aston East, Gary Pate, William Slee

After the usually Sunday morning phaffing around, a party of 5 cavers including Ian 'Coops' Cooper, Deborah Johnston, Aston East, Gary Pate and William Slee set off for Dwyers cave. This cave has a reputation for containing the hardest trip in mainland Australia! Thankfully we were only going to the relatively civilised top section, and not going past 'Percolator'. We soon discovered another reason why this cave is not visited frequently, its half way up a very steep slope! After some time searching the hillside Coops managed to find the cave entrance. During a short break before going in, Coops provided us with a brief history of the cave including how it was rediscovered in the 60's by a John Bonwick who accidently dropped his lunch down through a gap in the rocks covering the entrance. Dwyers is thought to be one of the caves hidden by Wiburd in the early twentieth century.

Inside the cave we found large chambers and some formations. After some scrambling around we reached a section which required a tape to go a short drop. After Coops and Ashton easily made their way down it was left to Deborah to make her way down and after several false starts and questions about how to get back up she decided to wait until the rest of the group had gone down.

Sufficiently worried that this was going to be an interesting descent, I drew the short straw and climbed down next. True to form I lived up to my reputation of making things look harder than they are, and providing some interesting sound effects, I managed to scramble, slide then fall down the short drop to the bottom. After a quick look around we managed to find a much easier way to get down & backup. Continuing our look around we found the beginning of the passage to the bottom via the Percolator. After hearing quite a few stories about the shattered cavers returning from the trip to the bottom we hastily decided to continue through to the other passages in the upper section which included a small crawl. Having been told that no knee pads were required we gingerly continued on our way. Interestingly, the person who advised us we didn't need knee pads conveniently already had a pair built into their cave suit!

Not to matter Coops and Ashton quickly took off to discover the rest of the cave, with the rest of us attempting to catch up. We soon come to a vertical squeeze where Deborah and Gary found it interestingly tight at the very bottom. After hearing all this commotion I was convinced that I wasnt going to fit, and after a quick scout around I found a much easier climb down into a another large chamber where we discovered echidna bones and some interesting dogtooth spar in some huge dried out crystal pools. We also found the signatures inside the cave from which it gets its name. By this time we had been underground for a couple of hours and had explored most of passages in the top section so we made our way to the surface.

Once again everyone managed to prove their cave skills by quickly exiting the cave through an interesting vertical squeeze. The problem was I was still inside trying to figure/push my way outside. With tantalizing fresh air, sunshine and the voices of people sitting down to lunch, I was even more resolved to get through. Thankfully I wasn't completely forgotten and after some excellent advice managed to reach the surface.

On the way back to the hut we scrambled around the hillside to have a look at the entrance to Bushrangers cave which once again Coops managed to find easily. We left the hillside by falling, sliding, and tripping our way down to reach the track back to the hut.

OLD BULL RESEARCH GIVES CRACKING RESULTS

BY ROWENA LARKINS

Participants: Many people over many trips

Winter 2010 and we were sitting around the cabin at Jenolan with Keir regaling us with stories of a legendary 30m pitch in the southern limestone. Being a week long trip we headed down south the next day in search of this cave with the Keir family in tow. "It is close to paradox" said Keir, "but up on top of the mountain". We headed past bloodsucker and then turned west and headed up the hill to walk along the ridge top. We spread out so as to cover as much area as possible. Hey, I found a deep hole said Keir's daughter, Kelly. We converged on the voice and found a 3 meter pit, 2 meters wide which was more a gap between some rocks than a cave. The tag, J305 was duly noted and GPSed for later reference.

It being a cold and frosty afternoon and with the altitude being over 1000 meters we headed back to the cabin, with Keir telling us that we were not far south enough.

Spring 2010 with a group of 6 keen cavers, we headed down to Paradox to check out the mountains around there. We made Paradox our central starting point and sent curious cavers up hills in various directions but all returned with no story of amazing abseil pitches. Being late spring the weather was hot and humid and the leaches and mossies were busy. We returned to the cabin to console ourselves with mediocre wine and a variety of cheeses.

Summer 2011 Having finished studies for the year, and not being gainfully employed, I got up reasonably early one Tuesday morning in January and headed up to the mountains. On the way there I nearly drove over a 2 meter blacksnake on the hill heading down to Jenolan. I greeted Michael Collins at the guides office and gave details of where I was planning on going in case of accident. Ian Cooper had dug out an old bull from 1984 where the story of finding and tagging J279, CrackPot (for that was the name given in the Bull) and several other caves in the vicinity. I knew the location of J281 which was mentioned in the article, so that was my starting point. On the walk south I had the willies scared out of me by a family of pigs around Bottomless, and saw a few wallabies as I headed up the valley. I knew where Chomp was so I stopped near there for lunch and was intrigued to see the previously dry river bed was not dry just at the junction. The river was flowing north and sinking at the junction of two usually dry creeks. I headed up to Chomp and took disto and compass bearings down the entrance to use as temporary legs on the map of the area. Up the hill I went and measured the same for J281. It was pleasant sitting on the hill side with a light breeze cooling me. I was wearing my trog suit (aka boiler bag) as protection against the leeches and nettles and losing water rapidly in the January heat.

I spent the next three hours wandering over the top of the hill, following the guidance given by Keir, that Crackpot was "on top of the hill". While wandering I spied a friendly Brown Snake, friendly in that it didn't seem too concerned about running away from me in; fact it was keen to hang around. Snake stick in hand (a long stick with a fork in the far end) I continued without success.

5pm came and I decided it was time to go home. As I sat pondering the waste of the day I ruminated on a steep slope heading up the side of a bluff and decided to do a quick check before I headed home. At the top of this slope was a rift, about a meter wide, about 3 meters long, which headed off into the dark.

