

SUSS BULL 50 (3)

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2011



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Cover Photo: Wayne Johnson diving between Blue Lake and Cerberus, Jenolan.
Liz Rogers <http://lizrogersphotography.com>

Editorial

This Bull is privileged to have photos from several professional photographers. Many thanks to Liz Rogers for the cover photo.

I am still keen to get more photos, old and new, for the photo section. A photo in this issue is nearly 80 years old. In the next edition I hope to have articles about canyons and caves that people have done over summer. I look forward to seeing your articles.

Those who left us

Jak Kelly: Founding President of SUSS

The first president of SUSS passed away on February 11, 2012.

<http://tributes.smh.com.au/obituaries/smh-au/obituary.aspx?n=jak-kelly&pid=155874809>

Jak gave speeches at both the SUSS 60th and the SUSS 50th. Extracts from his speech at the 50th, and a photo, can be found online in Bull 38-2. <http://suss.caves.org.au/bulletins/bulls/v3140/Bulletin38-2.pdf>

Andrew Wight: Cave Diver and film maker died in a helicopter accident.

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2012/02/05/celebrated-filmmakers-killed-in-australian-helicopter-crash/>

While Andrew Wight was never a member of SUSS many members caved and dived with him. In the 1970s Andrew was among a group of cave divers that in a few weeks extended many new passages and leads in the various diving realms of Jenolan. The team at that time found new passages and leads in Barralong, Lucas, Imperial Streamway and other places.

In later years his work with the Quest Series especially those episodes related to caves and ground waters carried a strong environmental message a philosophy formed in his speleological years.

Andrew visited Jenolan a last time two years ago to shoot evaluation footage in preparation of the film Sanctum and also expose the Sanctum director to the "joys" of wild caving. You may note that SUSS, and some club members, were mentioned in the movies credits.

Fees for 2012

The SUSS committee is pleased to say that the fees for 2012 are to remain the same as last year. They are listed on the SUSS website and are:

Membership Type	Cost
Standard membership	\$70
Student membership (students who have previously been members)	\$60
New student membership (students joining for the first time)	\$20
Non-ASF membership (this membership applies only to people who are already members of the ASF, either privately or through another club)	\$25
SUSS Bulletins only 4 per year (average)	\$30

Your current membership expires at the end of March but we are accepting payment now. 2012 membership forms and details of how to pay by funds transfer are available on the Society website - <http://suss.caves.org.au>. You can post cheques to us at PO Box 3318, Redfern, NSW 2016

Note that all members are required to hold a University of Sydney Union ACCESS card valid for 2012, which can be purchased from www.accessbenefits.com.au

Warnings

From the Australian Museum about dangers in the bush. <http://australianmuseum.net.au/drop-bear>

In the News (from our reporter Guy McKanna)

Advantages of living in the dark: The multiple evolution events of 'blind' cavefish:

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-advantages-dark-multiple-evolution-events.html>

Up to 6.7 million bats dead from fungus: US

<http://www.physorg.com/news/2012-01-million-dead-fungus.html>

YOUNG PEOPLE INVADE!

BY JACK WACHSMANN

Participants: Jack Wachsmann, Kat Badiola, Clive Chen, Stanley Chin, Phil Maynard, Alan Pryke, Rowena Larkins, Guy McKanna, Alison Chau, Rhonda Lum, Mel Notstammel, Emily Dale, Simone Burke, Denis Stojanovic, Sophia Charow, Steve Kennedy

The August Jenolan trip was being touted as an event bigger than Ben-Hur. Rumours of over 20 people signing up were circulating. The limited supplies of club lights and helmets were being counted and bed spaces available at the hut double checked. However at the last hour the weak-willed called in sick and the not entirely unexpected dropouts brought the trip size down to a reasonable 16 people. An interesting aside: as per the title this trip featured more students than not, with 3/4 of the trip students. This bodes well for the club as students continue to become more and more involved.

The Friday night was a mostly uneventful affair. With most of the group arriving early on the following morning there were just a few of us, giving us the luxury of first choice of beds. Kat, Jack, Clive and Stanley arrived first after hitting a kangaroo on the Jenolan Caves Rd! Luckily it managed to get mostly across the road and Jack was able to slam on the brakes fast enough so only the tail was struck and no damage was done (to us or the car). Upon arrival we struggled futilely with the fireplace, with Kat insisting that it worked better with the door closed and the fan blowing the small flames out. Jack insisted that the door should be open, which filled the hut with smoke and while they both argued, no fire was produced. Rowena soon arrived and enjoyed the free entertainment; next came Phil and Alan who were curious as to why there was more smoke inside than out of the hut.

Saturday Aug. 13

Old vs Young

The morning was a leisurely affair, as most SUSS mornings tend to be, but this time it was not just due to the participants' desire for further sleep. We had to await the arrival of the rest of our party. Once all assembled we split into two groups, which completely by coincidence were defined by age. Those over 30 went to the Southern Limestone to do some surface exploration as well as to have a poke around in some interesting holes, including Paradox cave. National Parks very rarely grant permits to this cave because it is a known bat site. Despite this, our detectives report that no bats were in the cave but rather only large amounts of guano, leading us to believe it is a maternity site rather than a hibernation cave.



Meanwhile, those under 30, a group which also included all the beginners, went off to have some fun in Mammoth. After shoving seven people in a five seat car, two sitting on top of each other in the boot, we drove down to the playing fields and set off after our fearless leader Kat. A trip down to Lower River for lunch introduced the beginners to the cave environment. Kat even threw in some extra cave when she became geographically embarrassed. Alison and Jack followed up the rear of the group. They were not content to follow the main route, continuously challenging each other and accepting challenges from the others to take the most unorthodox/uncomfortable way on. Needless to say, Alison trumped Jack in all the squeeze challenges; however Jack was able to retake the

initiative wherever climbing was involved. We also visited the impressive Horseshoe Aven and Railway Tunnel, with Jack taking those feeling a little bit more adventurous to the top of Hell Hole.

The trip up back up the hill proved to be an adventure in itself. With the dauntless Rhonda behind the wheel we were all launched into the air over the drainage speed bumps (especially those in the boot) and had to resort to wearing appropriate PPE (ie helmet). Reversing was also a mental challenge for the boot passengers as the rear of the car approached the edge of the cliff, especially Jack who is used to driving and being (relatively) in control.

Evening Entertainment

The entertainment schedule was a full and hectic one. Pre show entertainment came shortly after finishing dinner when the more senior members of the club (both in age and appointment) headed for the fire brigade shed for the JCHPS¹ meeting at which Bruce Welch and Jill Rowling were to be presented with ASF awards for distinction. This delegation from the club supported them as they accepted their well-deserved awards.

With the warm up over the headline act could finally begin. Hut Games!



While waiting for Denis and Sophia to arrive, and wondering if they had slid off the road, Kat introduced the beginners to the table traverse with a valiant but failed attempt. Soon legs were flying everywhere, each attempt to conquer the cursed table accompanied by the distinctive “thud” of failure. Despite the table emerging as victor, Phil still refused to give us a demonstration of the proper technique. Then the bench seat squeeze began followed shortly after by the positive ape test and the broomstick-contortion. Once the alcohol vapours filled the air Alan decided it was time to bring out the mind games. His ever-popular cork trick bamboozled the unindoctrinated, while the beer bottle balancing game had the engineering

students Clive and Jack stumped for far longer than it should have (they eventually figured it out). The group slowly began to crawl into their fartars until eventually it was decided to call it a night and prepare for another hard day's caving.

Sunday, Aug. 14

A “short” day in Wiburds²

The final day saw most of us head off to Wiburds Cave far up the valley. Along the route tour guide Guy stopped at all the major bluffs to give those new to Jenolan (and those that never bothered to learn) a basic understanding of what caves were where. For those of us itching to get underground it was frustrating to say the least but none the less very interesting.

