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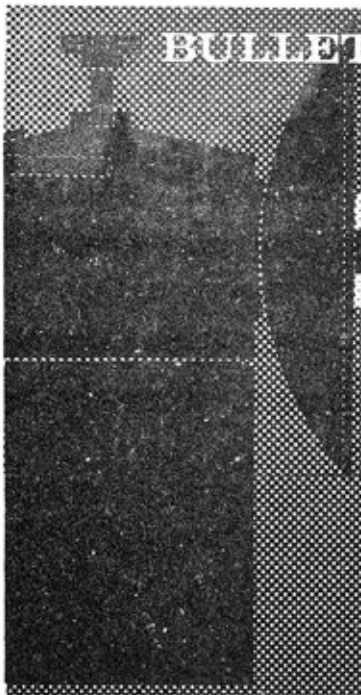

BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lumen in Tenebris

SUSS

SUSS

FOUNDED 1948

Box 35, The Union,
University of Sydney,
N.S.W. 2006.

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GENERAL MEETING

Would members please note that the March general meeting is on Thursday 8th of March which is the second Thursday of the month instead of the first. Also alternative days and dates for fu+ re meetings will be discussed at this meeting.

Freshers

* General Meeting

* Fresher's Trip 10,11 March

* Field Day

These events are important as they serve to inform, instruction and enlighten uninitiated Cavers, Experienced gained the freshers trip and field day will equipe freshers for most trips .

ANNIVERSARY ANNIVERSARY ANNIVERSARY

Guess what?

This year SUSS is 25 YEARS OLD.

Silver anniversary I believe.

SUSS THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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TRIP PROGRAMME

March

10-11 The FRESHERS' TRIP to Wee Jasper. An introduction to caving for the new prospectives and a chance to meet the personalities of the club. A MUST for all Freshers and older members as well. So come and join us in the picturesque country of the Wee Jasper district This trip will be led by Jim Seabrook Phone 74 6084

17-18 Jenolan Caves. Spend a pleasant week-end visiting the caving areas of this well known area. This trip will be led by Jim Seabrook Phone 746084

same trip! Jenolan Caves. Join Jim in a Stroll through Wiburds For further information contact Jim Seabrook at 746084

25 FIELD DAY. A MUST for anyone who wants to spend a successful year at caving. All the skills essential to caving will be shown to all who show up. So if you want to learn how to abseil, climb ladders, survey, prussik, jumar, tie knots, etc. **Also surveying techniques.** Further information at the general meeting or contact **Col Mathers 767707. Transport from Wahroonga station will be available by arrangement. BARBECUE etc. TO FOLLOW**

April

31-1 or 7-8 Jenolan Caves. Another of Jim's exciting and hard working trips to this popular area of the state. Contact Jim Seabrook for more information at 74 6084.

14-15 Bungonia. Visit the Bungonia Gorge and the surrounding caves but hurry. Limited numbers on this trip. For more information contact Brian Spilsbury at 6378204 or at his Glebe address.

20-25 (Easter) Kempsey. For information on this trip contact Col Mathers at 76 7707.

Cooleman. May be limited in numbers but should be the usual good time for all present. Trip to be led by Ludwig Muenzenreider Phone 428 2034.

Yarrangobilly or Travelling Trip around the various caving areas as demand requires. These are as yet only set tentatively. Contact Jim Seabrook 74 6084.

Jenolan - wot, no trip for once? Wait and see.

NIBICON HAS GONE

Trip Programme (cont'd)

May 5-6 Cliefden. A visit to Taplow Maze with the possibility of some photographic work. Certain to be a social trip to the banks of the idyllic Belubula River. The trip will be led by Deris Ward. 644 2497

12-13 Jenolan. Trip to be led by John Dunkley 759 9956
14-15

26-27 South Limestone. Come along and help to explore the southern limestone and perhaps find a cave in which no man has been. trip will be led by L. Muenzenreider Phone, 428 2034.

Trip led to Jenolan by Jim Seabrook 746084. This trip may be held on June 2-3.

June 9-11 (L.W.) JENOLAN trip tobe led by jim Seabrook and may take in wiburds and Mammoth. Awaiting a permit.

30-1 Southern Limestone. Further exploration and surveying in the area. To be led by Ludwig Muenzenreider 4282034

July

7-8 Jenolan. Trip to be led by Jim Seabrook 746084.

12-13-14 Jenolan. TENTATIVE DATES ONLY) AWAITING CONFIRMATION There will be a special conference on Tourist Cave, organized by the Australian Speleological Federation. Details later.

August-Sep.