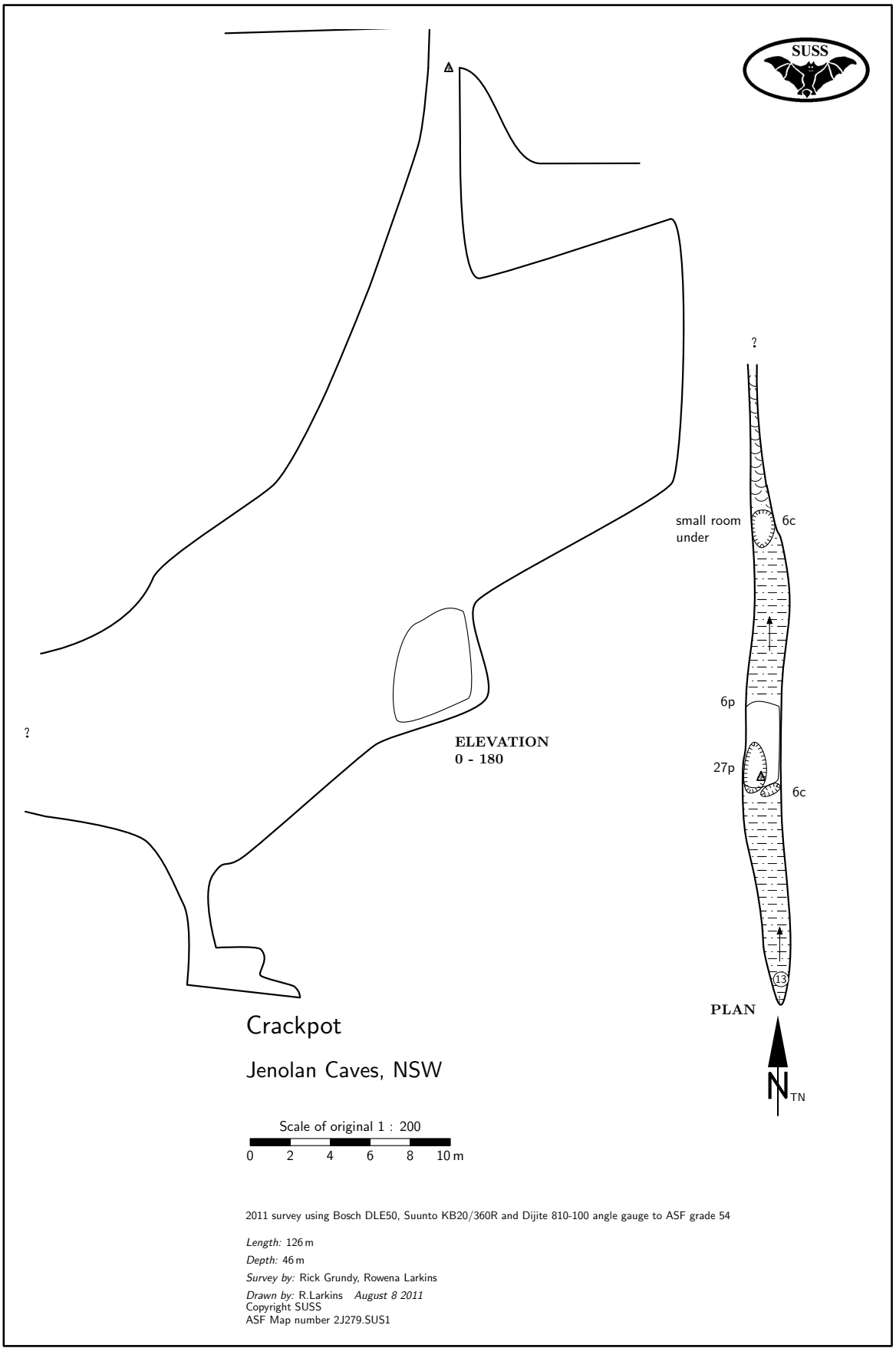
My trusty laser shone down this hole and measured 10 meters on one side and 'error' as I moved it across. Dust and humidity was preventing the reading. Then to my right I spotted the tag, J279. I photoed it, took a GPS reading and joyfully headed back to the car. Upon reaching the car I found that three leeches had spent the day sucking me and they were as big as my thumb. As they were full they dropped to the car park. I stopped at the bathroom by the guards office to wash the wounds and then checked in at the office to alert them I was safely out of the bush.

February Trip came and saw me heading back up to the hill with Bill, Rick, and Lauren. This time we took the easy route, drove along the Kanangra road using a GPS to find the point to head into the bush. It was a 20 minute walk to the cave entrance through open forest, with one steep hill. Certainly easier than the alternative, a 45 minute bash through the nettles followed by scaling the mountain.

The cave was surveyed as having a 34 meter pitch and a further slope, scramble and climb down another 22 meters. The cave is a rift and is not much more than a meter wide at the widest point.

References

Adams, R. 1984 Jenolan: Southern Limestone Non-Trip *Suss Bulletin 24(3) p74-75*


SUSS
?
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small room
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Crackpot
Jenolan Caves, NSW
Scale of original 1 : 200
0 2 4 6 8 10 m
2011 survey using Bosch DLE50, Suunto KB20/360R and Dijite 810-100 angle gauge to ASF grade 54
Length: 126 m
Depth: 46 m
Survey by: Rick Grundy, Rowena Larkins
Drawn by: R.Larkins August 8 2011
Copyright SUSS
ASF Map number 2J279.SUS1

J46 GOATS HEAD CAVE

BY IAN COOPER

J46 is a long known collapse doline in the Southern Limestone at Jenolan. The cave was tagged in 1963 by SSS at the same time as Paradox Cave. (Magennis 1991).

Welch (1976) recorded J46 as follows: *"J46 is an interesting feature. Located almost at the level of the alluvial flat, it has the appearance of being an abandoned sink. Shannon visited this cave in the 1960s and informs us that there did not appear to be any immediate prospects."*

In 1980 Illawarra Speleological Society (ISS) started digging in J46. This dig appears to have gone on for the next two years and progressed down the steeply sloping doline wall for about 4m before being abandoned. The cave was named Goats Head Cave in June 1980 due to *"the many bones taken out"* (Jenolan Guides Office reports, unpublished).

About two years ago SUSS "rediscovered" this cave. I immediately considered J46 prospective because:

- It is a fairly large collapse doline.
- It had access down one wall of the doline that drafted cool air on hot days.
- It is just up the hill from an intermittent stream sink in a side valley to Camp Creek.
- It may have been an abandoned and collapsed stream sink.

We were able to follow the draft sideways from the base of the dig through two squeezes and then surprisingly up into a large well decorated room that was found in December 2010. This room is probably a remnant of a much larger chamber that has now mostly collapsed forming the J46 doline. The south end of the chamber is a drafting rock pile that probably is taking air from the surface, 5m above. The north end of the chamber is formation choked and requires detrogging before entry. There are large areas of pristine flowstone, two crystal pools and oolites.

In May 2011 we surveyed the cave and a map is attached.

Deborah admires the newly discovered chamber (and legroom) in J46/Goats Head Cave

References

Magennis, T., 1991 Cave History of the Southern Limestone until 1965. *Unpublished notes from BMSC.*

Welch, B.R., 1976 Further observations on the Southern Limestone. *SUSS Bulletin 15(10) p218-220.*

J46 GOATS HEAD CAVE

Southern Limestone, Jenolan Caves

Surveyed May 2011 by Ian Cooper, Erica Davey, Stephen Kennedy & Philip Maynard
using Suunto-Oy compass & clinometer & fibreglass tape to ASF grade 5A.