At Wiburds we split into two groups, Guy and Rowena leading one with complete beginners to do a more touristy section of the cave and then do Serpentine as well. From what I heard, a good time was had by all, despite most not being able to defeat the infamous 180° squeeze in Serpentine. The other group led by Alan went off the more wild sections of the Wiburds to try and find some new sections and possible ways on to the “Woolly Rhinoceros”. Those who had complained that yesterday's tour through Mammoth was too easy soon became well acquainted with mud, crawling and climbing. When we emerged into daylight Clive was disappointed to discover that we had all chosen the same outfit as him to wear that day. Brown.

While fun was being had up the valley Phil, Kat and Steve were speed caving far into the depths of Mammoth. They were able to reach some of the more obscure areas and get some valuable surveying done.

¹Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society.

²Those familiar with Alan trips into Wiburds will already know that “short” trips aren't

TRIPPED UP DOWN MEMORY LANE

BY GUY MCKANNA

Participants: Metropolitan Speleological Society (MSS) and Guy McKanna (SUSS)

October 2011

Chevalier extension Glass Cave Jenolan

Glass Caves well decorated Chevalier extension is one of those fabled places of Jenolan. Its often touted as one, if not the, prettiest passageway at Jenolan, maybe even on the mainland.

Accessible by scaling poles¹, only one trip a year with a maximum of six people is allowed entry to its hallowed and well decorated and delicate halls to avoid damaging the fabulous formations. Google to get an idea of what it's like.

I was fortunate to visit this area many years ago, sometimes in the early 1980s. I was similarly fortunate to be invited to visit it again more recently. Metropolitan Speleological Society (MSS) had permission to visit Chevalier, but for various reasons people had dropped out and there was an opening. MSS's David Stuckey suggested my name to the trip leader and a few days before the schedule trip I was invited to join them.

I first met David at Abercrombie Caves in the early 1980s when SUSS did some joint trips with MSS and reconnected again on Alans New Zealand expeditions. For those who have never been there, Abercrombie Caves include one of the best arches you'll ever see and is well worth a visit just like Chevalier.

With scaling poles in tow, we passed them through the short entrance passageway and down the heritage-listed old tourist ladder to the main chamber and assembled them. All good so far, well except for squeezing to the top of the ladder, which seemed much easier 30 years earlier. Didn't remember it being that tight and hot squeezing upwards. Must have been the insulation of the cordura trog suit compared to the old cotton overalls.

At least the scaling pole pitch looked the same.



Jessica Swart(MSS) Wishing Well , Glass. Photo by Dave Stuckey

trip, for both David and I was how our memory is very selective, only remembering certain aspects of the cave - and remembering it being easier and prettier than it actually is. As we sure know that cave hadn't changed that much! Which means those caves that you remember as terrible and hard were probably much worse than you remember! Don't do them again!

SUSS really should do more joint trips with other clubs!

Well that was all that looked the same, as once at the top of it neither David (who had also visited Chevalier many many years ago) or I recalled the passage ways ahead. We had looked at the map that morning to refresh our ageing memories, so worked out where we had to go, but it sure didn't match our memories. For example, neither of us recalled the squeeze you pop through to enter Chevalier. And my ribs certainly didn't recall it. (The reason why is apparently that our ribs are no longer as flexible as they used to be, especially after several (10+) breaks have healed, making them more rigid - and less compressible.)

Once inside the mostly stand-up passage the helictites and occasional flowstone was pretty - but not the best I'd seen. Not sure if that was because I've seen many more caves since I was first here.

Anyway, the most interesting thing of the

¹a scaling pole is a 10 metre extension pole constructed of short lengths of aluminium tubing to which you attach a ladder to one end to reach otherwise inaccessible heights and leads

WELLINGTON - OR MANY SCOUTS MAKE LIGHT WORK

BY DENIS STOJANOVIC AND JACK WACHSMANN

Participants: (in order of appearance) Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Greg Ryan, Katrina Badiola, Denis Stojanovic, Jack Wachsmann, Phil Maynard, Ian Cooper, and assorted venturer scouts from Baulkham Hills

29-31 July 2011

Whispers of cave diving at Wellington floated clumsily in the winter fog, which Kat and Denis had cleverly avoided by running away to the Northern Territory. Keir sought minions to carry the dive gear. The whispers became suddenly redundant when Wellington appeared boldly on the trip list described adroitly by Phil as “warmer than Jenolan”. What better way to farewell the uni break than a quick 6-hour spin up to Wellington? From what we were told of the caves it seemed there would be ample opportunity for après-caving. For Kat and Jack this would be the last gasp of study-free air for another semester. For Denis this would be only the beginning of the long dark teatime of the soul before leaving in September for his year on exchange in Edinburgh and many new and wonderful tartan horizons.

Unfortunately for various reasons the diving component of the trip was called off and we minions were spared ... or were we? With plenty of other worthwhile projects and a plan of management meeting on the Friday for the bigwigs, the trip went ahead as planned. By all accounts the meeting was rather heated and saw Keir get rather irate (a very rare occurrence indeed) with the mayor and very forcibly express his views on the proposed sale of Wellington Caves. As a result the guides graciously offered us the use two most luxurious cabins/rooms and we were saved from the indignity of camping. The guides also very kindly provided us with a wonderful barbeque lunch on the Sunday afternoon.

Lime Kiln / McCavity

The first underground jaunt of the trip was into the creatively named Lime Kiln Cave. Our job here was to prepare the rather small cave (the dry area at least) for a party of scouts we were later to guide through. A caving ladder was set up for the entrance pitch, mostly to give the scouts the opportunity to use a ladder as the climb is not particularly hard. Several tapes were also set up through the cave and we even brought in an extension ladder! Lime Kiln is actually quite a significant system with the larger proportion being submerged and known as McCavity cave. Despite the rather small and aptly named entrance to the dive site, the birth canal, it is a popular cave diving site. Diving at Wellington was pioneered by Keir and Greg and beyond the birth canal the cave opens up into very large chambers. Though not yet qualified to cave dive, Kat, Denis and Jack were not content to be left high and dry. A trip to the seaside was in order and donning wetsuits we headed for Bondi Beach, a large chamber with a steep sandy slope to the water's edge at the dry extreme of the cave. After walking past a group of very confused venturers on the surface we quickly arrived at Bondi.



Despite the obvious sandy bank that gives the chamber its name we resisted the temptation to run straight in and worked our way around to the side of the chamber to an alternative entry point in order to not disturb the rare cave biota living in the sands. We had a pleasant swim in the chamber in water that was a pleasant 19°C (a whole 4°C warmer than the ocean in Sydney were we had been diving the previous week).

The Anticline Project

Engineering and subterranean nautical nonsense.

As all good holiday parks should, this one had a pool but strolling about the well-manicured lawns of the caravan park one spots the quintessential green pool fencing heads straight for it with bursting intent for a swim. Upon reaching the fence however one is not met with the questionable waters of a family holiday park but with what seems to be, by contrast to expectations, the descent to the underworld complete with concrete steps and the sign “Abandon all hope, ye who enter here”¹. During the development of the caravan park this large depression was filled with tonnes of debris and rubbish while all around the karst was levelled. This being a speleological travesty, Keir et al. came to the rescue. For the unabridged tale of Keir the Brave see SUSS Bull 44(3). The ultimate goal is to restore the cave to a state suitable for tourists to descend to lake and marvel at the magnificent fold of rock which gives the cave its name.



