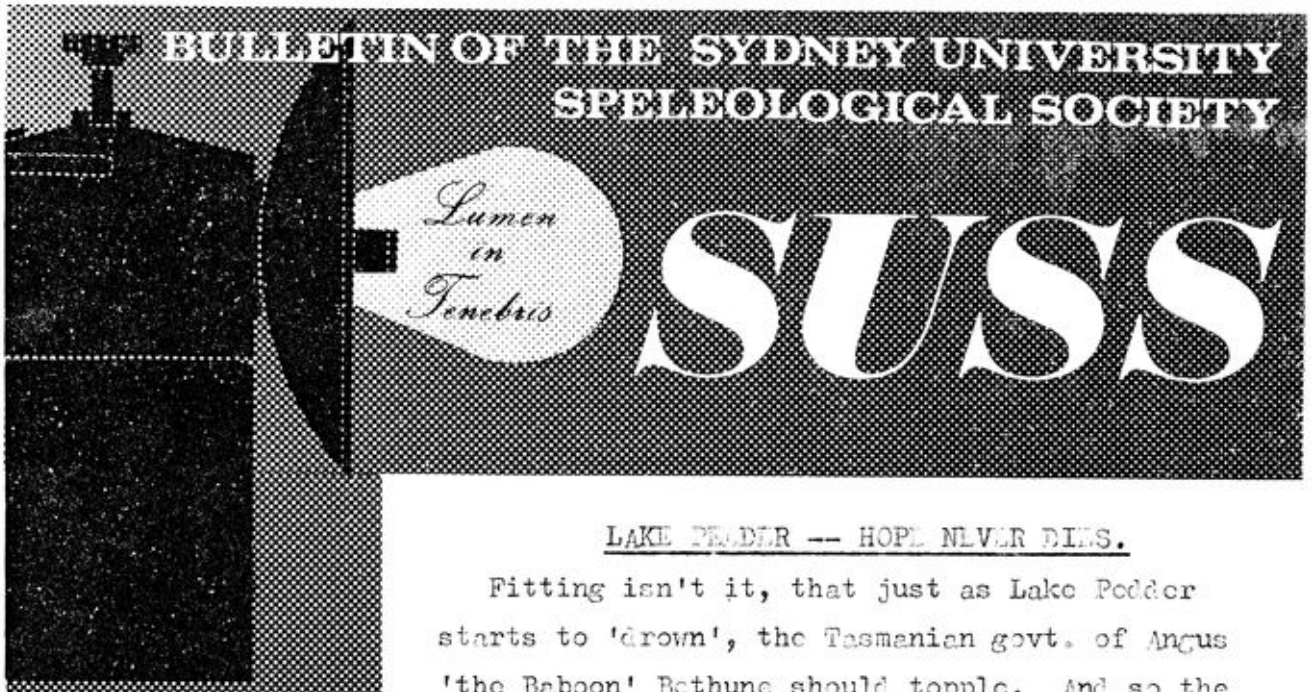
Volume 11 Number 8 (final) April 1972

Yes it's the issue you've all been waiting for.....

HOLLIDAY'S SUPER OUT-A-F@?K'IN-SIGHT, TRE-BLOODY-MEND/OUS FAREWELL ISSUE!



SUSS
FOUNDED 1948

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LAKE PEDDER -- HOPE NEVER DIES.

Fitting isn't it, that just as Lake Pedder starts to 'drown', the Tasmanian govt. of Angus 'the Baboon' Bethune should topple. And so the fight can continue, with elections due on April 22. Bethune's Liberal Govt has been even less popular than Billy MacMahon, and so Reece's Labor Party should do well in the elections. However, if a united conservationist group contests the elections (as appears probable), then under the unusual Tas. electoral system they could succeed in gaining the balance of power. Thus in order to govern Reece would have to make a deal with the conservationists ie: SAVE LAKE PEDDER OR ELSE!! This would be a blow to the near senile Labor politicians, and whats more it can be easily done, simply by opening the Serpentine Dam floodgates. Also the power of that technological juggernaut, the H.E.C., would be greatly curtailed, and there would then be a good chance to preserve the rest of S.W. Tasmania, and its unexplored limestone. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT THOUGH, A CONSERVATIONIST SUCCESS IN THE TAS. ELECTIONS COULD MAKE THE OTHER STATE GOVTS A LITTLE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE CONSERVATIONIST LOBBY. ed.