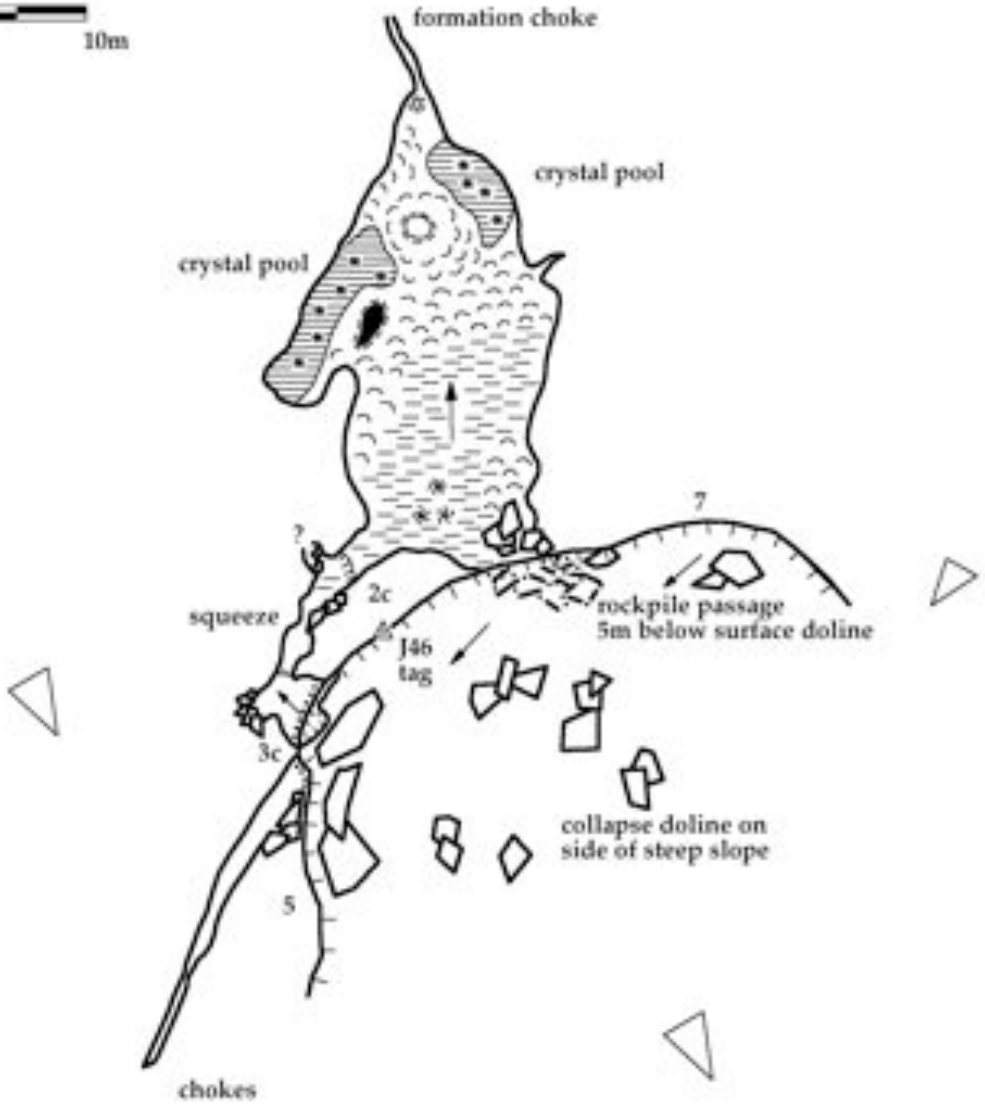
Scale of original 1:200

0 10m

N_T N_{mag}

12.7°

Length: 42m
Depth: 7m

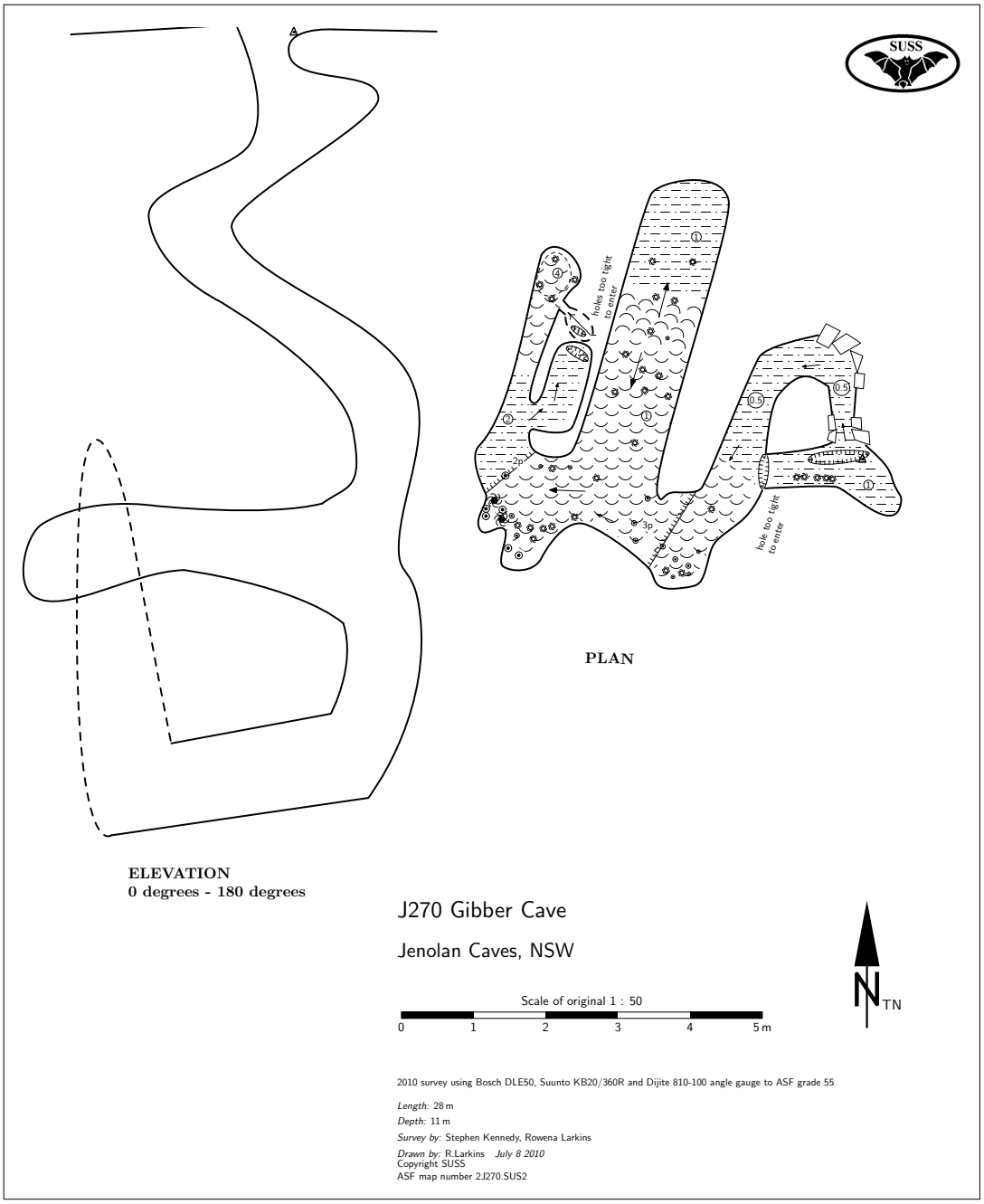


I. Cooper draft, May 2011

2J46.SUS1

SUSS

J270 GIBBER CAVE



Gibber cave is located half way up a slope near Bottomless Pit. It was *" opened by the removal of some very large boulders on 11/4/77 by a party led by Malcolm Handel (SUSS)"*. It is a short cave with potential for further exploration. At the base of the cave are some small holes with cold air blowing out of them. To get to these holes there is a tight narrow passge and a microbod is needed to check them out. In 1977 Stuart Brown drew up a map to ASF grade 1 (drawn from memory) which was quite accurate.

Indeed the entrance to the cave is tight and torturous and requires a three point turn. The cave is very dry inside and quite well decorated.

Care should be taken when entering this cave as there is a significant amount of dry dirt, and as it is a steep sloping cave much of this dirt has the potential to end up at the bottom of the cave hampering future exploration.

Reference

Welch, B.R.,1977 Summary of Exploration in the Southern Limestone *SUSS Bulletin 17(2) p 46*

J282 BLOODSUCKER!

BY IAN COOPER

For decades people have wondered at the lack of caves in the Southern Limestone at Jenolan when compared to the Northern Limestone. At the SUSS 60^{th} anniversary, in May 2008, Ian Cooper took a group for a tour of the Southern Limestone. After a bout of prospecting on the bluff north of Paradox Cave we started towards Caves House. We reached the main sink for Camp Creek which was taking a fair volume of water that is next seen in Baralong Cave 1km to the north. About 100m north of this stream sink and 50m up the hill is a large collapse doline which is tagged J282. J282 was tagged and partially explored in the early 1980's by Rolf Adams (Adams 1984).