There is legend of a vessel once moored on the subterranean shores of Anticline cave and, lacking any photographic evidence of such a thing, Keir thought it would be best to attempt to recreate this in order to test the theory. Finding a convenient kayak perched on the roof of Keir’s car we sought to evoke the ghost of the lost ship Anticline. A pair of scouts embarked on the maiden voyage (God bless her and all who cave in her) on the crystal clear waters, promptly making that description inaccurate. It was not long before Kat and Phil assumed their guises as Lady of the Lake and the creature from the black lagoon respectively. Inevitably the time came for Jack and Denis to brave the ocean blue (by this stage a *very* inaccurate description) and not without some concern that Katfish was still lurking in

the murk. It was to great surprise that Jack and Denis were overturned within 30 seconds of casting off. Wet, cold and a little snotty, the seafarers dragged themselves and the kayak from the depths and prepared for further underground adventures.

Mitchell’s Cave

Say again, over.

The scouts were eager to practise their rope skills so Mitchell’s cave was used as a vertical playground for those not employed (or enslaved) in the excavation of Anticline or the tripod shaft. This was no up down in and out job however. We had a quest: to find and retrieve a handheld radio dropped down the adjacent excavation shaft. After some delicate rigging work on Kat’s part and the first pitch swiftly despatched by all we were faced with a squeeze. Like Alice down the rabbit hole the Pippa, a particularly enthusiastic scout, shot through with reckless disregard for comfortable caving principles leaving the crotchety, cracked codgers of SUSS, all in their early 20s, arguing about who would go next. When the elderly eventually made their way through, the final pitch brought us to some water-filled passage and above it the connection to the excavation shaft complete with dilapidated ladder. Lo and behold, beyond all expectations the prophesied Uniden handheld was found wallowing on muddy shore with batteries widely strewn. It was retrieved with little hope of resuscitation but we were later informed that it was brought back to life not without ubiquitous suggestions of placing it in rice to draw out the moisture. I contend that couscous would have performed equally if not to a higher and more pleasurable standard. When the time came to exit the cave I was struck with profound nostalgia when the scouts pulled out their prusik loops ready to ascend the ropes with lightning efficiency. Being far more time and energy inefficient than mechanical ascenders, the use of prusik loops is a skill that is often left by the wayside. Although oft mocked it is a skill that is vital to keep up and can prove to be invaluable in an emergency.

Excavation pit

This project remained mostly a mystery for the trendier SUSSlings as we were promptly banished to the mines

¹The latter may have been an invention of the author’s imagination.

of Anticline. Kat however took the opportunity to rig a hauling system for the progression of her trip supervisor qualification. Countless ancient treasures and artefacts from a primitive civilization, like vintage cans of Fanta and Passiona, were hauled from its depths among sample of geological interest.

Keir and Phil were the pioneers of this project over the weekend with Phil spending a lot of time on rope as he dug away at the unstable floor of rubbish. The cave has a radio connection to Mitchell cave and based on past reports we are hoping that some more bone deposits may be found.

Cathedral

A prospective venue

The bright young things, abiding by their scout-minding duties, had missed out on the exclusive tour through Cathedral Cave the night before while in Mitchell's Cave. Luckily, Ian Cooper, admirable fellow, offered to take us through after the original plan to run through Gaden Cave was foiled by the gate being left invitingly wide open and easily accessible which meant that to us the cave was closed (it being occupied by a tour at the time). Originally sceptical as to the impressiveness of Cathedral Cave, we were soon made to see the light and the errors of our ways as we were brought before the Altar. The Altar is a magnificent collection of boulders, flowstone and stalagmites which is cemented together by shimmering calcite. Unfortunately the formation throughout the rest of the room consists of packed dirt thoughtfully provided by previous generations to provide a level floor for concerts and the like. Although disappointed by the past destruction of formations we young cavers could not help but notice the suitability of the room for a black tie dinner ...

The Phosphate Mine

And they call it a mine ... a mine!

Finally after a hard weekend caving it was time at last for the eagerly awaited Vaughan-Taylor magical mystery tour of the phosphate mine. The mine operated from 1914 to 1918 and was an attempt to source phosphate for explosives and fertilizers closer to home, with most of the supply coming from Nauru at the time. However the quantity and quality of the phosphate meant that the mine was never able to be economically viable. The mine lay abandoned and doomed to a slow and painful death for almost 80 years until the mighty Keir et al. campaigned for it to be reconstructed and made safe for tourists. The distinct advantage of having one of the initial surveyors and pioneers of the area quickly became apparent as Keir dazzled us with factbites and anecdotes galore. We were also able to explore some of the off route side passages and shortcut through the mine, with intrepid explorers Kat, Denis and Jack bridging and chimneying up onto the wooden roof on one passage. Our very entertaining and informative tour managed to uncover bones, golf balls² and of most interest to Jack the engineer ... TRAINS!!!

History, fossils and palaeontological significance



As any avid reader of the SUSS Bull will know (44-3, 45-3, 35-3), Wellington is a critical palaeontological site for Australian megafauna. It is also the home of a 1:1 scale Diprotodon. It is a long established tradition (apparently) for the president or his/her representative to ride the Diprotodon. Legend has it that only the true SUSS President, being pure of heart, soul and mind, can tame the fibreglass beast. As a result Kat found it very difficult to get on.

Visitors to Wellington may also find themselves berated by the lively avian population and a caged chorus of cockatoos. Relentless volleys of "Hello! Hello, Cocky!" ring out from the large aviary housing a variety of cockatoos and parrots. If one dares to stroll down the avenue that passes through the cage and engage in a tête-à-tête with the residents one may be surprised to be rewarded with a

rather creepy "Thank you" from those birds of larger vocabulary. My attempts to instruct the birds in introductory French and German were met with hostile obstinacy.

²Bones which may or may not have been previously known.

MY FIRST REAL TRIP TO WOMBEYAN

BY THOMAS CUNNINGHAM

Participants: Thomas Cunningham, Geoff McDonnell, Alan Pryke, Megan Pryke, Mike Strack, Jan Wellens

Friday Nov. 25

It was the last weekend of spring. The rain had been light but steady all week. While making the drive to Wombeyan via Goulburn I couldn't help but think these weren't the best conditions for camping. That was ok for me, I wasn't here for the camping, and besides, the weather people had promised me it would clear on the Saturday. No, I was excited because this would be my first trip to Wombeyan Caves since a school excursion about twelve years ago.

The roughly four hour drive down went quickly and was filled with conversation, which is not always a given, especially as Mike, Jan and I had only met that afternoon. Mike was excited as this was to be his first caving trip in New South Wales, having moved here from Western Australia approximately eight months ago to start a PhD while Jan, a student from Belgium who was in Australia for the Darwin to Adelaide solar powered vehicle race, had never been caving before but had done a fair bit of climbing. We pulled up at the camping site at approximately 9:30 pm and began setting up our tents, thankful that the rain had eased to a drizzle. Jan made sure his tent was sufficiently clear of any overhanging branches, having been warned about drop bears by Mike and me. Fictitious marsupial or not this proved to be a very good idea when a very loud crack was heard in the direction of the kitchen followed by a couple of heavy thuds. We proceeded to investigate and found a large branch had fallen over the road, which, being the model citizens that cavers are, we promptly cleared.

With Megan, Alan and Geoff still unaccounted for we decided to call it a night and retreated to our relatively dry tents.

Saturday Nov. 26

I awoke on Saturday morning to fellow SUSS members commenting on how wet it was, with someone remarking that his sleeping bag and tent floor were so wet that he wasn't sure if he'd "pissed himself" during the night. With this colourful image I started to get up. Mike warned me that my tent had developed a moat overnight but thankfully I only found a small pool of water inside, well away from where I'd been sleeping.

