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General Meetings.

The next General meeting will be
Thursday, 5th of October, this Thursday.
There will be no General Meeting in November.

And there will be a General Meeting in December,
Thursday, 7th December.

N I B I C O N

Nibicon is fast approaching, it is only held every two years and this is the first time it has been held in Sydney. So this will give people interested a chance to attend a Convention with very little cost and inconvenience.

Besides being able to attend seminars ranging from Hydrology to Electronic communications to conservation, you meet cavers from all over Australia, people who could help you on interstate trips.

Field trips, designed to show interstate cavers the best of the N.S.W. caves, will be a highlight that no local, experienced or inexperienced, should miss. So, if you have not already filled out a convention form get one at the next meeting.

Not to be missed (at any cost ?) is that extravaganza of the convention THE CAVEMANS DINNER. This promises to yet another orgy (1st class) of drinking , eating ,and (?) .

-----***oooOooo***-----

I will be going to Lightning Ridge in January , after Nibicon , persons interested in doing a round trip up the coast, west to the Ridge and back via Tamworth—caving etc — should contact me.

Possibilities include —

Caving....

Macleay (Kempsey) dist. e.g. Carrai, Yessabah,
Kunderang. Texas Timor etc.

Opal fossicking, and general bludge touring.

Ed.

EDITORS IMPERIAL ORDER OF MERIT goes to J. Dunkles, Arthur Jenkins, Noelene, Ian Milligan, K.B., Merlin, Cinzano, the green tripewriter, and Merlin.

YARRANGOBILLY - 27/8/72 - 1/9/72

"Caving & Skiing"

Present: Graeme McGown (TL), Arthur Jenkins (M), Louise Holliday, Greg Barnwell, Grahame Cox, Chris Carolan (PM's), Penny Druce (V).

We arrived in Yagby village on Sunday afternoon to find the old Post Office already inhabited by a DMR fellow with family on school holidays. Thus we had to take second best, a small cottage "The Lookdown", on the Tantangara side of the river.

On Monday most of us went ski-ing at Kiandra where the male members were definately put to shame (on the slopes anyway) by Penny & Louise.

Tuesday dawned with "Hughie" doing his best and we all were thankful that we weren't camping. "Youth and enthusiasm" prevailed over "age and experience" and it was decided to go caving in the rain. At the East Deep Creek campsite it was decided that there was so much water around that the bottom entrance to Eagles Nest would probably be blocked.

Janus Cave was entered instead. The purpose being to go as far as the beginning of the main "pretties" chamber. Unfortunately just after the first ladder pitch the route through the boulder choke to the flow-stone climb was :-

a) ~~blocked by mud~~
or b) lost

(Strike out a) or b) according to your own Bias)

On Thursday the party visited the Eagles Nest System. Examination of the bottom entrance showed the stream to be flowing at about twice its normal rate after three days rain. We entered at the Eyrie and progressed as far as the final pitch before the lower level, i.e. where the horizontal stream passages start. At this point it was decided to retrace our steps and return through the Eyrie.

Thursday night proved to be the social highlight of the whole trip. Kiandra Pub shook to the sound of Chris on piano (one note didn't play and the rest were out of tune) and Greg on clarinet (squeaky reed and squashed ligature thanks to one of the heavy footed bar patrons).

Friday was spent ski-ing and we were all off home on Saturday.

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On a more serious note the stream, through East Deep Creek is still suffering from Department of Main Roads mud inspite of the silt traps that have been erected. These traps cannot hope to trap all the clay colloids - perhaps flocculants are the answer but their toxicity could have to be examined closely.

Graeme McGown.

-----oOo-----

The rule of the cave for "Silverfrost Cavern" is to stay on the most expendible looking strong flowstone; avoid treading on the delicate microgours, moonmilk (it crumbles) or mud (it is your business to start clean and stay that way), footwear should be clean socks, bare feet or perhaps sandals - no boots.

People should also stay off any wet flowstone. Mostly the track is on the left hand side, but think first!!