"The enormous nettle filled doline to the south of the J46 side valley was visited and given the tag J282. This doline contains in its base a large (7m by 7m by 6m from memory) cavern, at the bottom right of which is a very tight squeeze. This constriction had been passed in May 1983, leading to another 5m of passage and a small (2m by 3m by 1.5m high) room but Rolf had little motivation to pass through it again. Paul (Chatterton) too left it unvisited."

Move on to November 2008, Deborah Johnston and Ian Cooper spent a day prospecting in the Southern Limestone and could not find J282 due to being one valley too far north! Again on the December trip we tried and this time we found the doline and due to the hot day were able to feel a cold breeze coming up out of a vertical slot in the base of the doline. As well as the doline being full of nettles it was full of leaches, some of which seemed to drop down from above. One particularly cunning leech managed to latch on to Deborahs neck. This caused great consternation to Deborah and inspired the caves name, Bloodsucker.

It appears that since being visited in the 1980's some large rocks had slumped into the base of the doline making the vertical squeeze impassable. After moving one particularly large boulder we were able to re-enter the cave through a 2m vertical squeeze that led to a small 2m x 1m x 1.5m room. Off the west side of this room a second horizontal squeeze was passed between soil and rocks to enter a large sloping room (20m x 5m x 1.5m). The room runs south – north with the north end being the lowest. At this lowest point the cave ends in a stream gravel filled tube. About the north end of the room there are multiple stalactites. The south end of the room has a lithified collapse breccia / rock pile.

The cave was surveyed in February 2009 and a map is attached.

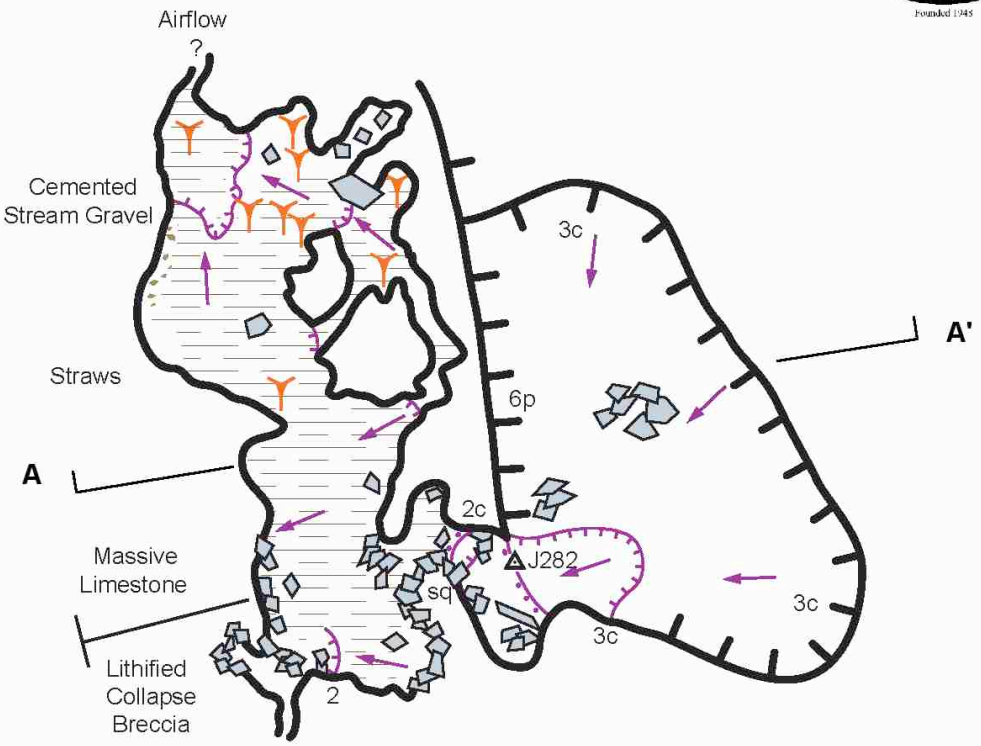
Bloodsucker is located about 100m north west of the main sink of Camp Creek. Its location and the presence of stream gravel throughout the cave suggests that Bloodsucker is a former stream sink.