After everyone had finished breakfast and we'd found suitable caving gear for Jan, who had been told to bring only a sleeping bag and tent, we headed for W128, minus Megan, who wasn't feeling up to a full day of caving.

Arriving at the cave entrance we suited up and began to make our way through the series of tight squeezes that make up the first section of this cave, leaving most of our cave packs just inside. We weren't too far in when Alan pointed out a particularly blue stalactite that was apparently only noticed on one of the more recent trips into the cave - the first of many spectacular formations. Annoyed with myself at not having a camera I continued to follow Alan till we reached Clonk Rock which is located in a fairly large chamber with pristine flowstone down the left side and it is here that we decided to have an early lunch and leave our last cave pack. After lunch we proceeded towards the section of cave Alan wanted to survey for the day, passing Dragon's Teeth along the way. While Alan and Mike got set to continue the survey Jan managed to find a cluster of small bones, including what looked like a tiny jaw bone. This exciting find drew everyone back and compounded my annoyance at being without a camera.

Photographs taken, Mike and Alan began their survey towards Market Garden while Geoff, Jan and I found the existing way. To the best of my knowledge Market Garden is the largest chamber in W128, with gravel and larger boulders on its floor, crystal pools tucked away in several protected corners, and an impressive cluster of stalactites and stalagmites stretching several metres in another. Geoff, Jan and I arrived at Market Garden first and had a little look around. It wasn't too long before we could hear Alan and Mike but it was a bit longer before we could actually see them. Their new found path popped out around the back of the stal cluster and much to Alan's delight allowed much easier (and cave friendly) access to the impressive crystal pools in a little room overlooking Market Garden and we set about marking off sections of the new track.

We admired the view while having a quick snack then continued the survey from the crystal pools with Mike in the lead, Alan taking survey points and myself drawing. I was quite enjoying my first ever survey drawing but sadly only got to draw a few rocks and about half a dozen walls because the way ahead soon became inaccessible to normal sized people. It did however contain moon milk, something I hadn't seen before.

Once back down to Market Garden Alan pointed out a rift at the bottom that he wanted to have a quick look down to see if it went anywhere. The rift seemed quite steep, going down at least 6 metres before bending slightly, preventing us from seeing further. Jan, Geoff and I had a look down it then backed away in an effort to not be picked to go down. Despite much insisting and encouragement from Alan that I'd be fine I decided I wasn't going down first in case I couldn't get back out and so Alan went down first instead. Happy that there was now someone to help me back up I followed Alan down.

The air down the bottom of the rift was much cooler. This particularly excited Geoff who promptly started searching for new cave in one direction while Alan searched in another. Geoff quickly hit a dead end but was rewarded on climbing back to where I was waiting by finding a very impressive dry crystal pool right above my head. Alan, who, according to the survey, was about 10 metres away from the closest point of Palace Cave found that his lead kept going with encouraging air flow. He didn't get very far before deciding that it looked a bit too dangerous and so we all made our way back up the rift, which to my surprise was much easier than it had looked.

While making our way back to Clonk Rock Alan decided that we should detour to Button Room. The path there involved several tight squeezes, the final one starting off horizontal before bending upwards. Struggling, I cried out "My spine doesn't bend this way!" as I tried to flop around the bend and up the hole. Mark, who was a good three inches taller than me, found the bend no easier. Thankfully, it was all worth it. As I emerged into Button Room and turned around I was treated to a very up close view spanning nearly 180 of delicate straws, pristine stals and two near-transparent ribbons. Despite having only been in a handful of caves, my gut feeling is that it will be a while before I see a room or chamber that can compare to the in-your-face beauty of Button Room.

On arriving back at camp we all retreated to our tents only to hear Geoff call out in surprise on finding an intruder in his tent, "Look at what's in my tent!" "Is it a snake?" we asked. "No!" he replied. I wasn't sure what could be worse than a snake but given the number of kangaroos around the campsite I asked, "Is it a kangaroo?!" To which Geoff replied, "No! It's a bird!" This crafty Mynah had noticed the unguarded tent with a hole in its door, a potential treasure trove of tasty snacks. Geoff would have no such thing and proceeded to chase the bird out. While this did not take long, the rest of us decided to watch and make comments to the theme of "must be the first time you've chased a bird out of your tent" rather than help.

I didn't have a brilliant sleep that night. The previous night's rain was replaced by quite strong winds and I was thankful that I'd bothered to guy out my tent. Mike on the other hand slept like a log thanks to some ear plugs that he'd been smart enough to bring along.

Sunday Nov. 27

After a reasonable sleep in, by camping standards at least, we had breakfast and collapsed our campsite while trying to decide what to do. Dave, who was one of the guides, had asked Alan to show him through W128 and so the two of them plus Geoff headed off leaving Jan, Mike and I trying to convince Megan to take us caving. With much promising that all we wanted to do was a Sunday-friendly cave Megan suggested we take a look at Grant's cave, having passed it on the way back from W128 the previous day. Megan took us via a detour to Tinted Cave to show us Wombeyan Gorge before doubling back a short distance to get to the southern entrance of Grant's Cave. After snacking and suiting up we made our way inside.

While not as pristine as W128, I greatly appreciated how much easier it was to move around inside Grant's Cave. Most of the first section was able to be done while upright, with only the odd duck under. That was however, until we came to the Squeeze with a Breeze. I must admit that I did not notice said breeze for which this squeeze is named. No, it was the pool of water that needed to be crossed in order to get to it. I'm not sure if this pool is a permanent feature, or merely a result of the recent rain, but I suppose Squeeze with a Pool of Water in Front of It is nowhere near as catchy. Thanks to my gumboots I made short work of the pool only the find that there was water in the squeeze too. There was no way to avoid it; I was going to get wet. And I did!

Not much further beyond the squeeze Megan asked us if we wanted to head to the sump. Knowing that a sump would mean more water we opted for a second option, which was to wander towards the river. What we didn't realise is that this meant going back through the squeeze, which actually goes in three directions instead of two. We never made it to the river, partly because Megan was wanting to get back to the cars by three and partly because we couldn't find which passage led to it, but to Mike's delight we did find two cave spiders near the squeeze. When we got out of the cave I was thankful that the sun had come out, as my gear was damp and I hadn't brought a spare t-shirt.

We walked up the river, taking the shortcut through Figtree Cave. As we passed the ladder we noticed that the lights were on in the chamber ahead. Tourists. We hid and listened. "Are they coming or going?" I thought to myself. The lights went out after a minute or so and as we hadn't heard anyone apart from the recorded guide we figured that the tourists had already passed through the room. We made our way up to the track and proceeded towards the exit.

Thanks to the better weather and faster route it permitted us to take, the drive home felt much shorter. I thoroughly enjoyed my first trip to Wombeyan with SUSS, which, despite the weather, has been my favourite trip yet.

CAPERTEE CURIOSITIES

BY JILL ROWLING AND MIKE LAKE

Participants: Bill ‘Donkey’, Courtney, Fletcher Etherton (NHVSS & BMSC), Natalie Etherton (NHVSS & BMSC), Ray Etherton (NHVSS & BMSC), Bob Horn (MSS), Bruce Howlett (OSS), Russell Howlett (OSS), Mike Lake (SUSS), Lance, Josh Little (NHVSS & BMSC), John Marshall (MSS), Brian ‘Shrek’ Reeves (NHVSS), Rory, Jill Rowling (SUSS), Rod Smith (TL) (MSS & NHVSS), Tom (NHVSS & BMSC).

This trip was organised by NHVSS following the success of the previous joint trips to the area. This time we visited Capertee National Park on the Saturday, and Coco Creek Cave on the Sunday.