SUSS -- THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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COMING ACTIVITIES

April 6 Annual General Meeting - Cullen Room, The Union at 7.15pm sharp. This is the most important meeting of the year, so please try and come. The new Committee is elected and the membership fee set. Slides will be shown if by some quirk of fate the meeting ends early.

7 Nibicon meeting to arrange the programme for the ASF Conference. Ian Wood's, 87 St Albans St, Abbotsford Point at 7.30pm.

9 Nibicon meeting to arrange field trips. John Dunkley's (see above).

15-16 CLIEFDEN - By the idyllic Belubula. Surveying etc. Limited numbers only. Contact John Dunkley 759.9956

16 FIELD DAY - LINDFIELD ROCKS THENCE TO A BARBECUE AT Graeme McGown's 2 Sydney Rd, East Lindfield - BYOG, steaks, snags etc. Ring Graeme 46.3517 for details (eg: where exactly are Lindfield Rocks). Instruction will be given in ladderwork, abseiling, surveying etc. Arrive at the rocks anytime after 11am.

22-25 JENOLAN - (permit pending) Take Monday 24th off and stay four days at restful Mammoth Flats (Tuesday 25th is the Anzac Day Hol). Plenty of things to do - even things to do when there's nothing to do. John Holliday 54.1922

May 4 General Meeting - Cullen Room, The Union, 7.15pm. Hopefully Warwick Counsell of UNSWSS will be along to talk on the Bungonia Gorge crisis. Don't miss it!!

6-7 JENOLAN -- Wiburd's and thereabouts. Jim Seabrook 74.6084

Trips in the May vacation are a little unorganised at present, but John Dunkley should have a Jenolan or Cliefden trip lined up. More details in the next issue.

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At the last Committee Meeting ......

* SUSS has four new full members: Peter Lake, Trevor Caterall, Georgina Shanks and Brian Spilsbury.

* Bylaw Section D(3) "Trip Fees" has been amended so that the trip fee for full or associate members is 20cents and for prospectives and non-members 50cents. Tripleaders please note.

FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FEES ($3.50) ARE NOW DUE!!!

MAMMOTH CAVE IN THE 1940s

by Richard Welch
(as told to John Dunkley)

(note: Following publication of THE EXPLORATION AND SPELEOGEOGRAPHY OF MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN, a new member of SUSS, Bruce Welch, drew attention to the fact that his father had explored and mapped part of the cave in the 1940s. The existence of maps by Noske & Welch was noted in the historical introduction to the book, but SUSS had lost its copies. I spoke to Mr Welch snr. at length and am most grateful for the information making up this article and for permission to publish the account so as to ensure that it does not become lost again. Mr Welch's information is significant in several respects. It shows that Oolite Cavern was definitely known before SUSS's time, and it provides a valuable link with a period of exploration for which lamentably few records exist. I can only regret not having the information earlier, enabling a more accurate historical introduction to the book to do justice to the early explorers. - J.D.)

My first caving trip was to Church Ck in 1937 although not a great deal was found then. It was while staying at Caves House early in the 1940s that I first became interested in Jenolan. We started looking around for caves that had not been entered for years, and located Alladdin, Frenchmans and Glass Caves. As well, we found a disused or forgotten entrance into the (Right) Imperial Cave from the Devils Coach House; this and similar holes into the tourist caves were subsequently blocked to prevent illegal entry. We also explored the Jersey and Imperial Caves entering via the collapse doline at the top of the Carlotta Arch track.