30-1 Jenolan. Southern Limestone again Ludwig Muenzenrieder 428 2034

FURTHER NOTE ON FORTHCOMING TRIPS

1. Leaders of proposed trips are asked to let Ludwig Muenzenrieder know so that proper publicity can be obtained in the Newsletter. Ring 4282034. How about leading a trip to one of the not-so-ofetn visited areas, like Wyanbene, Big Hole, Timor or whatever? If you are not an authorised trip leaderm consider becoming one. Lobby (and bribe) any committee member.
2. Members are reminded of the necessity of informing the trip leader of your intention of attending a trip. This is especially so in tourist areas and you may have to be disappointed if you do not give the leader proper notice that you want to go on such a trip.
3. Members interested in a particular project at any area are welcome to attend trips run by other leaders if room is available (there is a maximum of 12 at Jenolan and 15 at Cliefden). In such cases, please ensure that a proper report is written for the records.
4. Other trips may be organized for which publicity is not possible due to short notice. Last minute advice is always available at General Meetings.

Cavette's Corner.

Girls - do you think of trog suits as not exactly figure flattering and crawling around caves in general as not a particularly feminine activity ? Ah, I pity you poor uninformed. As any experienced 'cavette' already knows, speleology has much to offer - from the female point of view.

Although I myself am by no means a qualified speleo, I do happen to be a fully qualified female (in fact I have been all my life) and as such, I would like to point out some of the lurks that all aspiring cavettes should have up their sleeves.

Firstly girls, remember ther's at least two guys to every girl on most trips, which are not bad odds really - cuts down on the competition Just one further point here - be sure to size up the available talent carefully before going underground - mistakes are easily made in the dark.

Secondly, we all know how guys always fall for the weak female routine, well male speleos are the biggest suckers of the lot, so use it to advantage whenever possible. Let me illustrate this with an example; acting the weak female comes in very handy when you couldn't be bothered to carry any gear such as ropes, ladders etc. Here is what I suggest you do. Struggle valiantly with the gear for 2-3 feet then sit down exhausted in the path of a selected male - the chauvinist types are best. N.B. Never wipe perspiration from fevered brow - doesn't go with the image. Look up pathetically at male objective and say (batting eyelashes and smiling sweetly where appropriate): "I suppose carrying this gear wouldn't tire you at all (bat). You're so very strong. (bat, bat). I get so tired carrying it (bat,sigh,bat)." By this time object is oozing with ego and you should be doing him a favour to let him carry your gear.

Some other reliable lurks that are always worth a try are being frightened by imaginary bats and other creepy-crawlies and seeking protection from the nearest attractive male (you can almost see his head swell). Another is being stuck in a tight spot with some male - can be cozy.

Now I know many girls are turned off caving by the unattractive trog suits. However a new range of very feminine, very chic trog suits, or trogettes, as Dior calls his designs, will shortly be arriving from Paris. They will be in a wide range of colours and designs to suit every figure. I myself have selected a very dashing ensemble in pink and blue candy stripes, slightly flared legs (of course) and a darlingly nautical collar, with a striped helmet to match. I have teamed this with chunky navy boots and a jaunty hip-slung belt.

I hope tese pointers will prove useful to the prospective cavette. I'm sure if my advice is followed carefully, you'll be a big hit with the stalactites.

Wendy Mackenzie.
girl caver

----oooooOooooo----

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON THE 8th MARCH IN THE USUAL PLACE

NIBICON HAS GONE . . .

NIBICON has come and gone, and SUSS is proud to have been co-host of the largest and most successful of the nine conferences of the Australian Speleological Federation. Highlight of the show was undoubtedly Speleosports, an innovation in this year's festivities, in which our teams came in 12th and second last. Still, we can't take credit for everything.

On the field trips the big news was undoubtedly the discovery of Twiddley-om-Pom in Mammoth Cave, by far the most significant find in this cave in the 13 years since North Tunnel was found. It revives hopes of attaining the Woolly Rhinosceros. Bruce Welch has written a report elsewhere in this issue of the Bulletin. Future issues will contain selected Jenolan field reports.

MEETING TIMES AND PLACES

SUSShas had recurrent problems in obtaining a suitable meeting place eber since the Geography Department moved off the main campus several years ago (before that we enjoyed their hospitality for 10 or 15 years). The present arrangement with the Union is not entirely satisfactory - the Union closes at 10pm in term (9 in vacation) and the date (first Thursday) clashes with meetings of UNSWSS, many of whose members come to our meetings from time to time. Shortly it willbe necessary to take a decision on whether to

a) begin meetings earlier, at say 6.30pm, so we can finish by 10 in comfort, and

b) meet on say the second Thursday, when perhaps we can also obtain a room less noisy than the Cullen Room, which overlooks Parramatta Road.

Members are asked to give this problem some careful thought and it will be raised for discussion at the next General Meeting.