Sat Oct. 22, 2011

Capertee National Park

On the Saturday, Bogee Fire Brigade had organised a walk in the Capertee National Park, so it was an opportunity to see some other areas of the park not seen last trip. Mike and Jill put themselves down for the walk beginning at the farmhouse (park HQ). They first drove to the MSS dig in one of the paddocks to the north of the park, where a lot of rubbish has been dug up. The hole is now about 5 m deep and has gone beyond the alluvium into the limestone. Jill thought the hole in the field resembled a field spring in the classical karst area of Slovenia. If so, during times of higher rainfall, the dig may well be a water source. In drier times it may be a sink. There is another similar hole about 200 m away in the same paddock. The Capertee River flows to the east of the paddock.

High on the steep western side of the paddock is another hole which SUSS members visited last time; it resembles a mine adit and has crumbly sides in really poor rock. As there had not been a lot of rain, the river fords were not a problem. Speaking of rocks, there seems to be two types of limestone cropping out in the Capertee National Park. One type is massive, steeply bedded, and is found in the bottom of the valley such as the MSS dig. The other type is more thinly bedded and folded, and is found more along the western sides of the valley. The exact location of these outcrops has not yet been mapped, although SUSS did a little mapping on a previous trip.

Leaving the good MSS people to their project, Mike and Jill returned to the organised walk and followed the “long walk” (about 8km) which took them to the middle south area (see map). It was not long before they came across a small hill with a kurrajong tree and some steeply bedding massive limestone. This is to the east of Dead Mans Creek and west of the Capertee River. Alas no caves were found.

The road continues up a steep hill, cut into a highly folded and foliated rock resembling a marine turbidite. At the top is a great view of the centre of the park. Coming down the steep south side, we encountered massive limestone and marble. We didn’t have time to run up a side gully full of prickly plants but that would be a good idea for next time (although MSS and NHVSS have looked at it).

Further on we crossed a dry creek with tufa dams. A short distance downstream led to a stagnant pool, looking rather like a spring.

Back to the track we enjoyed a nice walk around pleasant scenery, crossing Oakey Creek at times. The Bush Fire Brigade were on hand at each checkpoint to ensure everyone’s safety on this rather warm day. We had a picnic lunch by the creek, then heading back north crossed the Capertee River in a couple of spots, eventually getting back to the large paddock where the caretaker’s cottage is. This is again on massive limestone. Then back to our starting point near the farmhouse to check-out.

Sun Oct. 23, 2011

Coco Creek Cave

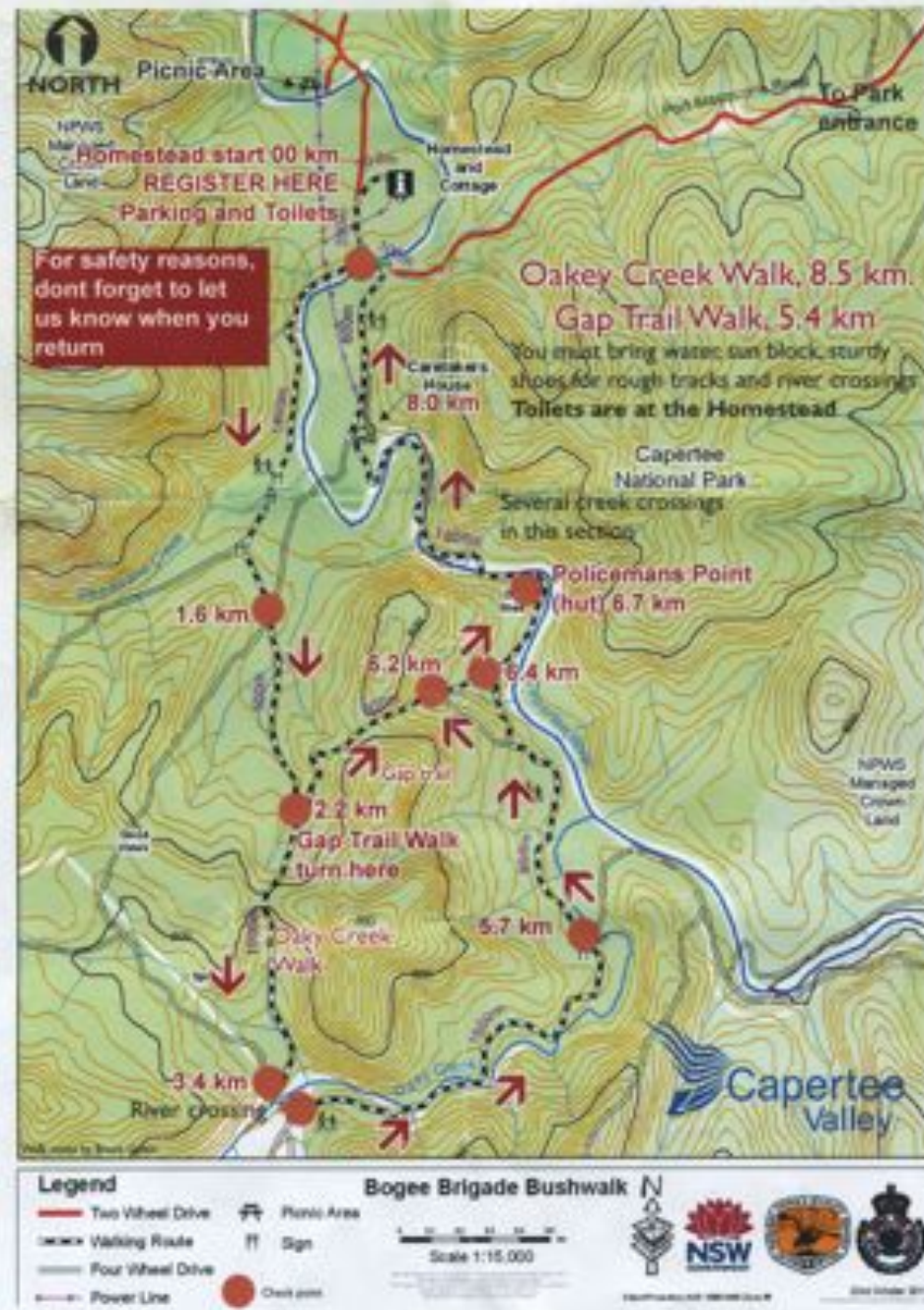
On Sunday we agreed to meet at a farm gate near Coco Creek. Jill and Mike arrived early and met the owner, who had to whiz off to work at the pub at Capertee. Eventually the others arrived. Rod had obtained permission from the property owner but had neglected to find out exactly where the cave was. So the first hour was spent tramping across the paddocks looking for anything which resembled a limestone outcrop. This was not working out, so Rod, Jill and Mike drove to the pub. Mike had made copies of the cave map, based on the material in the SUSS library, so everyone would be informed. The owner was delighted to have a copy of the map of his cave. He then proceeded to show us where the entrance was using Google Maps. We had been way off the mark, by about 4 ridges! It’s a large property. Suitably enlightened, we drove back to his property, and across to the cave. Fortunately there are some internal roads, otherwise it would have been a very long walk. The country is steep, and some spectacular views can be had of Mount Airly / Genowlan and district. Fortunately it was still fine weather; some of the roads look as though they could become treacherous. You need low range, too, due to steepness.

2011 Bogee RFS Walk Capertee National Park

Walks start and finish at the homestead. Both walks are signposted.

The walks share the trail for much of the distance. Walkers doing the 5.4km **Gap Trail Walk** must turn left at the 2.2km mark and use the **Gap Trail**. Here, walkers for the 8.9 km **Oakey Creek walk** will continue on to the Oakey Creek Trail and turn left along **Oakey Creek Trail**.