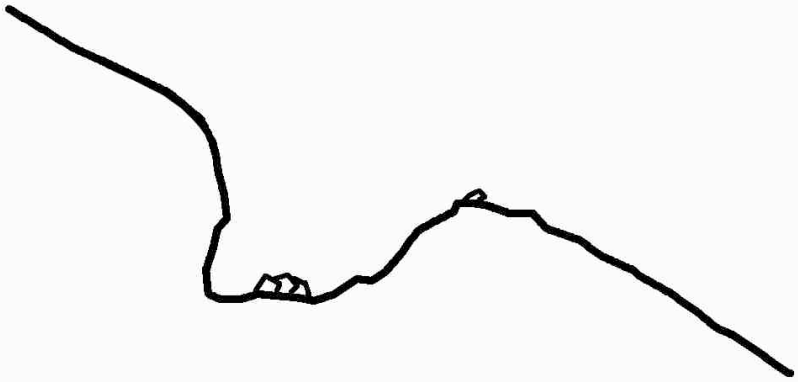
Reference

Adams, R. 1984 Jenolan: Southern Limestone Non-Trip *Suss Bulletin 24(3) p74-76*

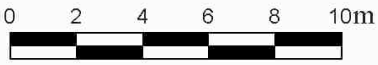
J282 Bloodsucker

Southern Limestone, Jenolan Caves





Section A - A'

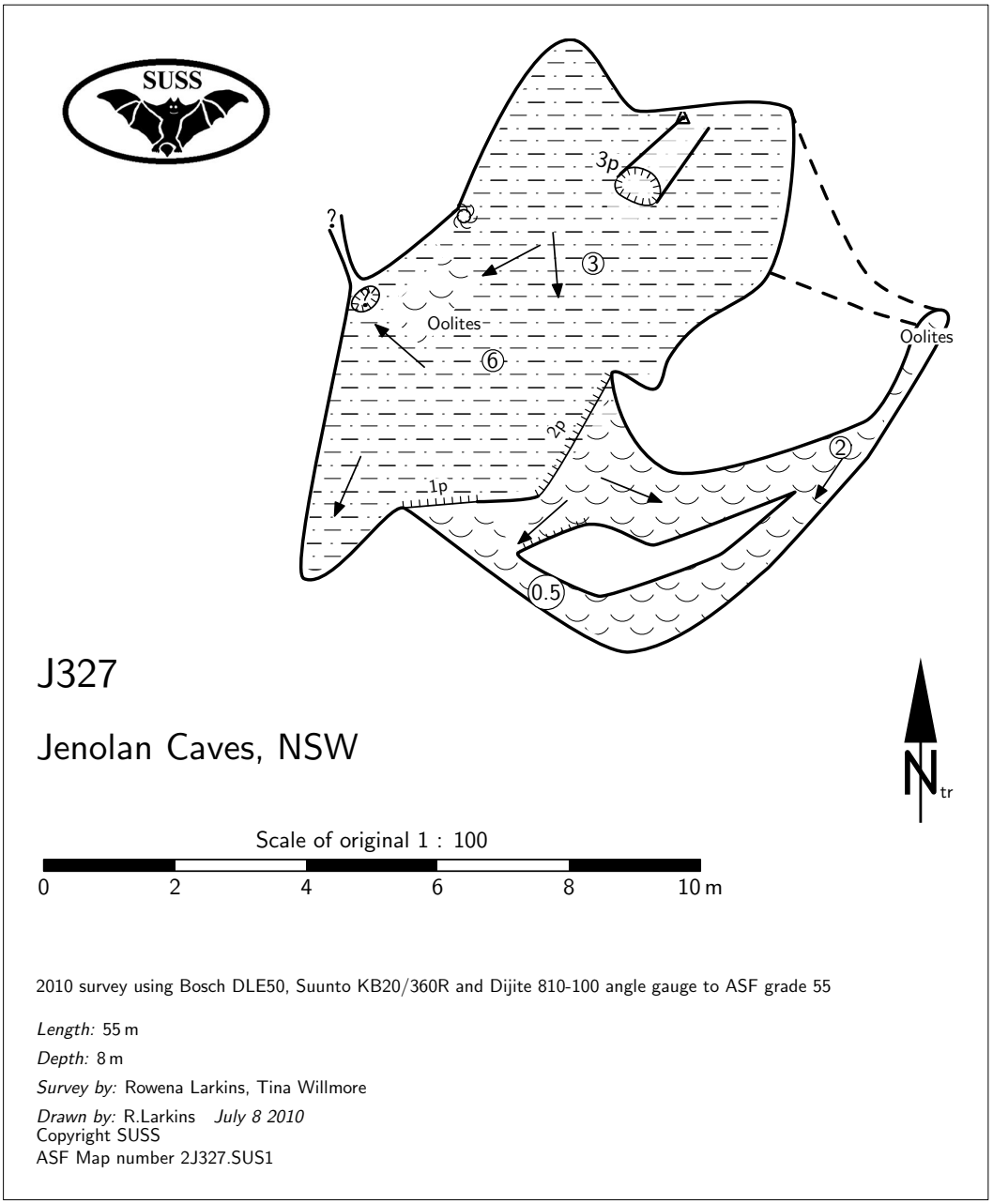


Scale of Original 1:200

Surveyed 15/2/2009 by Ian Cooper, Shannon Crack & Deborah Johnston using Suunto-Oy compass and clinometer and 30m fibreglass tape to ASF grade 54.

Length: 45m Depth: 20m

P. Maynard & I. Cooper draft 2011. 2J282.SUS1



Description

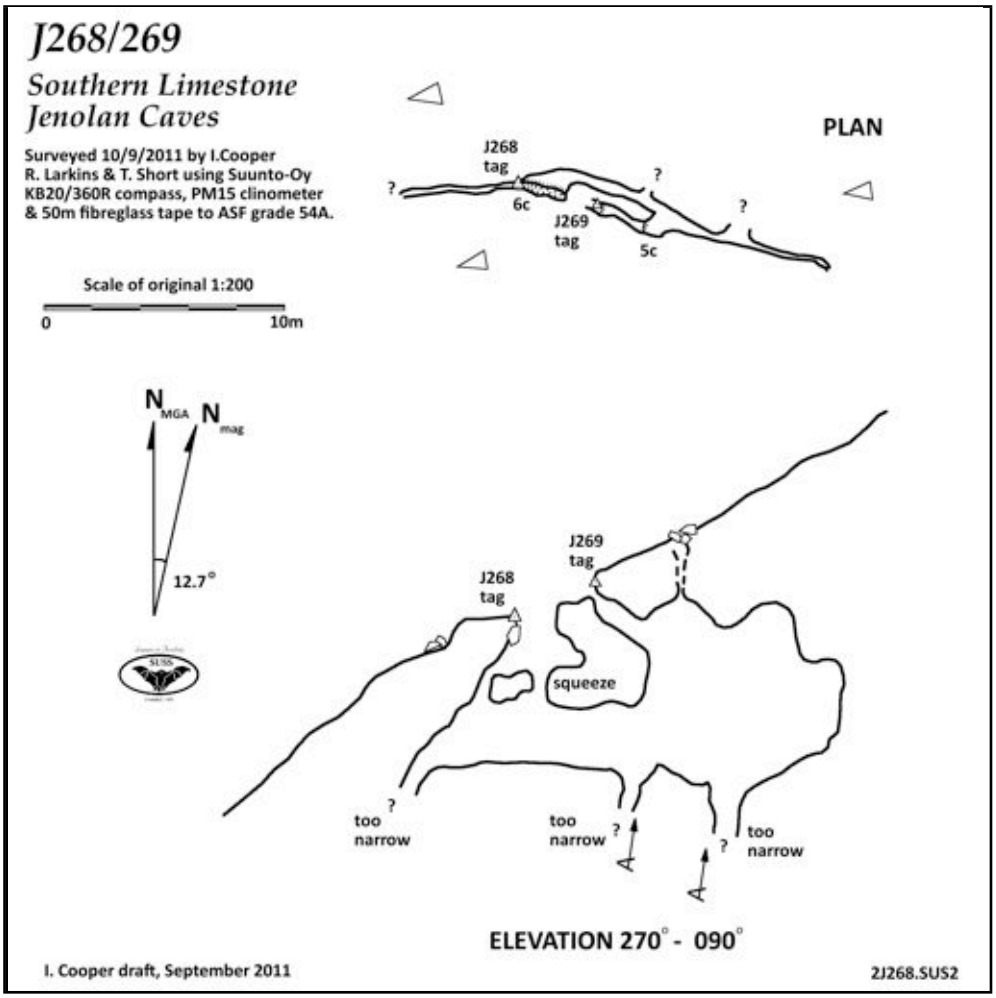
J327 is located in the Southern Limestone above the Bloodsucker doline at the base of a cliff. It was discovered a couple of years ago by SSS.