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

The SUSS Committee of 7 is quite small for the tasks in hand, especially now that the Society has grown to its largest in 10 years. There has been talk of enlarging it, but it is often difficult to find in advance someone with the necessary interest and talent to take on a particular job before he is elected without notice. There has been a suggestion that the Committee should be able to co-opt up to 2 additional persons to its ranks when there is a need. This would require an amendment to the Constitution and would ideally need to take effect from the April Annual General Meeting. Please give some thought to this problem and perhaps bring it up for preliminary discussion at the next General Meeting, so that a suitable amendment can be drafted.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

This is SUSS's Anniversary year - it is quarter century old, the oldest speleological society on the mainland of Australia. It seems a shame to let slip the opportunity for suitable celebrations. Have you any ideas?

S.U.S.S. FIELD DAY

WHEN?

On 25th March, starting between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., and will continue for most of the day through until about 6 p.m., when we will be having a barbeque. So, even if you can't make it until after lunch, come anyway.

WHERE?

The field day will be held at Wahroonga Rocks in the southern end of Kuring-gai Chase (natural bushland, so please bring your best conservation manners). It's only about three-quarters of an hour from Sydney Uni by car.

HOW?

Private transport will be used where possible. Anyone without transport should ring Colin Mathers (46 2389) or Jim Seabrook (74 3084), or see them at the general meeting, 8/3/73.

A shuttle service will operate between Wahroonga Station and the Rocks with cars leaving Wahroonga Station at 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12 a.m.

WHY?

Caving is one of the safest sports in Australia. S.U.S.S. has never had a serious accident. In order to keep it this way, all prospective members should make sure they know the basic caving knots, can belay, abseil and climb ladders. Not all caves require these techniques, but a knowlege of them is useful.

What happens at a field day is that sundry SUSS ladders and ropes are strewn along the cliff-line and those inexperienced in ladder climbing, abseiling, prussiking, belaying and other techniques designed to make caving as safe as possible, can learn from those who know.

MORE WHY

Learn how to tie a knot in daylight, to abseil in daylight before you try it underground. Try out the various abseiling techniques at your leisure and find out which ones suit you best. Prussiking and jumaring (techniques for ascending a fixed rope) can also be practiced.

Several of our girl cavers will be along to sharpen up their climbing techniques too, so don't worry about it being too strenuous or dangerous.

Apart from the safety and familiarisation aspect, field days are good fun.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The field day will be followed by a barbeque at a mystery place, to be announced at the field day. These are usually very successful because when a group of speleos (especially SUSS members) get together anything is likely to happen (and usually does).

However the barbeque is definitely B.Y.O.G. and steaks, sausages etc. Remember it's on a Sunday, so prepare in advance.