At the 6.2 km point, walkers will meet up and walk North along the Capertee River and pass the Caretakers residence at the 8.0 km mark. This section of the walk follows the Capertee River and there are a number of shallow river crossings.



At Coco Creek, which was dry near the cave, we quickly found the cave entrance and got inside out of the heat. Once inside, it was spacious enough. After getting dark adjusted, we proceeded through the cave over or under obstacles but pretty much in a straight line. There were some bats flying about; not many, maybe half a dozen or more. One section you can either squeeze through the bottom or climb over the top. Most people went over the top but the two kids on the trip were able to fit through the bottom. At the end is a chamber but it continues above; Mike, Natalie and the kids pushed a low lead while everyone else waited. Presently they appeared above us so at least we know that the map can be extended a little.

The cave seems to be developed along a fault; slickensides can be seen in areas such as near the entrance and along some boulders. There is some decoration. The bats had settled near the entrance, giving us a chance to see what they were: horseshoe bats.

We left and went our separate ways; Rod sent some pictures of the trip later. You can read his report in the MSS newsletter.

There is more obscure karst in the Capertee Valley to look out for. Ray and Nat will probably organise another one in the future so keep tuned.

JULY 2010 WEEK LONG JENOLAN

BY ROWENA LARKINS

Sat July 3, 2010. There's more to Dwyers than we knew

Participants: Mark Euston, Mel Stammel, Rowena Larkins, Stephen Kennedy

We geared up with abseil rope and SRT gear and headed for Dwyers (J41). I had been perusing the SUSS DVD in detail while resting my broken leg earlier in the year and there were some pitches shown on it with no detail about what lay beyond.

On the way there the intrepid explorers hypothesized about new passages and direct paths to the river.

The lowest known point of Dwyers is probably about 11 meters above the underground river, assuming a 1.6% constant angle of flow.

Our expert climber, Mark, did the climb to the passage leading to the top of the pitches and dropped a tape down for the rest of us. We came to the first pitch, rigged it and descended. There was lots of passage down there. One small hole in the north looked promising. This led to a part of Dwyers rarely seen, but we did see a signature dated "79". Pity no-one brought a camera. We were in a rift about 10 meters long, 4 meters high and 2 meters wide, heading approximately north. It was well decorated, as is the rest of Dwyers, and needs to be tied into the survey. Another task to add to the list.

We left this chamber, checked out the other passages at the base of the pitch, and after descending a short climb realized we were back in the main body of the cave.

After climbing back up the first pitch we tried the next pitch. It went down about 6 meters and then got really small. Mel came to the rescue. She managed to squeeze through on her descenders and announced she had found a new room off the side which she gave some cursory exploration of, informing the rest of us as she went. Mark went back to the known cave areas to see if he could find where the rope ended. This pitch came down in a known part of the cave, so Mel continued her descent to where Mark was. As it was getting late we returned to the rope, packed up and headed back to the hut.

Sun July 4, 2010. Walk a mile in someone else's shoes

Participants: Tina Willmore, Rowena Larkins

Tina turned up at the hut eager and raring to cave. We split into two groups, me and Tina in one group and the rest in another group.

I trogged up quickly and grabbed "my" boots from outside the cabin. I knew they were mine as they were neatly placed, and the other boots were spread out all over the place. On the walk to Playing Fields (J133) I commented to Tina that my boots felt a bit loose and she responded that the cold must have made my feet shrink.

We entered J133, passed the 'walk through' section and got to the first squeeze. Tina went first and then paused commenting that the wombat scats looked fresh. I came through and confirmed that they were recent. We ruminated on the likelihood of a killer wombat attacking us if we woke it from its slumber and decided retreat was the best option.

Down the hill we went to Henrys Hole (J134). The air was blowing gently from the entrance and the sun was shining straight in. A happy leaf tail gecko was warming itself in the sun on the side of the entrance and we lamented that we didn't bring a camera. We set up a tape and headed down.

At the bottom of the easy part of the cave was a section accessed through a tight squeeze called 'The Downpipe'.

I poured myself through this and confirmed there were breezes blowing through holes in the floor (most likely emanating from somewhere in Spider).

Back at the hut in the evening we discovered that Mark had great difficulty getting the remaining pair of boots on that morning; I had inadvertently taken his boots.

Monday July 5, 2010. Since when does 99 make a Century?

Participants: Bruce Walsh, Paula Walsh, Rowena Larkins, Mel Stammel, Mark Euston, Chris Compton.

We were expecting Aidan to turn up today but he had not arrived by 10:00 so we headed down the hill. Sadly he got to the hut at 10:15 so he spent a pleasant day doing hut maintenance.

The rest of us had a pleasant walk up the valley to Century Bluff, where there is a nice little cave called Century (J99) which the Blue book claims has a blowing hole at the end.

Paula decided to enjoy the scenery outside the cave while the rest of us entered J99.

Armed with our secret weapon, Mighty Mel, we headed for the rift. Mel got down into the rift and announced there was plenty of room. Microbods Mark and I poured ourselves into this rift and were delighted to find more cave. The rest of the group looked at the narrow slit we had entered and politely declined to follow. Armed with my trusty survey gear I checked out where this rift was going. The total drop is 9.2 meters, with a tight slot dropping 5 meters. The rift opens out to about 700mm wide, about 5 meters high, and 5 meters long heading North West. We surveyed from the rift to the entrance so we could determine if the breeze was likely to be coming from a hill outside the cave, but believe it is coming from more inside the hill; the current blowing hole is 18m below the J99 entrance. More surveying and exploration to be looked at in the future.

Tues July 7, 2010. Enjoy a Smirnoffs by the river

Participants: Rowena Larkins, Stephen Kennedy, Mel Stammel, Chris Compton, Mark Euston.

The horseshoe aven in Mammoth has lots of vegetation washed into it. Wildlife, like worms and caterpillars live here and eat the sprouting seeds. In recent times I have seen lots of squashed worms as people do not know they are there and stomp on them. In consultation with the Guides we had decided to mark out a path through here to minimize disturbance to these animals.

Mark pointed out an alcove area where we saw 3 fat healthy worms and we taped that area off, placing rocks on the tape to minimize it being washed away when the water floods through. Along the main path there was not enough tape to mark all the way so we placed rocks as a guide. On a future trip we plan to bring more tape and complete the job.

We completed the day with a tourist trip to the end of Railway tunnel, a picture session in High Shawl room and then a quick trip to the river and Oolite chamber.

Mark and Mighty Mel checked out the rift in Smirnoffs and Mel, who was able to descend the rift, was not able to see anything more than is currently known.

Mark managed to rig a tape allowing Mel to get herself across lower river and then took her, along with Chris, to Slug lake.

The rest of us headed out. Mel and Mark headed back to Canberra that evening.

Wed July 8, 2010. Cave cleaning

Participants: Rowena Larkins, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Kelly Vaughan-Taylor, Katlin Tunick, Chris Compton, Stephen Kennedy, Mark Euston, Mel Stamell, Aidan Lloyd, Alex Morthorpe, Melissa Hogan

With a cast of 1000s (well closer to 11) we met at the guides office to do a cleanup of Jubilee cave.

When the concrete path was laid through Jubilee cave the debris and left over building material was dumped on the side of the track, often covering flowstone or other formation. Sasa Kennedy took us into Jubilee and pointed out to us piles of rock, piles of builder's sand and other material which had been dumped on the formations.

We formed ourselves into 3 teams and set to work filling woven bags with the rubbish and then walking it into the maintenance area to be dumped. Fortunately on several occasions we were able to get a lift in a passing Jenolan mini-bus or maintenance truck.

At the end of the exercise several areas of formation had been exposed, which had been buried under rubbish for many years.