The entry requires either a rope or a ladder as it is a 3 meter pitch which is overhung on all sides.

The mud floor slopes down to the south west, with the entrance to the room about 6 meters above the lowest point. The cave is about 10 meters long and 5 meters wide at its widest point. There is a narrow rift to the north west with a small hole below it.

To the south east there is some flowstone development with some decoration and oolites at the far north east point.

The cave has many snails which, it seems, eat the limestone.



As described in an earlier article, J268/J269 was phototagged many years ago, but not explored or surveyed. As part of the documentation of the known caves in the Jenolan Southern Limestone SUSS surveyed and re-photoed this cave. As seen in the photos (below) there is significant vegetation growth since 1989.

J268/269 in 1989 compared to 2011

Editors note: in the photos you can match up the rocks below the cave entrance

J47/288/289 STARAJ SPRING

A part of Jenolan in memory of Mark "Mammoth" Staraj BY IAN COOPER

Mark Staraj was a long-time member of SUSS who passed away at an early age due to the evil of cancer. Mark had an intense interest in caving and particularly in karst hydrology, Jenolan and Mammoth Cave. In July 2009, on Mark's last trip to Jenolan before he fell ill, he "discovered" a resurgence near the head of Camp Creek, in the Southern Limestone. It was typical of his enthusiasm that he stopped to look amongst the leech filled undergrowth on a cold rainy day whilst I was just plodding through the nettles. On this day the resurgence was flowing at about 7 l/s and we wondered at what cave this stream has created under the adjacent tall limestone bluff. We scratched around for a while looking for tags and found none.

After Marks passing, less than 6 months later, I immediately thought that this resurgence should be named after him. In December 2010 I again visited the resurgence during a period of heavy rainfall and flooding at Jenolan. This time the resurgence was flowing at 10 l/s. We located a second cave entrance a few metres south of the main resurgence that was sumped. Clearing the main resurgence also lowered the water level in the second cave showing the two are connected.

What started as a simple idea to name a cave evolved into having to sort a fragmentary history of cave exploration and solve the problem of two caves tagged with the same number or incorrect tag photographs. It was just this sort of historical detective work that Mark loved.

In February 2011 we returned. This time the resurgence was dry but there was minor flow from between the rocks 20m downslope. We again looked for tags without finding any. Some reading and asking around showed that the resurgence was previously known but unnamed. Consultation with John Bonwick and reading materials that Mark had collected showed that Staraj Spring should be J47 (BMSC unpublished notes, King 1975). However the J47 tag photo from 1985 could not quite be made to agree with 2011.

In May 2011 we returned armed with a photo of the J47 tag. Again the resurgence was dry but there was minor flow ($\sim$0.5 l/s) from between the rocks 20m downslope. After much removal of vegetation the J47 tag appeared. J47 was tagged in 1963 at the same time as Paradox Cave (J48), Goats Head Cave (J46), and Block Cave (J45), (Magennis 1991). More vegetation was removed from a small hole just south of J47 and the J289 tag appeared. This gave me another lead to pursue. Some more searching in back issues of Oolite indicated that the cave had been explored by BMSC in the 1980s and called Funnel Web Cave due to multiple spiders being found as the cave was explored. An extract from unpublished BMSC Southern Limestone notes describe the resurgence as follows:

"J288/289 Funnel Web Cave
J288/289 are located at the far end of the limestone on the western bank of Camp Creek, 70 metre s downstream of J48 Paradox cave and 5 metres upstream of J47. J288 is a vertically elongated 2 metre high x 1 metre wide entrance hole. The tag is located level with the top of the hole on a rock to the left. J289 is north of J288 and is a 1 metre x 1 metre descending hole in a grassy slope, with its tag being above and to the left of the entrance. Both entrances are usually overgrown. J288/289 (and J47) are all outflow caves. All of these are known to outflow water at various times, meeting Camp Creek. These caves were noted by B. Welch on the 31st January 1976 (Suss Bull 15(10):218) as being small holes upstream of J47, that could provide a route into J47. It was not until the 8-9th February 1986 that Brian Skinn (B.M.S.C) and other club members found one of the holes to be breathing out an extremely large amount of cold air. After removing large amounts of rocks and dirt four Funnel Web spiders were found (hence the name). Digging continued for many trips. The first attempt to enter this cave was by Brian Skinn on the 6th September 1986. This attempt failed due to the amount of water and temperature. Another attempt by Rick Brett on the 18-19th October 1986 also met with the same fate. The first constriction was finally passed by David Zammit and Troy Magennis (both being the perfect build for the job) in May 1988. The cave was dry for the first time and after passing the first constriction and crawling along a four metre tunnel a 3 metre X 4 metre x 1.5 metre high loose rock chamber was found. Due to the cave being dry and the entrance enlarged a wombat had taken refuge, enjoying the cool breeze issuing from a lead in this chamber. A premature exit was made before thoroughly exploring the lead and the rest of the cave. This cave has great potential and is not yet fully explored. (Magennis 1991)

The next lead to follow was to get the J288 and J289 cave tag photos from John Bonwick of SSS. These showed a quite different area to Staraj Spring which confused me greatly. Eventually we worked out that the photos are actually of J268 and J269 which are between Bottomless Pit and Heffalump Trap. It was finally unambiguously clear that J288/J289 was Funnel Web Cave according to BMSC.

