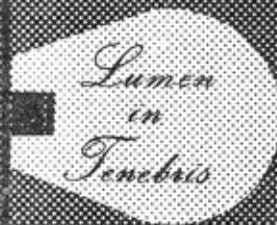


This months circulation has increased to 6,357 metres.

BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



SUSS



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CONVENTION SYMPOSIA

BIOLOGY

GEOMORPHOLOGY

METEOROLOGY

HYDROLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY

CONVENTION SEMINARS

A SPELEO PUBLICATIONS

B CAVE PHYSICS

C MAPS AND DIAGRAMS

D PHOTOGRAPHY IN SPELEOGY

E SYSTEMATIC EXPLORATION

F OVERSEAS CAVING AREA REPORTS

G ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

H SURVEY TECHNIQUES

I CAVING TECHNIQUES

J CONSERVATION

CAVE-MANS DINNER

COME TO THE CONVENTION AS A NONRESIDENT
TROGLODYTE AND GET LUNCH, MORNING AND
AFTERNOON TEA, COPIES OF PROCEEDINGS
LOTS OF FIELD TRIPS, INTELLECTUAL
STIMULATION AND MORE.

KYBEYAN- -- AN EXERCISE IN URVIA FOR FIVE DAYS
13/8/72 - 18/8/72

PRESENT: Graeme McGown, John Holliday, Keith Brister, FM's and Vicki
Wedley, Margaret Holliday, Mary-ane Whatzname

The aim of the trip was to

- 1) Have a good time
- 2) Have a look at Kybeyan and Rosebrook caves

At this stage I want to VEBEMENTLY deny any rumours that the second aim was ever achieved.

We stayed at "Belmont", a property about seven miles out from Nimmitabel on the Kybeyan road. John and Co did not arrive till late Monday night so that partially excuses our first two days of inactivity. After sleeping in, we decided that Tuesday would be an admirable day for settling in and recuperation (Drinking!?).

Wednesday - found out that Con "Tasink" (the owner of the property on- (under??)-which the caves were situated) was now living in Cooma and could not be contacted. That afternoon we all went for a walk down to the junction of the Umeralla and Punchbowl rivers. This possibly was the only slightly strenuous activity of the ENTIRE trip.

On Wednesday night we decided (along with a few of my country cousins) that my 21st should be celebrated in the Nimmitabel Pub.

Five hours of solid drinking and a few bursts of thunderous applause, later we decided that that was a goodtime to finish - we thought

Next morning when I woke up I found out that the party had gone on all night and nobody was in a fit state to go caving besides it had snowed overnight. (and the party still went on all night???)

Friday --- Finis and home.

*Bazza would be proud.

Graeme McGown

---000000000000---

And lately by the Tavern Door agape
Came stealing through the Dusk an Angel Shape
Bearing a vessel on his shoulder; and
He bid me taste of it; and 'twas - the GRAPE.

Rutaiyyat

Omar Khayaam

TRIP REPORT"Down along the Barralong"

Jenolan 23/4/72

Present:

Noel Rawlinson (guide), John Dunkley, Jeanette Dunkley, Ted Anderson,
Andrew Pavey (UNSWSS)

As arranged we met Noel at the Guides office at 7.30pm and borrowed the guides' supply of electric lamps, finally going in through Binnoomea Cut after 8 pm. The route passes the Grand Column in the River Cave, then along the formed but unlit path past the Sounding Board. The turnoff into the new discoveries is on the last concrete steps just below the Red and White Temples area. An electric cable has been laid through almost the whole cave but we did not use the lights. Although we had not come prepared for surveying, Andrew had a prismatic compass and with distances estimated a passable map has been prepared.

The first few hundred feet off the River Cave was known in Trickett's time and appears on his map. In 1956 Warren Peck thoroughly explored the area and must have come very close to discovering the present Barralong. A sandy gravel pressure tube follows the rockpile at the beginning of the Barralong proper. The tube descends to the first stream a few hundred feet in (flow estimated 0.1 cusec). This stream rises under pressure from a narrow fissure and joins a larger stream just downstream (hence the name 'Barralong' - meeting of the waters). From this point there are two ways on. One, a rockpile, was followed by Jeanette. The rest of us tackled a very awkward chimney which joins the squeeze route in a rockfall chamber about 30 ft. above the river. The decorated section starts not far on from here.