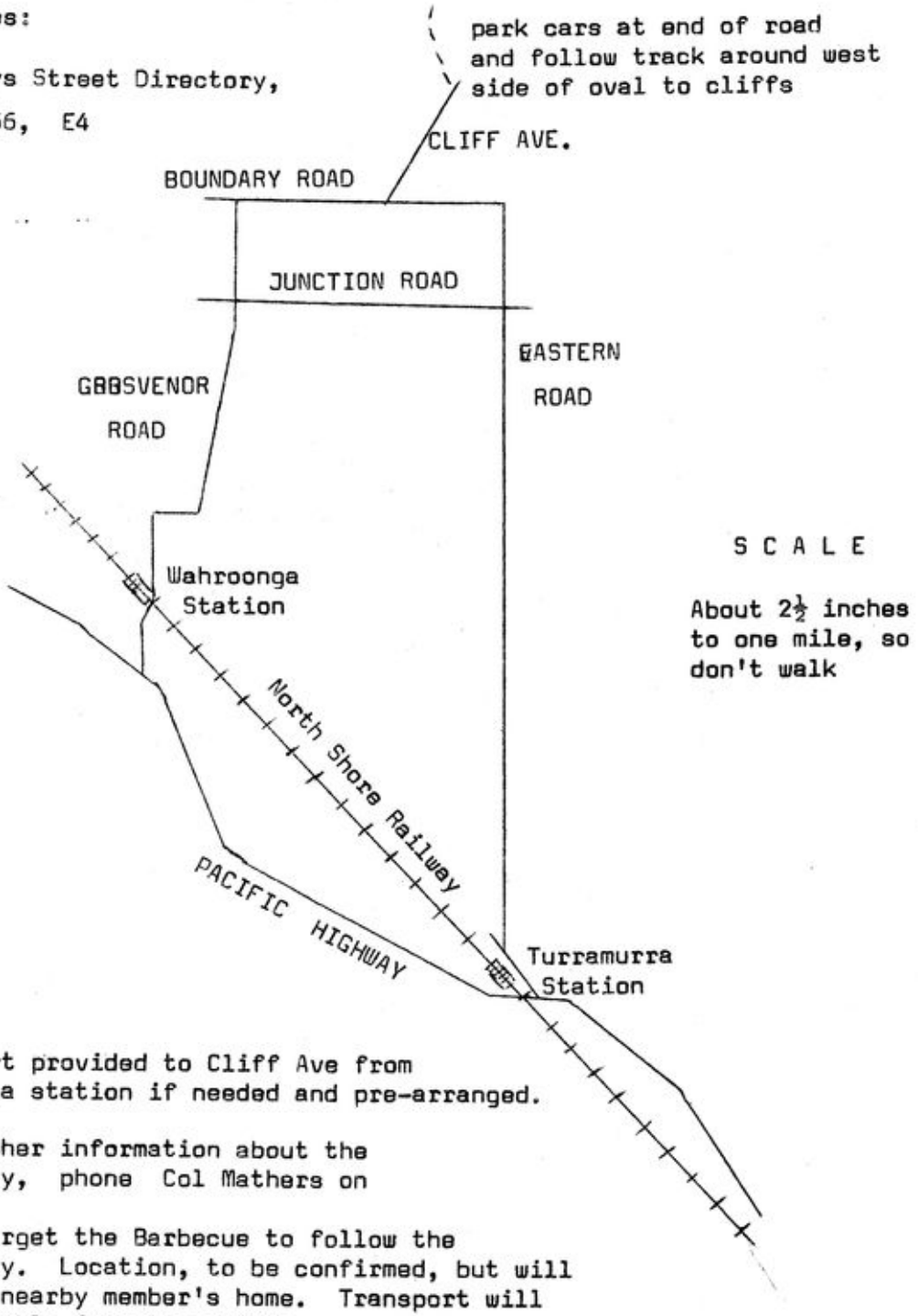
BE SURE NOT TO MISS THE

S.U.S.S. FIELD DAY & BARBEQUE 25th MARCH.

LOCATION MAP - FIELD DAY

References:

Gregorys Street Directory,
Map 66, E4



Transport provided to Cliff Ave from Wahroonga station if needed and pre-arranged.

For further information about the Field Day, phone Col Mathers on

Don't forget the Barbecue to follow the Field Day. Location, to be confirmed, but will be at a nearby member's home. Transport will be available from the cliffs.

FRESHER'S TRIP

There will be a fresher's trip on 10th-11th March. It will be at Wee Jasper Cave System, near the town of Wee Jasper. Wee Jasper has been the site of the fresher's trip for the last two years and was chosen because it provides the variety needed for your first taste of caving. This is probably the best time to become familiar with caves, the trip leaders and the equipment used in caving. Most other trips through the year (see inside cover of each SUSS "Bulletin" for this information) are run with specific purposes in mind. Some trips are for surface exploration (finding the holes), surveying and mapping, exploration, water tracing and some for just a relaxing weekend (with very little caving done). BUT THE FRESHER'S TRIP IS FOR FRESHER'S.

TRANSPORT

* no public transport to Wee Jasper

suggestions:

-your own vehicle

-hitch-hike

-come to the meeting 8th March and arrange for someone to take you. Petrol approx. $3-4.

GEAR

* food and water

* camping gear

* overalls or old clothes (for underground)

* jeans etc (for surface)

* helmet (if impossible -- a beanie)

* heavy-treaded footwear (for underground)

* and anything else you can't bear to live with out.

** 50c trip fee.

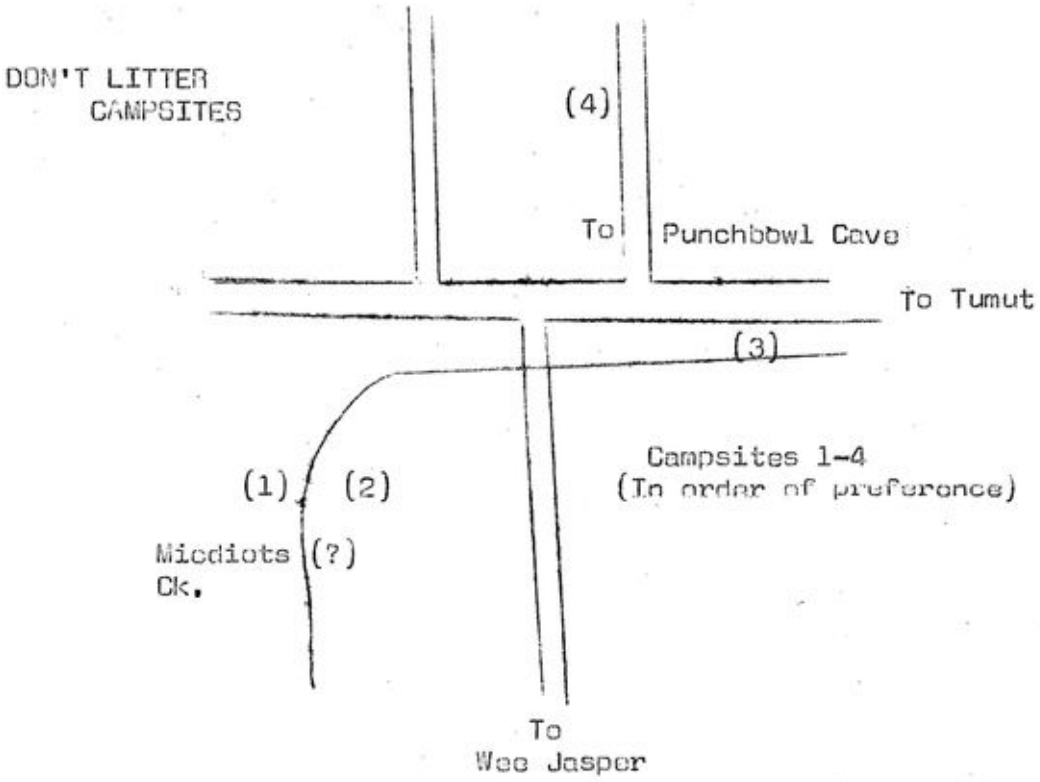
Your trip leader will be Jim Seabrook (see him if you can't attend the meeting and need transport or any further info on the fresher's trip).