Now the J47/288/289 name is to be changed to Staraj Spring in memory of Mark Staraj.

The BMSC description above is quite accurate but I would emphasise that J47/J288/J289 are all connected. Rick Brett of BMSC has been helpful in clearing up some of the confusion. He further describes why exploration stopped at J47.

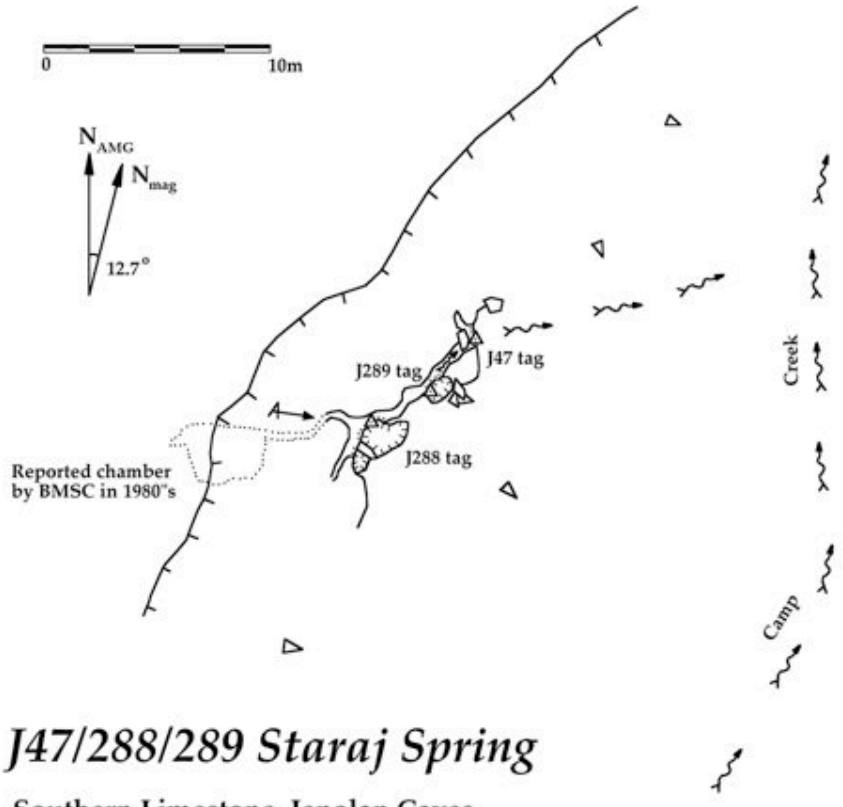
"I was on what I believe the only trip where two very small guys entered 'Funnel Web' cave after negotiating a tight 90 degree squeeze just inside the entrance still in some water. They gained entry after negotiating the first tight bend, slight S bend described, to a total approx. 7-10 metres of passage before being confronted with an agro Wombat who wanted to exit the cave. The two guys exited as quick as possible however were also confronted with a very large agro brown snake at the exit...Very interesting. The yells about the wombat and thumping panic vibrating the ground below from those wishing to exit and escape the wombat aroused the curious brown snake. Needless to say that overall experience put a big damper on the eagerness of the two smaller guys who were now wet cold and shaking (fear and cold) to re-enter the cave. After this 'Funnel Web' was not pursued as we concentrated on Cookes Cave. (Rick Brett email, June 2011)

Staraj Spring is located at AMG grid reference 56H 0224349mE 6251614mN ± 10m. J47 is the main resurgence which is a 0.6m x 0.3m opening under a 3m boulder at the base of a limestone bluff. J289 is a 1m x 0.6m hole descending into the grassy slope to drop in to the J47 tube. J288 is a vertically elongated 2 metre high x 1 metre wide entrance hole. The tag was located level with the top of the hole on a rock to the left. Eventually the tag was rediscovered under some moss but was damaged, corroded and poorly attached. The new, replacement J288 tag is located directly above the entrance.

It is not entirely clear where the source for Staraj Spring is but it is most likely water from the Paradox side valley sinking 300m to the southwest. In May we located the Paradox side stream sinking ~100m west of Paradox on the western margin of the limestone. Both the sink and the J47 resurgence were at the same flow rate of ~ 0.5 l/s. This uniform inflow and outflow relationship was also seen in June and July 2011. The limited size of this valley would explain the intermittent nature of the resurgence.

References

King, R. 1975	Observations on the Southern Limestone, Jenolan. *SUSS Bulletin 15(10) p213-220*
Magennis, T., 1991	Cave History of the Southern Limestone until 1965. *Unpublished notes from BMSC.*
Magennis, T., 1991	Southern Limestone Draft Book, cave descriptions. *Unpublished notes from BMSC.*
Welch, B.R., 1976	Further observations on the Southern Limestone. *SUSS Bulletin 15(10) p218-220.*



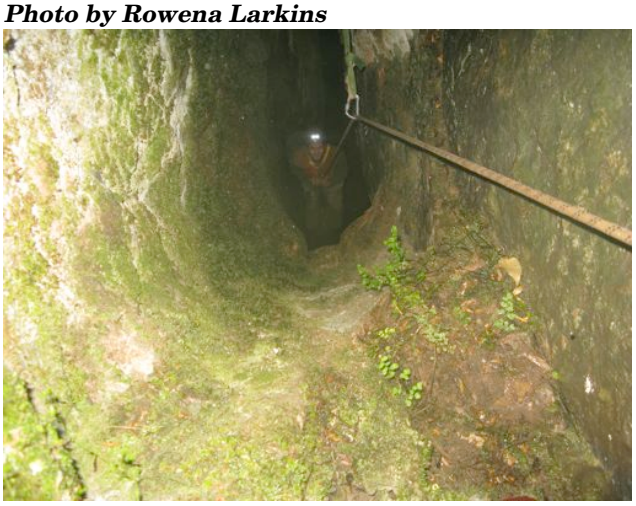
Goats Head cave, J46, Jenolan. Photo by Alan Pryke

Snails in J327, Jenolan. Photo by Tina Wilmore

Oolites, Goats Head, J46, Jenolan. Photo by Alan Pryke

Rimpools, Goats Head cave, J46, Jenolan. Photo by Alan Pryke

Lauren abseiling into Crackpot, J279, Jenolan. Photo by Rowena Larkins



Rick prussiking out, Crackpot, J279, Jenolan. Photo by Rowena Larkins

Rick viewing formation, Crackpot, J279, Jenolan. Photo by Rowena Larkins

Gibber, J270, Jenolan. Photo by Rowena Larkins

THINGS TO BUY

For postage and handling costs and the details of how to order go to the SUSS website http://ee.usyd.edu.au/suss/ and click on "Publications". There you will also find a range of must-have maps and other publications.