In 1942 the wife of the manager of Caves House told us about Mammoth Cave. She didn't know where it was but we found it fairly readily. On this first trip in 1942, equipped with no more than one torch and a candle, we managed to reach only to the bottom of the entrance cavern rockfall. In 1943 we found our way below the rockfall and into Central Section. Via the wrong hole, as it happened, for we needed a short ladder. However we found the right hole later from below. In the following year we rediscovered the route to the underground river (Lower River).

We always had trouble raising enthusiasm for surveying in those days, but the first map, completed by I.Noske and R.Welch in 1943, extended from the holes below Entrance Cavern north and east to Railway Tunnel and the first 100' or so of Sand Passage. Instruments used were a prismatic compass and a 66' tape. We saw the Skull and Crossbones but did not attempt to descend the rockpile below. Nor, as I remember it, did we reach the end of the Railway Tunnel, due to the dangerous slippery mud surrounding the deep holes. In fact, we did not reach down to Central River below - we were on all our trips short of time, equipment and manpower.

Finding our way down to the underground river (i.e. Lower River) was very difficult as we had to look in every hole and behind every rock to find the route. Every time we went down it was raining outside and the underground river was really roaring. On our first trip I remember coming up the limestone tube and hearing a roar of water which we took at first for a flood behind us. However ,

despite the rain, we never at any time saw water in McKeowns Creek outside. There were oolites in the Oolite Cavern in 1944 but less in 1948, so that someone was evidently visiting the cave during this period. We had a brief look in what we called Dripping Water Cave (the Oolite Loop area) but did little exploration.

In 1948 we surveyed the main route down to the river (J. Falk, E. Foulkes, D.Ryan, R. Welch), and added this to the 1943 map. Looking at the new maps it seems to me that we must have omitted some readings in drafting the map as it is hard to correlate some passage details.

Although we knew that early explorers of Jenolan had been in Mammoth Cave, we did not anywhere see any evidence of previous visitors, in the form of footprints etc.

SUSS AT LARGE or COME TO THE SUNNY NULLARBOR - IT NEVER RAINS!

Norm Poulter Reports

The 1971 CEGSA Nullarbor Expedition was due to run from the 30-12-71 to 15-1-72, however in company with 3 CEGSA members I left Adelaide on a bristling hot Dec 24th heading for Ceduna by way of Port Lincoln on the Eyre Pen. First order of trouble was the loss of an inner tube at Whyalla, followed by bogging the Rover in a salt lake in the Port Lincoln National Park. After conducting a fruitless search for a cave within the Park both vehicles pulled out for the caves at Lake Hamilton. The salt content of this lake, as with other lakes between Port Augusta and Pemberton is so high that soap floats. Time did not allow us to have a decent look at the infrequently visited caves, but while heading for Ceduna considerable time was spent obtaining many photographs of a signpost to 'Nowhere Else'. Ceduna was reached for an overnight stop on Dec 28th and to meet up with Mike Gray of the S.A. Museum. Early next morning, before the tourists awoke, the Quiet Rover and party moved out for the Nullarbor, expecting a hot trip but receiving overcast weather. The weather was so mild that a planned overnight stop on the Plain was scrapped because by late afternoon we were too close to Eucla. Despite all the woes we had heard from tourists the 305 miles of dirt road was in perfect condition. Dust on the road was not a problem. There had been so many tourists going across the Nullarbor that the road had been swept clean. Spending a night on the Plain at Christmas would be like camping in Pitt St on Saturday night.

Everyone showed up at Weebubbie Cave on Dec 30th, coming from NSW, Vic, S.A., and one CEGSA member from Perth. As the trip had been organised by Ian Lewis of CEGSA, the decision had been made to run the show on S.A. time. The result was two weeks of confusion due to the meeting of various time zones - NSW on EST, S.A. on CST, W.A. on WST, and Central Western Time which operates from Norseman to Eucla. With the party running on CST, the service stations on CWT and the Flying Doctor on WST it was easy to get mixed up.