On this trip freshers will be able to go through Dip and Punchbowl caves, and perhaps other smaller caves too. There is also a thermal cave there.

Due to the fact that this is the largest trip people-wise of the year, there should be a really good campfire. So bring your grog, guitars and any other hidden talents you might possess and a good time should be had by all.

CAMPSITE AND WEE JASPER LOCATION MAPS.

Don't worry too much about finding the campsites as there will probably be several people who know the campsites leaving early Friday night and will have set up camp before the majority arrive.



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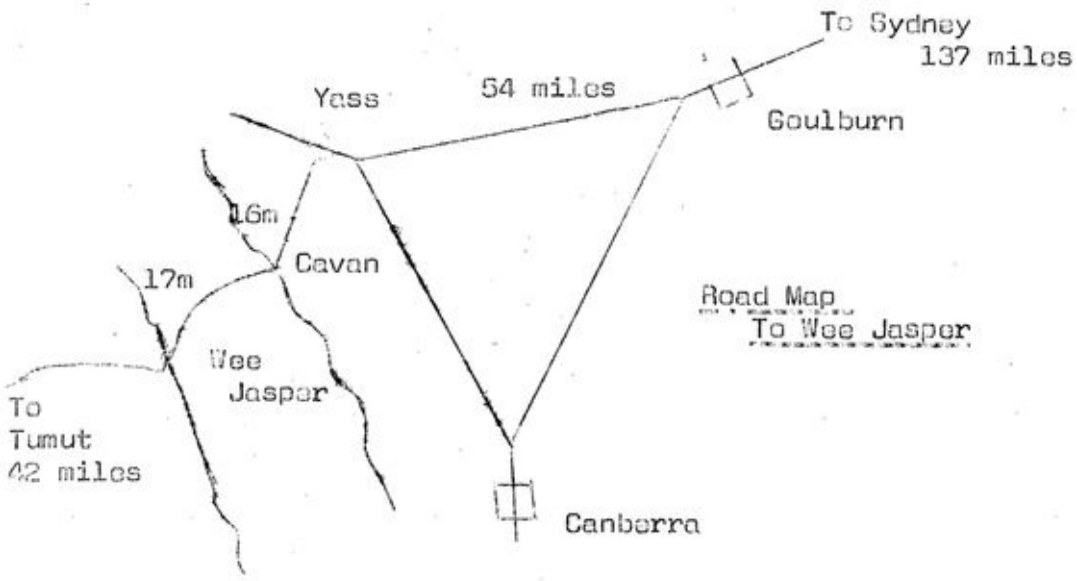


TO FRESHER CAVERS

Caving is a rewarding hobby to many different people, encompassing many different spheres of activity. The underground world contains some of the most breath-taking beauty in the world, and there is always the chance that your light and your eyes are the first to behold it. Caving as pure recreation is great fun (even if you don't get underground!). As a sport it can be as easy as an afternoon stroll or as challenging as mountain climbing (literally). If conservation is your bag, come and help us fight the mining companies. Or if you are of a scientific bent, then try your hand at speleochemistry, hydrology and geomorphology of caves, or cave biology and ecology. It's all there waiting for you, and there are many people willing to help you if you ask. Here, I only hope to answer some of the more obvious questions.

CLUB STRUCTURE.

First you should know a little of the club you have just joined. It was inaugurated in 1948, therefore this is its 25th anniversary. There are three grades of membership. As a prospective member (associate if you are not on campus), you have all the rights of membership except you may not vote or hold office. Both prospective and associate members may apply for full membership after they have completed 30 hours caving on at least three trips with the club. The application is considered by the committee and either accepted or rejected. The committee is made up of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Records Officer, Equipment Officer, and Safety Officer. The majority of these office holders are trip leaders also.

CAVING TRIPS.