That evening we found that Dennis had his dates mixed up over the Barralong, so we had lots of coffee and philosophizing instead. All but self then went home.

Next morning I went for a solo walk up McKeowns Ck. At the main submergence 0.2 cusecs were disappearing at the bluff, and the cave in the bluff was no longer full of water (rolling stones test-. 200 yards on at the swampy patch the flow was up to 0.5 cusecs and it did not increase up to the mouth of the gorge where the flow was no more than 0.6 cusecs.

I followed the gully that continues the line of the main flats, it hardly ever runs by the look of it and is deeply alluviated. It does represent the course of the limestone belt because the west side is chert (below the limestone) while the east is slate (above the limestone-. There is no outcrop in or near the gully floor. I suspect the limestone has been virtually eliminated by stylolitic solution in this area; the rock at the gully may be like a gouge clay.

The spur is defaced by a fire trail, the lower slopes going down to the next gully are coated with alluvial gravel. The gully is a big one and it sinks opposite a group of three huge dolines which are across the flat from the actual creek. The water does not appear lower down the gully so it must go into the underground river. I think these sinkholes were known to Ian Williams in 1960. I got to thinking just how much further does the system extend. It is obvious that cave is present despite almost no outcrop being visible.

I followed McKeowns back down the gorge; a manoeuvre which requires some mountain goatery. It is a beautiful gorge and would warrant a canyoning trip although the waterfalls are few and low.

--- Henry Shannon,

POSTSCRIPT by John Dunkley

John Dunkley's party arrived to find the campsite deserted, so we adjourned to Frenchmans Cave where Ken Keck and Ed Boylan (MSS) were surveying. The cave was fully explored; its lower horizontal part is undoubtedly a very old fossil segment of the underground river. We also looked at False Frenchmans and the holes in the cliff between the two caves. The cliff holes seem to represent an ancient stream submergence the passages of which have been exposed as weathering caused retreat of the cliff line/

The limestone containing the 3 dolines referred to by Henry Shannon above have been known since Trickett's time at least. I have a theory that drainage from west of the dolines either goes into Wiburds Lake Cave, or had a bearing on the development of the latter. Following this theory in June 1972, Ted Anderson and I drove up the ridgetop fire trail west of the dolines and walked down the long creek leading to them. We did not reach them owing to lack of time but the creek was running about 0.1 cusecs. In August, Ted, Henry and myself located two totally unrecorded outcrops of limestone up to 5 miles north of Caves House. A full report on the area is in preparation.

To Build A Better Mousetrap
The Multi - Camera Tripod Mount

Are tripods in caves necessary? Yes, when multiple flash photographs are being taken.

In the years that I have been caving and have participated in photographic trips I have noticed that there is usually a general shortage of tripods and/or, an acute lack of tripod space available especially in confined spaces where naturally most of the good stuff is

One way to overcome both problems is to increase the capacity of the available tripods by the use of multi - camera tripod mounts. On the 'recent' Nullabor trip we found that we were always four tripods short. This shortage was reduced to three by the use of a double tripod mount built by Brian Rivett (CEGSA). This device was a simple 1" x 1/8" bar of aluminium with a strip of rubber glued on one side. Cameras were held on by modified wingnuts. The major disadvantage of this type of mount was that it was too light and flexible for most cameras - Single Lens Reflexes in particular.

Having a suitable bit of aluminium and the right machinery available I decided to go one better and make an elaborate triple header in the shape of a 'T' (see figure 1). Although I made my mount from 1/2" aluminium I feel sure that maximum rigidity would still be maintained if 3/8" or 1/4" material were used in place of the more expensive and heavier 1/2" aluminium. A lathe is needed to manufacture the camera thumbscrews which are fabricated from brass and nylon washers to reduce wear (figure 3). A milling machine is required to machine the aluminium to size - recess the camera mounting area so that table tennis bat rubber can be glued in. Underneath - all non-bearing surfaces were recessed to 1/8" wall thickness for lightness - see figure two.