Time at Weebubbie was well spent. The dimensions of the cave were doubled by the scuba divers from NSW & S.A. The dry cavers had the job of carrying the air bottles and additional gear in and out of the cave. To improve safety a large tripod was borrowed from the nearby pumping house and erected over the cave edge. Due to mismanagement the first attempt to erect it resulted in the tripod falling over the edge, its fall checked by the Rover on the other end of the cable. After retrieving the device a second erecting attempt was successfully completed after dark. Use of the tripod speeded up transport of the air bottles.

Many side trips were conducted for various reasons, including one to Abrakurrie Cave to photograph its impressive chambers. It was a sad day when we returned the tripod from whence it came and left the area for Cocklebiddy Cave and Cocklebiddy Stn, where milk sells for 25¢ a pint. At Cocklebiddy the overcast weather gave way to rain. On Jan 6th there was an inch of rain in the 24hrs and thousands of gallons of water poured thru the campsite and into the cave. During the four days spent at Cocklebiddy the main cave was extended by the divers. A dig was started at the far end of the doline collapse with the use of explosives and the welcome help of the owners of nearby Arrabiddy Stn, who gave up an afternoon to drill holes in the limestone blocks with their petrol driven jack hammer.

Cont. over

January 10th saw us entering Mullamullang Cave for a five day stay. Highlight of this was the capture of a female blind spider and the look on Mike Gray's face when he saw it. A birthday was held for Nick White at Camp One on Jan 11th. Several parties went up to the Dome. Jan 12-15th were spent camped at Easter Extension exploring and photographing the Salt Cellars and Coffee & Cream sections. Everyone withdrew from the Cave on the 15th after spending much time photographing the Dune and Southerly Buster and allied features. In all I spent 121 hrs within the confines of Mullamullang.

If anyone plans to go to the Nullarbor in future give a thought for the dig at Cocklebiddy. A vast section of cave could lie beyond if the draught of air coming from the rock crevices have been estimated correctly.

After the expedition finished on Jan 15th it took me more than two weeks to arrive in Perth going around the SW coast of W.A. All in all the trip from Adelaide to Perth exceeded 3700 miles and took 6 weeks.

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THE MEASURLMENT OF STREAM FLOW

Henry Shannon

Flow in a stream is measured by the following equation:

flow in cusecs = mean velocity in ft/sec x cross-sect. area in sq. ft.

The cross-sectional area is found by direct measurement of a simple cross section; either occurring naturally or constructed from boulders and gravel on the spot. The cross section is assumed to be rectangular or triangular and enclosed within the projections of the bed and the zone of dead water at the edge of the stream. This to allow for the effect of friction on the channel walls.

Velocity is determined by the velocity head method which utilises the hydraulic jump effect: moving water faced with an obstruction has its kinetic energy converted to potential energy as determined by Newton's faithful old equation -- $\frac{1}{2} mv^2 = mgh$. This simplifies to -- $v = \sqrt{2gh}$.

Now the figures you get from this method are surface velocity figures. These are normally higher than mean velocity and in rapid flowing streams I endeavour to compensate for this by conservative estimation of the cross section, and the use of the quarter points rather than the mid point for the velocity determination.

In British units the following values of 'v' and $\sqrt{2gh}$ are the most useful in my experience. I normally adjust the flume to get a simple value for the velocity, and take several sections in different places and at different velocities until I get consistent results. A foot rule graduated in eighths makes an acceptable velocity head rod, but I long ago memorised the table (1) below and learnt the values for the first two fingers of my right hand, and while this device may be primitive I have never yet left it behind.

The method doesn't work well with 'v' less than 1. There is another method of similar nature that Ted Anderson has told me about: within a certain range of flow velocities a ripple forms ahead of any obstruction of the

Table 1 :

v ft/sec	$\sqrt{2gh}$ inches
1	$\frac{3}{8}$
2	$\frac{3}{4}$
3	$\frac{3}{2}$
4	3
8	12

water surface, the slower the flow, the further out is the first ripple.

The traditional floating stick method will work within certain limits; longish uniform channels are needed and thes are hard to find, surface flows should be corrected by a factor of 0.85 or alternatively, a log wallowing in the water gives a better approximation to the mean.