Maps and Bulls on DVD

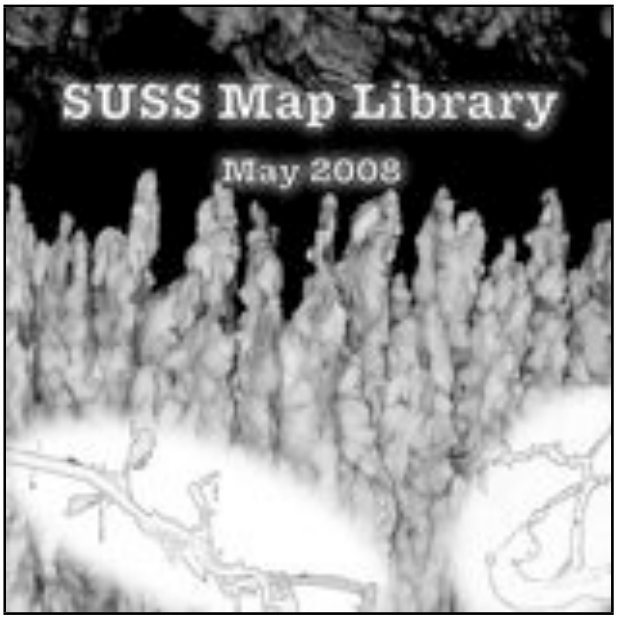
The entire SUSS cave map library of over 300 maps is on DVD and available for purchase. Out map library was scanned to provide wider access to the maps for SUSS and other ASF Caving Clubs and to ensure that many copies exist in the event of the loss or damage of the originals.

There are field sketches, ink maps produced on drafting film, ink maps produced on linen, as well as some of the latest digitally-produced cave projects. The DVD also contains all SUSS Bulls in HTML format from 35(1), July 1995 to 47(4), March 2008 and SUSS Bulls as PDF format from 42(1), April 2002 to 47(4).

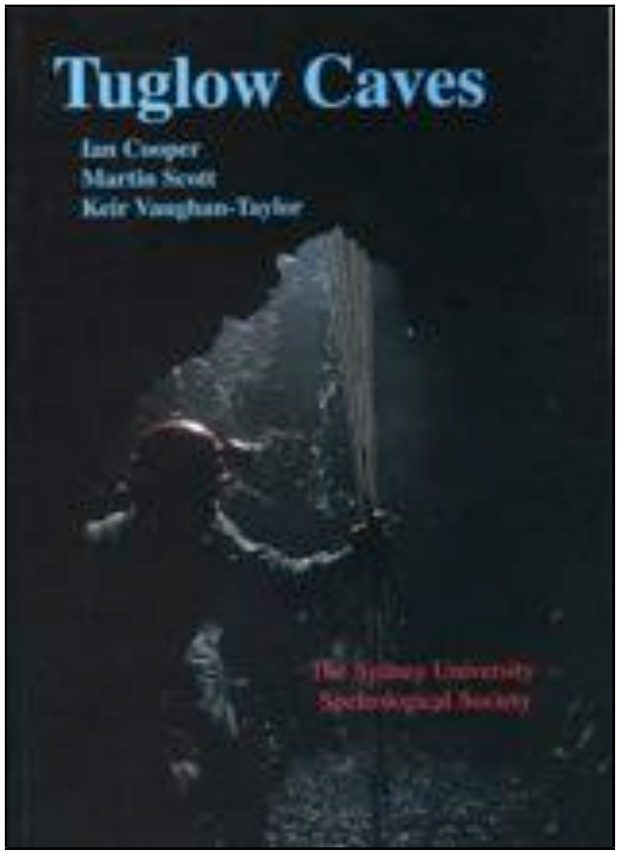
Price is $25.00 + PH. Pick one up at the next SUSS meeting or if you can't make that then contact the treasurer and they can supply you with the SUSS publications fund bank BSB and account number for a direct deposit.

Tuglow Caves

By Ian Cooper, Martin Scott and Keir Vaughan-Taylor. 1998, 70 pages.
Examines caving procedures, site descriptions, history, biology, surveying and maps, geology and hydrology of Tuglow Cave and others. Cost is $13 for members and $16 for non-members + PH.



A must-have reference DVD for all cavers



The Caves of Jenolan, 2: The Northern Limestone

Edited by Bruce R. Welch. 1976, 140 pages.
We still have some copies of these books left. Contains maps and descriptions of many caves in the Northern Limestone section of Jenolan plus notes on the history of Jenolan and its geology, geomorphology and hydrology. Cost is $8 for members and $10 for non-members + PH.

TRIP LIST: OCT 2011

SUSS General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm (for a 7.30pm start) in the Common Room in the Holme Building at the University of Sydney.

For updates to this list, check out the SUSS Website: *http://suss.caves.org.au*. Detailed information on each caving area (plus other useful information such as what you will need to bring) can be found in the *Beginner's Handbook* section of the Website.

Please Note: it is YOUR responsibility to inform the trip supervisor of any relevant medical conditions which may in any way affect your fitness, such as asthma, diabetes and the like.

Oct

8 – 9 Jenolan. Our favourite area, lots of caving available at all standards. Stay at the Cavers' Cottage.
Contact Tina: tinawillmore@gmail.com

15 – 16 Bungonia. Trip supervisor training, not suitable for beginners.
Contact Kat: kbad2052@uni.sydney.edu.au

22 – 23 Wombeyan. Great campsite with beautiful marble caves, down in the southern highlands.
Contact Jack: jack.wachsmann@gmail.com

22 – 23 Capertee. This will be a combined, beginner-friendly trip with MSS/NHVSS.
Contact Mike: Mike.Lake@uts.edu.au

29 – 30 Canyon. Time to get wet.
Contact Phil: Philip.Maynard@uts.edu.au

Nov

3 General Meeting 7.30pm, Holme Building, Parramatta Rd.

5 – 6 Canyoning. With Summer around the corner, time to get wet.
Contact Tom Short: tomshort9@gmail.com

12 – 13 Jenolan. Come and enjoy a weekend of crawling through the bowels of the earth, followed by a hot shower and entertaining evening banter.
Contact Phil: Philip.Maynard@uts.edu.au

18 – 20 Canyoning. With Summer around the corner, time to get wet.
Contact Tom Short: tomshort9@gmail.com

26 – 27 Wombeyan. A place of beautiful scenery, fun caving and great camping.
Contact Kat : kbad2052@uni.sydney.edu.au

Dec

3 – 11 Jenolan. Our week long trip. Fun for all.
Contact Alison: a.d.chau@gmail.com

Dec 26 – Jan 8 Mole Creek. Formations, underground rivers, and more formations. A summer trip down to Tasmania for the New Year and underground fun.
Contact Deb: birinxi@gmail.com

Jan 2012

14 – 15 Jenolan. Celebrate the first Jenolan Trip of the year
Check SUSS triplist on the website for contact details.