From here on we meandered slowly through a bewildering and mind-boggling collection of helictites, aragonite crystals, rimstone pools with and without water and diverse other pretties. There has certainly been a lot of damage but it was not as bad as I had been led to believe. The damage consists of muddy footprints, crushed crystals and miniature rimstone pools on the floor, and drippings of candle wax. It seems that the guides who discovered and explored the cave after 1964 had been very poorly equipped; later, as belated recognition of what proved to be the finest cave discovery at Jenolan since Wiburd's time, the Department of Tourism supplied them with proper equipment, including not only electric lights, but ladders, ropes and the like. However there has not been a great deal of exploration in the last few years, and undoubtedly there have been far too many 'tourist' trips through of just the kind which we were undertaking.

Leaving Jeanette at the top of a short drop just beyond the chocolate flowstone, we descended to the main underground river and inspected but did not cross the lake beyond from which it flows. By this time it was after 10.30 pm and the prospect of getting wet and cold did not appeal. We understand the lake is about 30 - 40ft across, quite deep, and that on the other side a scaling pole can be used to gain access to several hundred feet further cave.

We returned about midnight for a very welcome clean-up and shower in the Guides Office, then drove back to Sydney arriving about 2.40 am.

TRIP REPORT

" Gating the Orientation"

Jenolan 8 May, 1972

Present: Ron Newbould (guide), John Dunkley, Jeanette Dunkley, Henry Shannon, Jim Seabrook, Phil Toomer, Lex Brown + 2 other UQSS members

We assembled outside the Guides Office at 0930 and borrowed their supply of electric lamps etc. After raiding the rear of the old stables above Blue Lake for materials, we went in through Binooomea Cut and Temple of Baal about 11.30. Some time was then spent getting gear in and in searching for a suitable gate site. Gear included a large electric drill (THOR), cold chisel and hammer, light bulbs, eyebolts, a bag of cement, shovel and trowel, a bucket and a miscellany of metal bars. The chosen site is not far in from the River Cave track. While Jim was excavating a trench for a foundation, JD checked thoroughly all possible routes which could bypass the gate. Only one such was found and it will be completely blocked in due course. It appears to have been an old river channel taking water out of the Barralong system into the River cave not far from the Grand Column. We then adjourned for lunch at the kiosk.

After lunch Phil Toomer had to leave for Sydney and the UQSS people for all points south. JD and JS returned (Via Orient this time to avoid a party of tourists in the Baal) and spent several hours drilling anchor holes for the eye-bolts. This was a rather awkward task with the large, unwieldy drill which weighed in at about 30 lbs. After some experiment we rigged a stand to sit it on so that all our effort could be devoted to pushing it against the wall. It took about 1 hour to drill each of 3 holes, each about 3-4 inches deep into the solid rock. The drill stood up remarkably well.

We returned to the entrance about 5 pm just in time to see the gate welded together in the electrical and plumbing workshop not far from the Binooomea gate. (this was rather fortunately close by, for to get out we had to yell like hell from the inside of the gate so that someone could bring a key). We had a spot of dinner and spent some time filling the eyebolts down to size on the grinding wheel in the Guides Office. Returning about 7 pm we mixed the cement, finished the installation of the gate, took some photographs and called it a day. Exit was finally made about 10. Ron was to put a lock on the gate in a few weeks time when the cement has set.

On the way out we inspected the steam cleaning work in the Orient Cave. Ron explained the technical difficulty of the job and the long period of time it has taken. The Orient was supposed to be reopening within a month or so but there is still much work to be done. At the moment the main chamber has scaling poles and wire ladders dangling everywhere as well as extensive steam cleaning equipment, compressors, hoses and so on. There is, though, no doubt of the improvement. Decorations such as the Indian Canopy no longer have that dark smudge on the upper surfaces; gutters have been installed in the concrete paths and steps to ensure that water and mud from shoes etc. does not wash on to formations. All in all, an excellent job has been done.

Ettrema - 1st July 1972
"A Preliminary Reconnaissance"

Present: R. Tunney (TL), J. McInerney (V).