Things to be taken into consideration before manufacturing such an item would be the head area of the tripod that it is to be used on. The dimensions given in the diagram are in relation to a Japanese Astron tripod. The head bearing area of the mount should not be recessed as quite often tripods of smaller head areas are used

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Lead-acid Charger from a 12 volt car supply.

To make a battery charger that will operate off a 12 volt car battery one only needs a charging key, a 15 ohm resistor (at least 7 watts power rating) a base to mount the key on and two leads with clips. There are two types of keys, the longer is usually the better and can be obtained from Gilbert Grey at 23 Clyde St, Rydalmere for under a dollar. The key is mounted in 2" from the side of the base and a 1"x1/2" brass strip is attached
cont'd opposite.

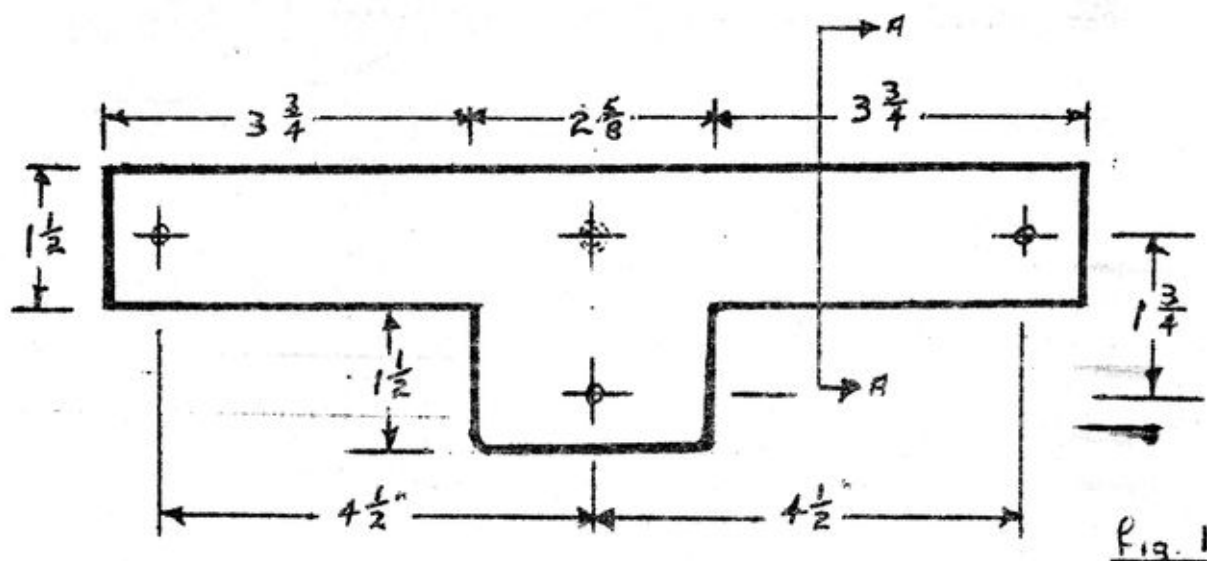


Fig. 1

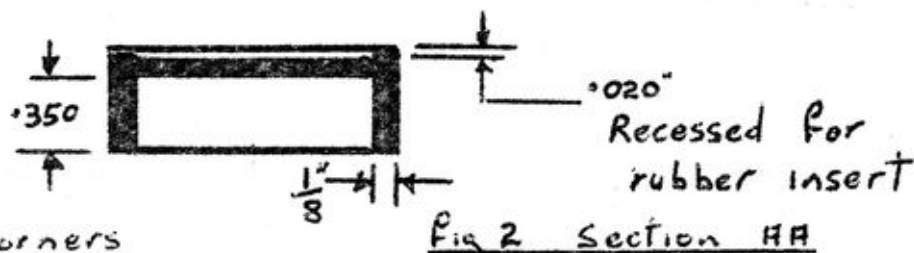


Fig 2 Section AA

All edges and corners
radiused

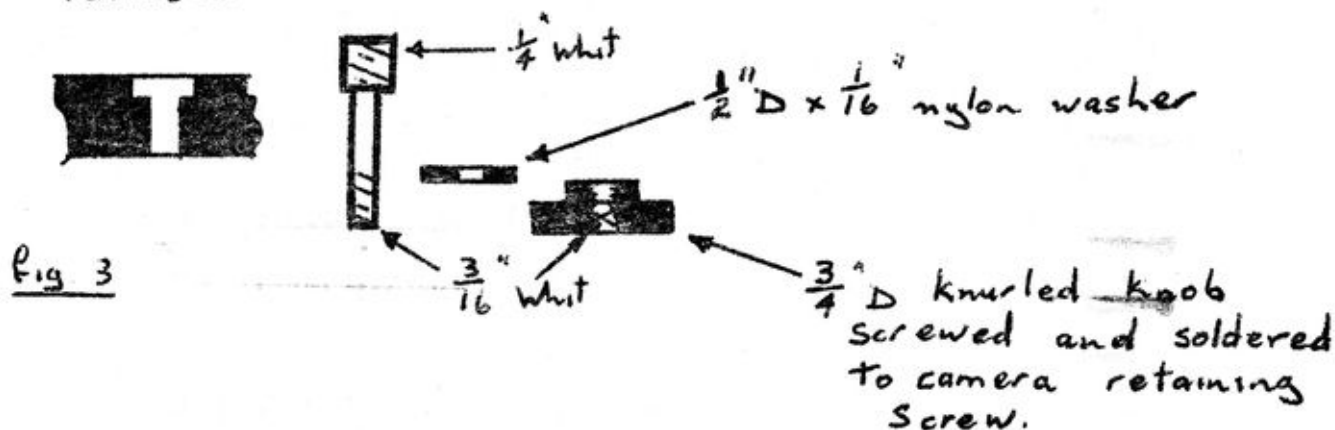


Fig 3

Battery Charger

to the side of the base, the 10 ohm resistor is connected to the key and one lead is taken from the other side of the 10 ohm resistor and the other lead is taken from the brass strip these two leads connect to the car battery. The battery charger may be used while the car is travelling to or from cave sites or may be used while the car is parked at cave sites after caving for several hours. Steven Firkin has built several chargers for people and an information can be obtained by ringing him 55 2155

Ed.

Some ♀ Views of CAVING

(or why it is unseemly to wear tattered overalls without jeans)

- The almost indescribable joys of seeing formations, underground animal life and rock strata, fault patterns, and arrangements without concrete stairs and rails, giggling "cutlunchies" and bored guides.