It is a work in progress and there is much more to be done to bring Jubilee to an even greater glory.

During a break for lunch in the Guides Offices Sasa showed us a game she played with kids called Memory - Explorers of Jenolan. People had to match pictures of famous Jenolan explorers such as Vos Wiburd, Jeremiah Wilson, Ron Newbold, Alan Pryke, Deborah Johnstone, and Mike Lake.

Thurs July 9, 2010. Lets check out this Southern Limestone thingy

Participants: Stephen Kennedy, Rowena Larkins

Stephen and I headed to the Southern Limestone to check out some holes which I had seen on a previous trip. First stop was a survey trip of J270. This is located near Bottomless Pit, and is vertical, but, as we found, is only about 11 meters deep. It is a rift cave, sloping on an angle of about 75 degrees, with several arms heading north. It is dry but has several nice formations.

Next we checked out a nearby rift J268/269. This seemed to have limited extent so we headed up the valley to another prospect.

At J281 ¹ we paused while I got a GPS location and Photo-location of an untagged entrance I found last month. This

¹It turns out this is the notorious Chomp cave

has been subsequently tagged as J332. On a previous trip Alan Pryke and I made voice connections between this entrance and J281 just up the hill.

J281 is a blowing rift. It is very damp inside and has some nice fat formations on the wall. When entering I dropped a small stone and heard it fall a long way. The rift is tight enough to easily brace and avoid falling. In fact it turned out to be so tight I was unable to follow Stephen all the way. He explored, remaining within voice contact. The rift looks to be about 10 to 15 meters deep, about 40cm wide. Stephen reported that it terminated in a room about 2 meters wide and 5 meters long, with a prospective hole in the bottom and a hole in the roof. He briefly checked both these out and indicated that there was passage beyond, but didn't go far due to the lack of voice contact. On the way back to me he discovered a wider way through which can be attempted on future visits.

We headed up the hill and came upon a cave J285 which seemed to be directly aligned with the J281 rift. No doubt after future exploration we will find a connection.

While we were exploring the Southern Limestone other members of the group including Andrew Trafford and Aidan Lloyd had headed off to the Tugalella area to explore some caves on private land which they had permission to explore.

Fri July 10, 2010. Someones car keys departed without him

Participants: Aiden Lloyd, Andrew Trafford, Stephen Kennedy, Rowena Larkins, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Keir's Family

As Andrew Trafford drove off we got ready to drive down to the maintenance area for a walk in the Southern Limestone. There were some holes Keir wanted to make a note of for later exploration. Aidan was turning his bags inside out looking for his keys.

The longer it took, the higher the likelihood of the keys being in Andrew's car. I left him looking for them and drove down to the maintenance area myself with Stephen.

As we walked up the valley, Keir pointed out cave entrances and related stories of adventures long passed which he had had in them. We had plans to walk to Paradox, but several people had a bit of a cold, and there were time limits as people had commitments in Sydney that evening. We found a large pit on top of the western ridge tagged J305, which I took a GPS reading of, and then turned and headed back to the cabin. Here we bid farewell to Keir and his family.

Back at the cabin Aidan had searched everywhere and his keys were not in the cabin. That was a pity as he had planned to head back to Canberra that evening. Calls were made from the phone box in the valley to several people in the hope that we could contact Andrew and get the keys to Max who had plans to come up on Friday night, and lived a few minutes drive from Andrew. Sad to say, Tina and Megan turned up later that night with the bad news that Max was not coming.

Aidan anxiously explored the spare food cupboard in the cabin.

Sat July 11, 2010. A walk in Wiburds

Participants: Quinn, Nat Brennon, Stephen Kennedy, Rowena Larkins, Aidan Lloyd

Nat's friend Quinn, an experienced rock climber, wanted to see some of Jenolan. We did a tourist trip to Wiburds to the Hand of God area in the North West Passage.

Quinn philosophised that rock climbers do not like mud, and also climbers climb in 2D whereas cavers climb in 3D.

Sun July 12, 2010. A crawl through a watery squeeze

Participants: Quinn, Nat Brennon, Stephen Kennedy, Rowena Larkins, Aidan Lloyd

Ian Carpenter is a pretty cave for the most part. It can be a through trip terminating in an exit through a lower hole via the Watercrawl Squeeze. I have been told that anyone over 5ft 8 should avoid this, so as three of our party were above this limit we let Stephen and Natalie enjoy this crawl.

I busied myself taking survey readings up several of the holes in the roof to check for possible connections to Glass cave, while Nat and Stephen proved that they could get through watercrawl.

This was the last cave of the trip and after cleaning the cabin we bid Aiden's car farewell and I drove him to Sydney where he was hoping to get transport to Canberra and a spare set of car keys..

On the drive back to Sydney Aidan engaged himself in discussions on his mobile with his parents to determine how to get from Sydney to Canberra. The end result was he stayed in a hotel in Sydney overnight and would find his way home on the Monday.

Epilogue It seems that Aidan's parents drove to Sydney on the Monday with a spare set of car keys, collected Aidan and then drove back to Canberra via Jenolan where they collected Aidan's car.