Reference: O.E. Meinzer Hydrology

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BARELLAN (Barralong) CAVE, JENOLAN

Henry Shannon

(Owing to the non-appearance of a certain Tasmanian report, Henry's article appears here, rather than in the next issue, as is stated on p.88. ed.)

After dinner (28-2-72) Tony and I went up to Ron Newboult's house as previously arranged, and then with Ron and his son, Stephen, over to the guide's office where we all collected a miner's headlamp.

We went into Barellan Cave via Binoomea cut to the Baal, then down the disused tourist track to River Cave, then from mossy rock to the disused (?) branch from which the Baralong Cave (to use Ron's term) goes off. The entry is thru some now muddied white columns. Soon a level, low section is entered with sloppy sand on the floor, though it is often dry. My next memories are of a descending gravel chute and following it on to the junction of the waters from which the cave is named. The actual junction is in a deep pool under a low archway, the smaller stream (0.2 cusecs) flows over gravel from a small hole ten yards away. A quite lengthy rockpile section follows, and it is pretty well certain that the old timers never got thru it, even if they did get to the gravel chute area.

At the end of the rockpile is a short section with clean washed limestone. The decorated section starts soon after it. The experience was too mind-boggling for me to remember all the details. Somewhere near the beginning is a low arch with a pool of water; rather hard to cross dry. There are several examples of very thin sheets of flowstone. Around the middle is a splendid complicated column which is perhaps the most readily photographed feature. The helectites are in staggering numbers and some are as clear as ice. The flowstones are glorious, particularly an intense red one right at the end of the formation section. One other unforgettable sight was a crystal pool, which glistens with enormous jewels of calcite sparkling in the torchlight.

But the sad thing is that nowhere in the cave was it possible to stay smitten with delight over the beauty of the place, because everywhere I looked I saw muddy bootprints. Everytime joy turns to anger in these caverns because the mud is where it shouldn't be and would not have got if people were observing the rules of caving. It's not that deliberate vandalism is the problem. It is sheer carelessness and lack of thought. It is vital that persons caving should keep themselves clean and on the tracks over formation. It would probably have helped if the speleos' "boots off" tradition had been observed in the cave. As it is breakage is pretty minimal, but the mud problem is much worse than, say, Chevalier or Upper Colito which have, I gather, had more people in them.

I suspect that some of the problem has arisen thru the guides taking their social friends thru the cave, but however it has occured, people have got in who lack a working knowledge of practical cave conservation. Unsuitable visitors may have been in the cave in a social situation where the party leader may not bawl out his guests. Also, the cave is becoming old hat thru being known about for too long. Much the same sort of thing happened in Chevalier when it became the place to go for "the giggle". (Regeneration in Chevalier has been quite good since the ladder was removed.) This combination encourages carelessness and the beauty of the cave is itself distracting.

The present situation is not satisfactory. The cave is vulnerable because of its location within the tourist cave system. I do not think that it can preserved effectively simply by restricting access to qualified speleos, though it would help to have a locked gate specifically on the Baralong Cave. However, I think it is inevitable that the same class of people who have done the damage so far are going to continue to get in. This does not mean the cave is going to be trampled to death, provided a suitable track is constructed. Most people can be relied on to do the right thing provided it is spelled out for them. I have in mind the construction of a track made up of stepping stones and suspended stairs to keep people away from the mud. It is vital to contain the spread of mud; cleaning up of the cave will be useless until the tide of mud can be constrained. Incidentally, since the cave is the way on, the great discoveries of the future will have access thru it.

Beyond the red flowstone wall the river can be heard. A rope is needed for the short descent. I then saw the boat Ron has brought in for crossing the river. It is a tractor tyre tube still inflated after several years in the cave. The river passage goes both ways from the junction. Downstream is a keyhole section with quite a steep slit gorge. Upstream is a spacious passage with the river flowing quietly in a gravel channel. We went in as far as the low arch where only those who get wet can go. Ron tells me that you go in, cross deep water and climb up to a decorated cavern, then get down to the river again where it siphons. The way on downstream at the junction has not been pushed. I got flow measurements of 1 cusec in the quiet part of the river and 1.3 in the canyon. I think the flow is a shade over 1 cusec.