In each edition of the "Bulletin" you will see a list of coming trips. including dates, venues, and the name and telephone number of the trip leader. Sometimes trips not listed in the "Bulletin" are notified at general meetings. If you decide that you want to go on a trip, ring or contact the trip leader personally (e.g. at general meetings) as far in advance as you can. Most caving areas require permits to visit them. These nominate the number of people that can go on that trip, so the earlier you book the better your chances of going. If the trip is already full, check back later in case someone has cancelled. The trip leader will also try to arrange transport for you if you tell him early enough.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED ON CAVING TRIPS.

Usually caving trips are of two or more days duration, so you will need food and sleeping gear. For going underground you will need at least one trustworthy light, two are preferred for safety. For your first couple of trips you can usually borrow a light from another member at a general meeting. Don't buy expensive lighting equipment until you are sure of your individual requirements. You will need a helmet (not motorbike), which you can borrow too, in case some fool kicks rocks on your head (rarely without warning), or if you bash your head on a low ceiling (common). If you are going to use lead acid or electric lighting you will need a helmet with a light bracket and a belt to hold the battery box. Other forms of lighting commonly used are carbide lamps and (shudder) hand-held torches. The rest of your gear is clothing. A pair of overalls is ideal but old jeans and a top will do. Shoes must be non-slip and studs or spikes are out. Walking or climbing are good, but sandshoes, sneakers etc are adequate. Don't forget a change of clothes for the surface. You will also need 50c for the trip fee. The club provides all ropes, ladders, survey equipment etc and the trip fee helps to defray the cost of replacement. By the way all trips are B.Y.O.G.

If you have any questions on caving at all, ask someone. If they don't know the answer, they'll probably find someone who does.

Georgina Shanks.

S.U.S.S. presents to you, in the interests of Australian Nonspeleology, the all new, all AUSTRALIAN speleological game :-

ROPES and LADDERS

or

CAN YOU MAKE IT TO THE GNC ?

produced exclusively for SUSS by Speleogames Ink.

For the uninitiated, GNC stands for the Great North Cavern, until recently the furthest extremity of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan. For information on the various obstacles named we recommend "The Exploration & Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave, Jenolan" by J.A. Dunkley & E.G. Anderson ($2.75 including postage). To those familiar with the cave, the manufacturers apologize for the "poetic licence" taken in putting the Mammoth Squeeze, the rockpile and the Forty Foot on the route to the GNC.

You may consider the many obstacles unrealistic but a chat with any of the GNC vetrans around (look for the ingrained mud) will convince you otherwise

CREDITS Ideas supplied initially by Wendy Crawford UQSS, Bev Riley SUSS, John Dunkley SUSS and Dave Perkins UNSWSS. Many more ideas were supplied by the many bods at Hampton on the wet weekend 10th,11th February from SUSS, UNSWSS and PSG. Execution of the idea (literally) was carried out by Jeanette Dunkley SUSS.

RECOMMENDED NUMBER OF PLAYERS: as for all hard caving trips, a minimum of 3, a maximum of 6. Play with your parents or children - it may help them to understand you better. And remember - the family that plays together stays together.

RULES

1. Each player must throw a six to start. If your six is a long time coming, don't worry - you can still make it.
2. When a six is thrown, the player gets an extra throw BUT the six must be counted out first and any instructions there carried out before continuing with the second throw.

ALL PERSONS MENTIONED IN THIS GAME ARE FICTITIOUS AND ANY LIKENESS TO ANY LIVING PERSON IS UNINTENTIONAL.

So turn over and start playing and watch out for more games from Speleog: ames Ink.

Speaking of Mammoth Books . . .