- The thrill of being supported only by rips in your disintegrating outer clothing.
- Much heartened by the confidential assertions by B (of B&G fame) who advised that ♀s start halfway up the caving social ladder. You only have to know a few crucial names and with the ♀ psychological (and aforesaid physiological) advantages you are accepted. Unfortunately not the case when the "friendly" Jordanian guide took such convincing that we belong to the rest of the party which was inside the guides' quarters and weren't just curious and disreputable "veggietourists".
- Genuinely wonder why more ♀s are not interested. Due to adverse publicity?(rats, bats, muddy damp dark holes) Can it be the Q's? The quantity of ethanol consumed (initially without apparent effect), the juicy and succulent language at the members' disposal is an experience to witness (speaking from a Christian viewpoint).
- Concerning an auxillary activity on one trip: I honestly admire the guts or stupidity of Chris and Greg who having been on skis only ten minutes, managed to come up the T - bar and were happily prepared to ski down without such basic techniques as snowplough turn.
- Strolling to Eagles Nest: "The faster I go, the behinder I get"
- Beautifully manicured hands, patiently and expensively cared for (etc, etc, the whole scene) permanently ruined after 10 feet of ladder.
- Being dangled from a VERY high roof by a revered trip leader as a murderous and quite unjustified punishment for an innocent little joke about a little ladder.
- Sleeping under a mobile, 16 stone, Bogong - covered form with the congenial company ratio 1 ♀ : 6 ♂ in a Kombi.
- The exotic greenish tint above ground scenery and light for the first few moments after emerging.

♀ = Louise Holliday.