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Publication of Maps, Diagrams etc in the Bulletin: To facilitate ease of publication, please draw the map etc to a scale which enables it to fit a quarto or foolscap page (or part thereof). If it is drawn in black ink (not biro) on white paper it can be easily electro-statically stenciled.

Overworked Editor

TRIP REPORTS

Jenolan - 20th February

"Wiburd's Lake Returns"

Present: John Dunkley(TL), Colin Mathers, Jim Seabrook & several members of the Baptist Caving Assoc.

Having a hunch that big things (hydrologically speaking) may have been happening at Jenolan during the recent wet spell, John decided to return from the Bungonia Gorge protest weekend via Jenolan to check the situation. The party arrived 2pm on Sunday and, after getting an on the spot permit from Mr Harmon, set off up McKeown's Ck. Some time was spent diverting water which was flowing into Bow Cave so that it went down McKeown's Ck, and water flows were checked at Serpentine and Hennings Caves. All then assembled at Wiburd's Lake Cave where the lake was found to be back at the same level as when the Cave was rediscovered in 1963 - water was just topping the low saddle on the mudbanks in Lake Chamber. Some photography was done. On the surface the dolines on the flat downstream were found to be holding water. McKeown's Ck was flowing down to Bow Cave, and the Creek opposite and upstream of Hennings was meeting McKeown's. (Further data on stream flows are attached to the official trip report in SUSS records - ed.). The humour of the day came when, as the party left Wiburd's, they were treated to an unintentional hambone - a member of BCA literally got ants in her pants and accidentally dropped her knickers in the process of removing the irritants.

John Dunkley

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Jenolan - 26-28 February

"Fluorescein Testing, Serpentine Area and Many Other Things"

Present: John Dunkley(TL), Jeanette Dunkley, Jim Seabrook, Colin Mathers, Bev Riley (M's), Henry Shannon (UCSS), Tony Culberg and Adrew Pavey (UNSWSS), Dave Kelly, P.Hatherly (P's).

(This is a heavily edited version of Henry Shannon's mammoth trip report, which contains extensive tables of stream flow readings, and is to reside in the SUSS records. ed.)

Whilst the others made a late start on Saturday morning, Henry and Bev went to check the Serpentine submergence. McKeown's Ck was running as far as the scour hole opposite Little Canyon Cave and some flow measurements were taken. At this stage it was assumed that the Serpentine Cave would be taking water from the submergence point at Serpentine corner, and that two tests could be run simultaneously: fluorescein from the scour hole opposite Little Canyon, and NaCl from the Serpentine Cave itself to the Great North Cavern etc. in Mammoth Cave. But, when Serpentine was entered it was found to be mostly dry although there was some flow at the squeeze. This situation came as something of a shock, since it has been traditionally assumed that water sinking in the creek around the Serpentine would go down to the Cave. The Cave stream had been flowing strongly recently. I decided to look in the Upper Serpentine entrance and found only pools of water with some flow by percolation. Similarl

for Little Canyon and Hennings Caves although it was obvious that both had taken much more flow recently. The evidence indicated that Little Canyon must now be reconsidered as the next appearance of the Serpentine R. after Serpentine rather than a disused anabranch.

When we returned to camp, Selby's error in giving John sodium carbonate instead of sodium chloride was discovered. When the lamentations died down we were left with a proposal for only one test with fluorescein from the submergence opposite Little Canyon. Jeanette would place the 11oz of flour. at 6pm. Diggins Diggins was then trogged and showed no evidence of recent flooding.

In the afternoon a group (Henry, John, Andy, Bev) entered Mammoth to place watcher bags for the fluorescein. One was placed in Lower River and the party then proceeded to the Dry Siphon. Flooding in Central River meant that the 'ninety foot' in the Railway Tunnel had to be climbed. The Dyr Siphon was full to within 1" of the roof. Henry volunteered to be first thru and made it without incident, though not without groans. Because of the drought the water in the Dry Siphon is a good deal colder than the water in the other streams in Mammoth. The "Bypass" was running on the other side, though not strongly. John came thru in underpants, bringing a jumper in a waterproof bag, and later Bev and Andrew in full trog gear. At this point Henry was the only one prepared to go onto the Great North Cavern (fool, ed.).