Have you bought your copy of

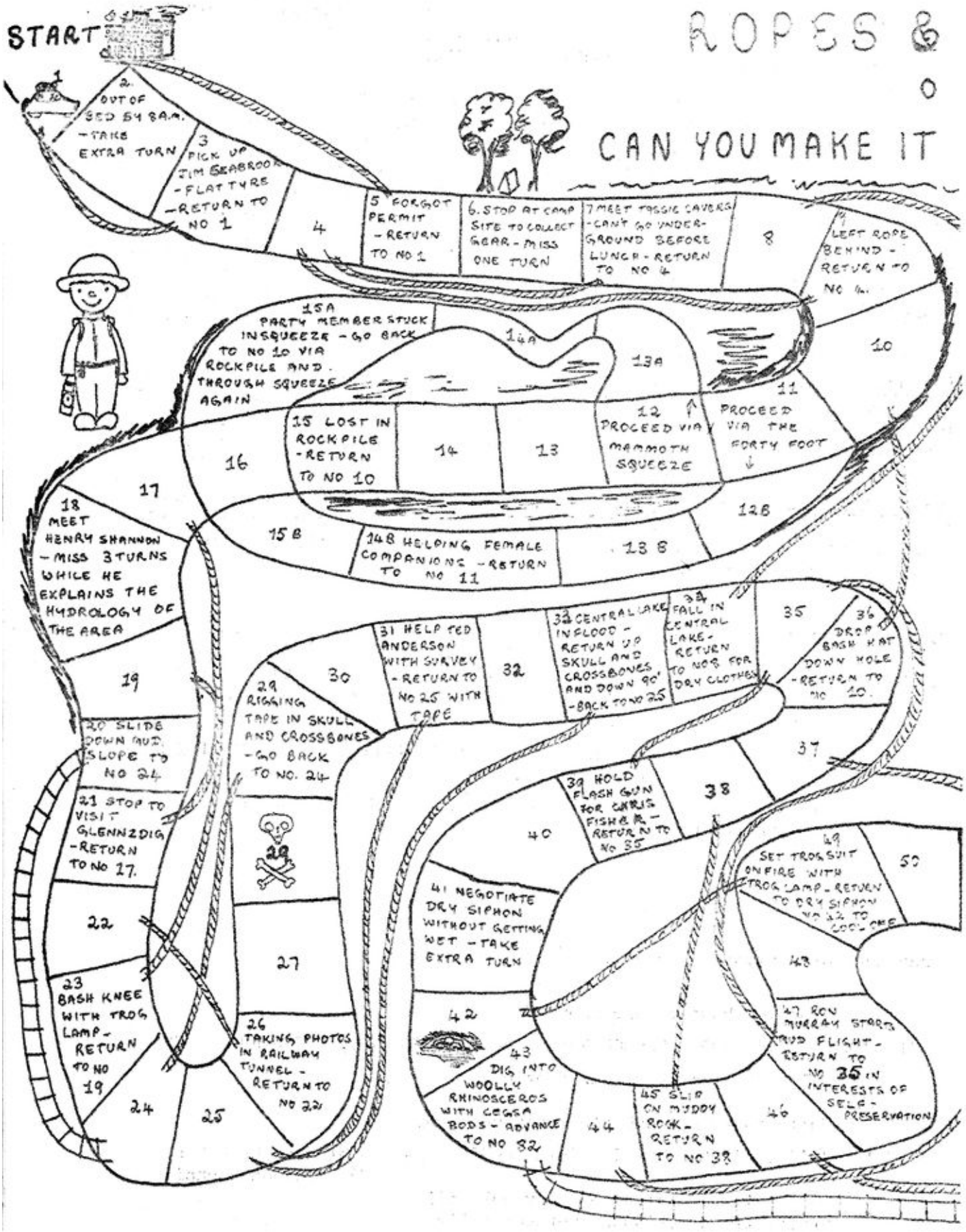
"THE EXPLORATION AND SPELEOGEOGRAPHY OF MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN" ??

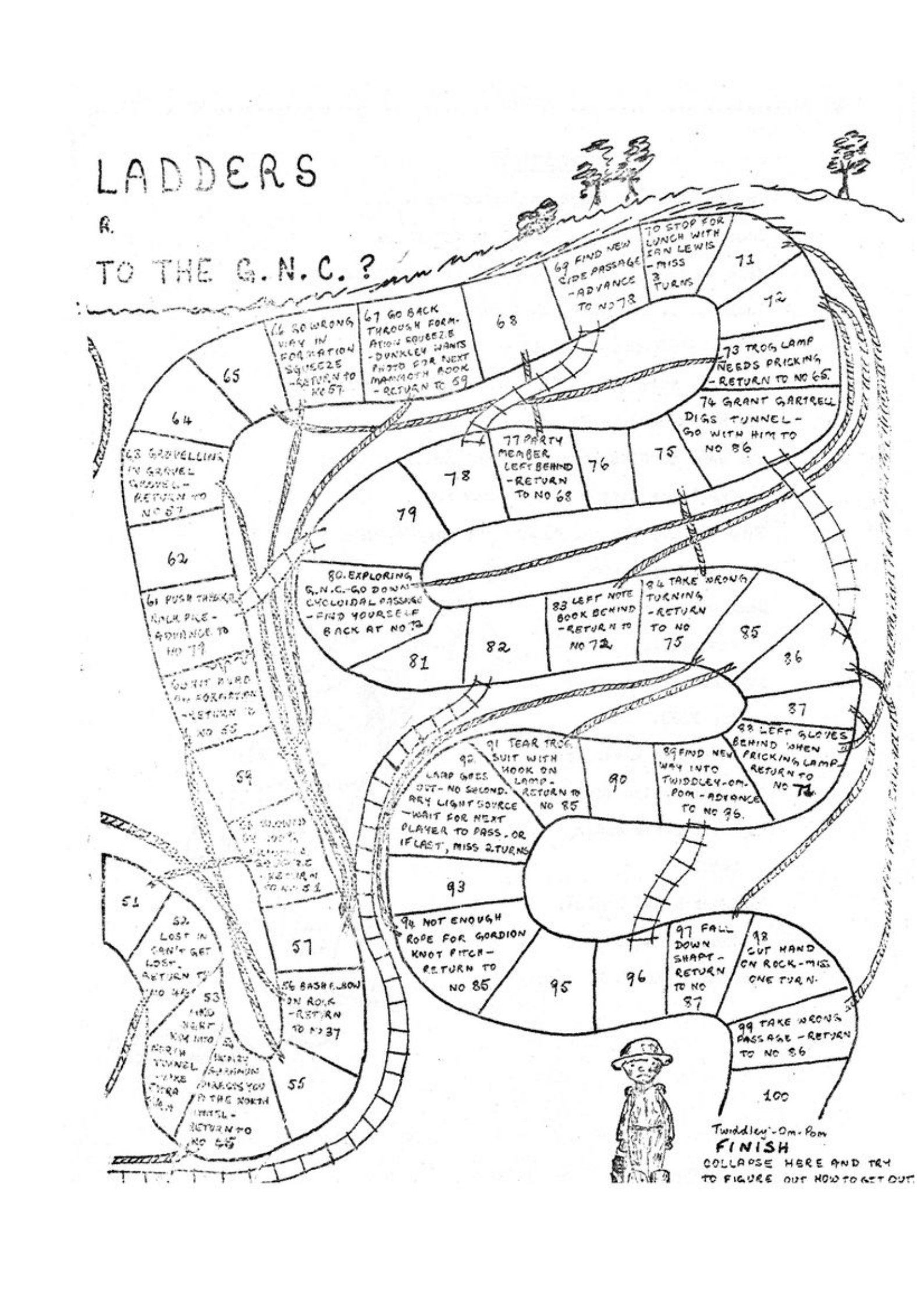
Only $2-50 at the next meeting.