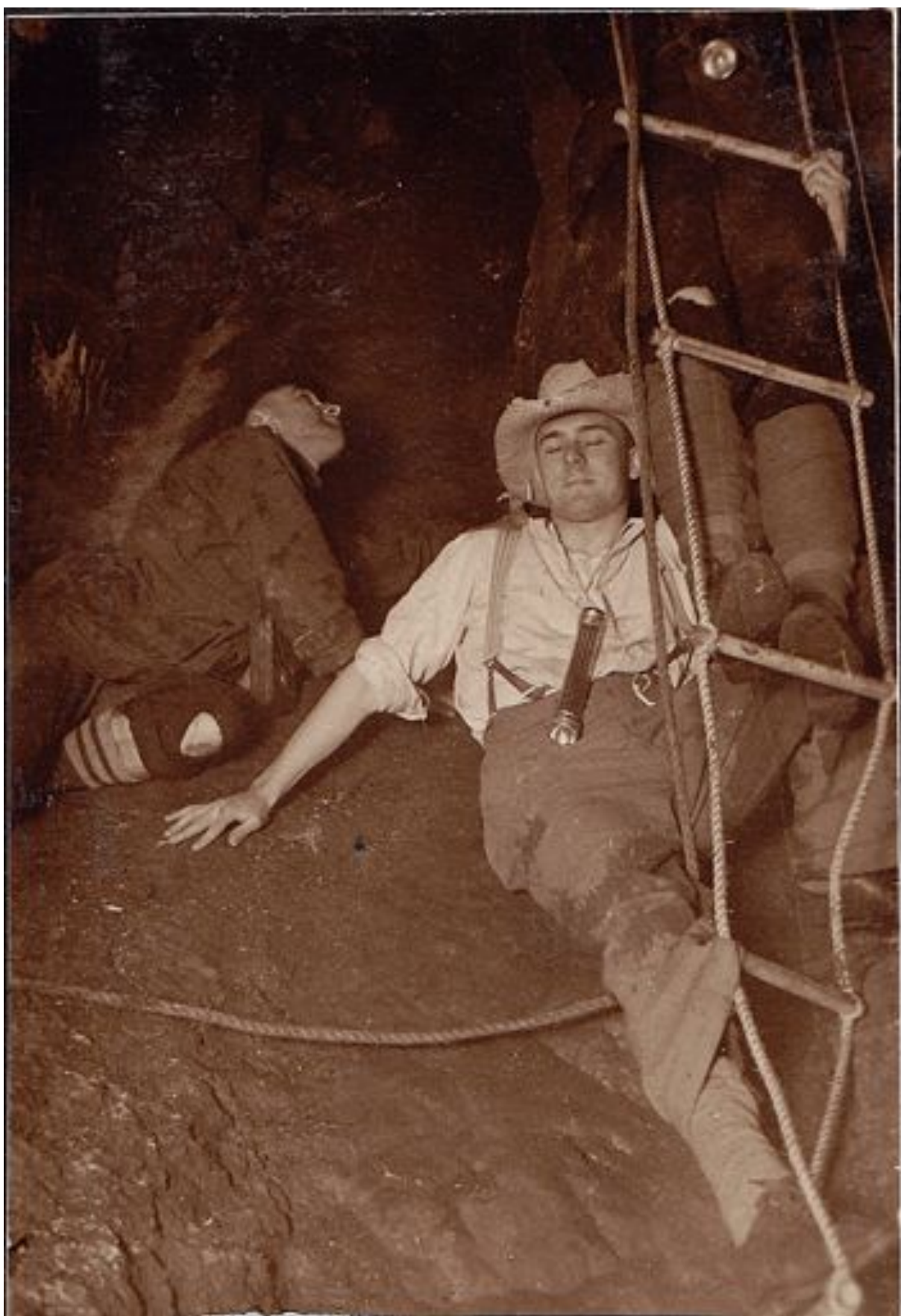
SUSS GEAR AUDIT 2011

BY TOM SHORT

Item	Qty	Length	State	Comments
Lilo	6		average	
Tent	3		average	
First Aid (Large tube)	1	1	OK	
First Aid (Paddy Pallin)	1	1	OK	
Knee pads	0		all sold	
Machete	1?		unknown	
Rivet gun	1		good	
Tagging Kit	1		good	
Rope Washer	1?		good	
Survey Repair Kit	0		good	
Fibreglass Tape	1	30m	good	
Fibreglass Tape	1	30m	poor	
Fibreglass Tape	1	30m	gone	
Forestry Compass	1		service needed	This has since been serviced
Compass Clinos			to be checked	
Cave Packs				
Large white	1		poor	
Large white	3		good	More to find
Small white	1		good	
Small green	2		poor	
Lighting				
Battery belts	7		average	
Battery belts	1		broken	
Gell Cells	6			yet to test
headlamps ()	7		OK	
headlamps ()	1		to test	
headlamps (Apex)	4		new	
Helmets	3		Good	
Helmets	2		fair repair needed	
Helmets	2		average repair	
Helmets	2		poor	
Battery Chargers	2		to be checked and repaired if needed	
Tape - 25mm				
	3	3.0m	good	
	1	1.6m	good	
	1	1.7m	good	
	1	2.0m	good	
	2	2.7m	good	
	1	3.4m	good	
	1	3.5m	good	

Item	Qty	Length	State	Comments
Tape - 25mm (cont)				
	1	2.8m	good	
	1	6.0m	good	
	1	3.2m	good	
	1	1.9m	good	
Tape - 50mm				
	1	2.2m	good	
	1	10.6m	good	
	1	10m	good	
	1	6m	good	
	1	4.8m	good	
	1	3.6m	good	
	1	2.7m	good	
	1	3.4m	good	
	1	4.75m	good	
	1	2m	good	
Tape - 40mm				
	1	3m	good	
Rope				
	1	200m	good	
	4	60m	good	
	1	19m	ok	
	1	21m	ok	
	1	18m	ok	
	1	18m	good	
	1	13m	fair	
	3	12m	ok	
	2	11m	ok	
	1	15m	fair	
	1	9m	fair	
	2	8m	fair	
	2	7m	fair	
	1	40m	good	
	1	24m	good	
Rope Protector				
	2		yellow	
	2		black	
Ladder				
	1	15m	good	
	2	30m	good	
	1	50m	good	
Trace				
	3	2.5m	good	
	3	1m	good	

PHOTO GALLERY



"At the Bottom." Tuglow Cave, Oct 1934. Photo by Oliver Moriarty



Trailmarked area, Janus cave, Yagbi. Photo by Rowena Larkins



Decoration, Janus cave, Yagbi. Photo by Rowena Larkins



Crystals, Janus cave, Yagbi. Photo by Alan Pryke



Jack In The Lake, Wellington. Photo by Kat Badiola



Ladies in Wiburds, Jenolan. Photo by Guy McKanna



Guy McKanna, Paradox, J48, Jenolan. Photo by Alan Pryke

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. Our 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.

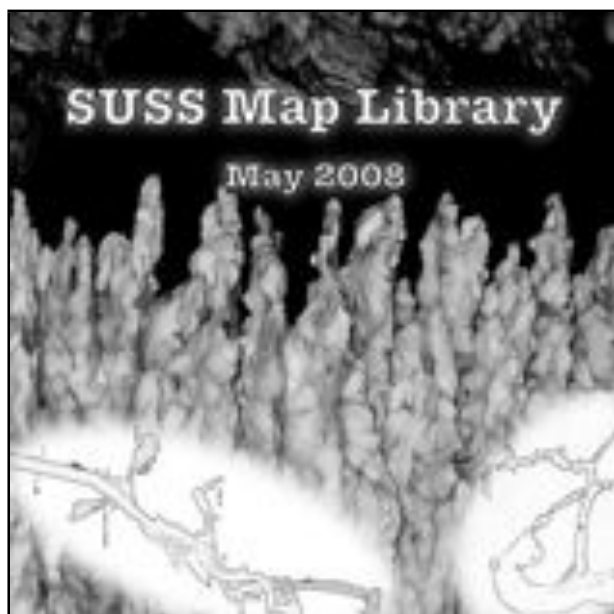
There are field sketches, ink maps produced on drafting film, ink maps produced on linen, as well as some of the latest digitally-produced cave projects. The DVD also contains all SUSS Bulls in HTML format from 35(1), July 1995 to 47(4), March 2008 and SUSS Bulls as PDF format from 42(1), April 2002 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: FEB TO APRIL 2012

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.

Feb

11 – 12 Jenolan. One of our favourite areas. Stay at the luxurious cavers cottage.

Contact Thomas: tcun0287@uni.sydney.edu.au

18 – 19 Tuglow. Terrific summer camping beside the river; great streamway cave.

Contact Alison a.d.chau@gmail.com

25 – 26 Wombeyan. Marble caving in the southern highlands.

Contact Phil: Philip.Maynard@uts.edu.au

March

3 – 4 Wyanbene. Terrific stream cave in the southern highlands. Swimming guaranteed.

Contact Tom: birinxi@gmail.com

3 – 4 Canyoning on the Wollangambie. Beginner trip, canyoning on a pleasant river.

Contact Jack: jack.wachsmann@gmail.com

8 General Meeting. Video presented by Keir.

10 – 11 Bungonia. Beginner trip, easy caves down near Goulburn.

Contact Thomas W: taw.wilson@gmail.com

17 – 18 Jenolan. Our regular haunt. Stay at the luxurious cavers' cottage.

Contact Thomas C: tcun0287@uni.sydney.edu.au

24 – 25 Possible Training Day. For contact details see web site.

31 Mar – 1 April Wombeyan. A place of beautiful scenery, fun caving and great camping.

Contact Phil: Philip.Maynard@uts.edu.au

April

4 General Meeting. Alan Pryke will present slides from NZ

6 – 9 Yagbi. Snowy Mountains caving for Easter.

Contact Deborah: birinxi@gmail.com

6 – 9 Cliefden. A quaint shearer's hut and lots of warm, decorated caves to play in.

Contact Chris : chris.norton@fjc.net.au

6 – 15 Chillagoe. Far North Queensland. Canetoads. Some amazing caves.

Contact Alan: meganandalan@optusnet.com.au

14 – 15 Jenolan. For contact details see web site.

28 – 29 Wombeyan. For contact details see web site.