The Ettrema Gorge area is mentioned in Speleo Handbook, but little seems to be known of the area. This was a one day trip to look at access to the area and to try to find some limestone.

From Nowra we followed the Braidwood Road to about 8 miles short of Nerriga where we turned right on the road to "Touga" and "Tolwong". The car was left on the northern side of Quiera Clearing GR162815 (Touga 1:31680). From here it was an easy 4 mile walk to the edge of Ettrema Gorge at Naked Pass.

The Gorge here is 1300' deep and about 1 mile across. Our information was that the caves were at the junction of Ettrema Ck and Jones Ck (GR213799) and we could see this junction from the top of the pass. There seems to be an enormous limestone outcrop with a 400' cliff dropping down to the creek. As it was getting late we had to return to the car.

From the apparent size of the limestone outcrop the area should bear further investigating. The access is comparable to that of Colong (i.e. perhaps just a little to difficult for normal slothful speleos).

Rik Tunney

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Yarrangobilly - 7-9th July 1972.

"A White Yagby."

Present: R. Tunney (TL), Jack Vaughn (M), David Christian (P), David Briggs (V)

Both cars reached Yagby late Friday night and we camped in the old Yagby Post Office and it looked like all would go smoothly. Next morning, however, we were all struck down by that dreaded disease - the Yagby Lethargy. Those who have been to Yagby before should know how horrible this affliction is, reducing normal semi-slothful speleos into prostrate wrecks. Fighting this valiantly we boarded David Christian's Godmobile at 10:30 and set out. Many times we were saved by The Hand Of God when the bald tyres lost their grip on the ice. We finally got to the top of the track to the caves and then off we went.

Walking through the snow was very enjoyable except for the constant pleading of Jack, "We have come this far. Let's go back. We reached the cave. Jack - "We've reached the cave. Let's go back."

Then into The Eyrie to survey West Eagles Nest. 10 metres are surveyed.

Rik (feeling cold and needing an excuse to pike out) "We'll have to go out. My carbide wont work." (He had conveniently left all his other lights at the car.) Jack (thinking quickly and covering his earlier cowardice) "Oh no. Let's go on."

He went out. Then Rik had the brilliant idea of going straight up the hill to the highway and walking down it to the car. "Only 2 miles on the map." It isn't. It's about 10.

We finally made it to the road just in time to see a rangers land-cruiser disappear into the distance. However a crash in the distance indicated he did not get far. He had stopped to look at the God-mobile parked at the turnoff to the campsite and had his land-cruiser demolished by a speeding tourist. After much traffic directing we returned to the Post Office.

Saturday night saw the insidious God Squad try their best to convert the heathenist SUGS members, but to no avail.

David, trusting in the Hand of God, did not drain his engine water and when we set off on Sunday it was found that the God-mobile had a leaky engine. We were halfway to Kiandra when the holes closed up (an Act of God) and all was well.

It was a very nice week-end and we did spend 1 hour underground.

Rik Tunney

---oOo---

Colong - Yarranderrie
June Long Weekend 10,11,12 June 1972.

Present: L. Muenzenrieder, A. Happ (TL's) M. Listing, R. Murray (M's), H. Smith, Boy next door (Noel) (P's), K. Chapman (V).

The weather was excellent, clear with no rain but we got bogged on the fire trail to Church Creek just near Colong Swamp. We spent 6 hours in Colong cave mainly to look beyond what was known as Woof's Cavern. Two Extensions of interest were found, one being below Woof's and has 3 main extensions which require further investigation, although they have been well trogged

The second lies a little further on (200') but also down some 30' from Woof's and appears to be a large wide chamber not trogged very much with large shawls, flowstones and huge formations in clear white calcite. Only a small portion of the chamber was observed but it was at least 200' long and averages about 30 - 50' wide.

Rubbish was everywhere near and around Colong main cave, especially in the cave, it stank like hell in Woof's Cavern and graffiti on the walls is on the increase.

The rest of the weekend was spent at Yarranderrie collecting rock samples from mullock heaps and in mines.

A cave was found which had developed in effervescent minerals and a mine containing the greatest number and largest spiders I have ever seen was entered briefly.

Volkswagen's were 'bombed'.

Ludwig Muenzenreider.

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