Proceeding into the left branch, when we came to the Overflow stream it was dry, but again, had flooded recently. Bearing in mind the flow situation on the surface this means that it is not an overflow from the Lower River. A further surprise was that the Infinite Crawl was flowing, and the water was going down holes to the right facing into the start of the Crawl. Watcher bags were placed here. Bags were also placed in Waterfall Passage, Central River upstream of Ohmeenees Squeeze, and Central River first crossing. I checked the last part of the Overflow and confirmed that the Bypass water emerges there. Eventually a very tied party returned to the surface after dark.

Sunday dawned sodden, as is usual for Jenolan. One large party visited Wiburd's Lake where the lake was found to be down about 4' on the previous visit. Photos taken feature Jeanette splashing round in the lake. Meanwhile Henry and John set out to get flow measurements for the Southern Limestone.

The slog up Styx Ck was preceded by a chat at the Guides Office where arrangements were made to put a charcoal watcher in Imperial Cave. Ron Newboult also offered to take myself and Tony thru Baralong Cave (Berellan officially) the next day. (Henry's report on this cave should appear in a later issue. ed.) John was given information on river flows thru the Devils Coach House - it has run 3 times this year (wet spell?) for one to three days only. I made a rough estimate of the flow at the Styx Creek efflux, but was not able to do so at the Jenolan R. efflux where most of the water now comes out of a break in the pipeline for the original Jenolan power plant.

John and I then thrashed up the "Styx Ck" valley enduring the potent stinging nettles. We noticed quite a number of goats. In the side of the valley just up from the junction of the second righthand tributary is a steep sided doline which looks promising even though it has been looked at before (P. Auld).

Henry Shannon

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Wee Jasper - 11-12th March

"An Introduction to Speleology for the Society's New Prospective Members"

or ... "Hordes Into Punchbowl"

Present: Ludwig Muenzenreider (Horde Leader), Joy Muenzenreider, Jack & Judith Vaughn, Ron Murray, Graeme McGown, Jan Turner, Jeanette Dunkley, John Holliday, Jeff Turner, Rick Tunney, Andy Happ, Jim Seabrook, Colin Mathers, Manfred Listing, Peter Lake, Trevor Caterall, Ian Hibligan (Members), Mark Macpherson, Arthur Jenkins, John Mouatt, Martin Barrett, Colin Wybourne, Grahame Bailey, Jan Kitching, Tim Hamilton, Phillip Kidd, John Lockhard, Phillip Buckner, Steve Williamson, Mal Watt, Russ Franklin, Greg Morley, Chris Fletcher, Keith Maxwell, Annette Ward, Steven Cooper, Wendy Mackenzie, Noelene Silvester, Doug Kentwell, Kevin Chapman, Kristine Edwards, David Christian, Frances Cope, Glen Hughes (Prospectives & Visitors), Roger Curtis, Neil Fisher & Maureen (CSS)

Yes, once again the SUSS hordes have attacked Wee Jasper on the annual Freshers Trip. Cars were arriving at the creek side camp-site all night, the last arrival being ?????? , who announced his 6.30am presence with the oldest and stalest of practical jokes (loud things amuse small minds!).

Saturday morning saw the usual bleary-eyed breakfast, followed by ladder and abseil practice from a nearby tree. Parties then set out for the Dip Cave and Punchbowl. The Dip was crowded, but amazingly we had Punchbowl to ourselves, and two 15-bod parties, led by Rick and Jim, made a grand circuit of the cave. This proved to be tres enjoyable, and there weren't any major delays at the ladder in the style of last years "Beatrice fiasco".

In the peaceful still of the Sabbath morn, he came. Proudly offering his new cut-rate camping fee, the local shire ranger bailed Ludwig up and demanded his due. And, of course, we had to pay, for there are now 'facilities' at the Jasper. Two super-cool, extra-comfy tin shithouses have been installed on the flat. Ludwig had earlier hypothesised that they must lead to a cave, but an inspection with flaming bog paper revealed what will probably be insufficient depth to outlast the Easter rodeo. Still, they have a view of sorts!

Later in the morning parties visited Dip Cave to do a few abseils and look around. Roger and Neil had arrived from Canberra, and joined a small party which went to Dogleg Cave where the stream passage was mostly slimy, evil smelling water and mud. At the end the first sump was found to contain a hell of a lot of sand (approx 12'). It will be quite a while before anyone digs it out and the depths of the cave are once more accessible.

Everyone seemed to have a great desire to get back to Sydney (I don't know why, the T.V. movies were the usual lousy bunch), and by 2.00pm only two cars remained at the campsite. Five bods (Roger, Neil, Maureen, Mark and myself) then went surface trogging at the back of Punchbowl Hill. Roger pointed out some of the small, little known caves of the area, and also gave some of the history of CSS's exploration of the area and especially of the Dogleg Cave. Then, it was off back to the 'Smoke' via the Yass pub and Charlie's all new laminex and glass horror shop at Mittagong.

John Holliday

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KEEP BUNGONIA GORGE(ous)!!!

Cooleman - 4-18th December 1971

"When We Weren't Surveying"

Present: Ludwig Muenzenreider (TL), Joy Muenzenreider, Ron Murray, Frances Cope, Jack & Judith Vaughn, Manfred Listing et al for various periods.

The speleological aim of the trip was to begin a surface survey of the valley containing the New Year, Frustration and Clown Cave systems. Attempts at surveying were however frustrated in the first week because of inconsiderate weather. This was made up for by other diversions such as trips to Kiandra pub, one trip to Kosi, one trip to Nine Mile Diggings, and tourist trips to Yagby.

Perhaps the most exciting day of this otherwise wet first week was on the Wednesday, when waiting at Kiandra for the pub to open, who should appear but Phil Crook, that stout heart from the Park Service, also Head Ranger at Yarrangobilly. It seemed he'd had a flat tyre four miles out to Nine Mile Diggings near Kiandra. Could we help?xx!!?3x? Well of course we could and so two LRs were bumping along what must be the worst track in the Snowy. Soon we sighted the N.P.'s Rover with Phils son David and friend Ian looking dejectedly at the deflated vehicle. Apparently when the LR was last serviced someone forgot to put back the tools for simple emergencies like this. Well we put it down to bureaucracy, fixed the tyre, whereupon Phil suggested we proceed to Nine Mile Diggings.

This interesting area was mined around the turn of the century, the gold being deposited in thin layers of alluvium interspersed in a bed of basalt. Mining was carried out mainly by surface sluicing which explains the large area of denuded countryside. Mining ceased in early 1931 due to economic difficulties. After some fossicking around, photo taking etc, we returned to Kiandra for dri nks and then back to camp in time to see the indomitable igloo deflate from a blow out.

The weekend saw the arrival of Manfred and the beggining of surveying as the weather had improved. The next week saw more surveying and surface exploration which produced the two inflows which are thought to supply the the stream common to Frustration and New Year Caves and resurging near Z cave. The material in regard to this part of the trip will be the subject of a later article.

Ludwig Muenzenreider

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Jenolan - 8th February

Present: Henry Shannon, Tony Culberg

A one day trip to take flow readings (results in SUSS records. ed.). It was known to us that McKeown's Ck had been running thru the Devils Coach House the previous week, or a bit before. The last SUSS trip recording a flow of 2 cusecs running into the Bow Cave (J. Dunkley pers. comm.). We found the Cave dry, the creek sinking in the rocky bed at the head of the gorge 100yds upstream. We then set about measuring the flow up the creek to the vincinity of Wiburd's Lake Cave, returned and left for Sydney. No caving was done.

Henry Shannon