While there you can also pick up a copy of

"AN INDEX TO CAVE MAPS IN NEW SOUTH WALES" - published by A.S.F. NSW Liaison Council

Only $1. Yes, one lousy dollar!!
Officially sanctioned, authentic list.


START
ROPES &
CAN YOU MAKE IT
1
2. OUT OF BED BY 8A.M. - TAKE EXTRA TURN
3 PICK UP JIM SEABROOK - FLAT TYRE - RETURN TO NO 1
4
5 FORGOT PERMIT - RETURN TO NO 1
6. STOP AT CAMP SITE TO COLLECT GEAR - MISS ONE TURN
7 MEET FOGGIC CAVERS - CAN'T GO UNDER-GROUND BEFORE LUNCH - RETURN TO NO 4
8
9 LEFT ROPE BEHIND - RETURN TO NO 4.
10
11 PROCEED VIA THE FORTY FOOT
12 PROCEED VIA MAMMOTH SQUEEZE
13
14
15 LOST IN ROCKPILE - RETURN TO NO 10
16
17
18 MEET HENRY SHANNON - MISS 3 TURNS WHILE HE EXPLAINS THE HYDROLOGY OF THE AREA
19
20 SLIDE DOWN MUD SLOPE TO NO 24
21 STOP TO VISIT GLENN ZDIG - RETURN TO NO 17.
22
23 BASH KNEE WITH FROG LAMP - RETURN TO NO 19
24
25
26 TAKING PHOTOS IN RAILWAY TUNNEL - RETURN TO NO 22
27
28
29 RIGGING TAPE IN SKULL AND CROSSBONES - GO BACK TO NO. 24
30
31 HELPED ANDERSON WITH SURVEY - RETURN TO NO 25 WITH TAPE
32
33 CENTRAL LAKE IN FLOOD - RETURN UP SKULL AND CROSSBONES AND DOWN 90' - BACK TO NO 25
34 FALL IN CENTRAL LAKE - RETURN TO NO 8 FOR DRY CLOTHES
35
36 DROP BASH HAT DOWN HOLE - RETURN TO NO 20.
37
38
39 HOLD FLASH GUN FOR CHRIS FISHER - RETURN TO NO 35
40
41 NEGOTIATE DRY SIPHON WITHOUT GETTING WET - TAKE EXTRA TURN
42
43 DIG INTO WOOLLY RHINOCEROS WITH CESSA RODS - ADVANCE TO NO 32
44
45 SLIP ON MUDDY ROCK - RETURN TO NO 38
46
47 RON MURRAY STARTS MUD FIGHT - RETURN TO NO 35 IN INTERESTS OF SELF-PRESERVATION
48
49 SET TROG SUIT ON FIRE WITH TROG LAMP - RETURN TO DRY SIPHON NO 42 TO COOL OFF
50
15A PARTY MEMBER STUCK IN SQUEEZE - GO BACK TO NO 10 VIA ROCKPILE AND THROUGH SQUEEZE AGAIN
14A
13A
12B
15B
14B HELPING FEMALE COMPANIONS - RETURN TO NO 11
13B


LADDERS
R.
TO THE G.N.C.?
65
64
63 GRAVELLING IN GRAVEL GRAVEL - RETURN TO NO 57
62
61 PUSH TROLLEY RACK PICK - ADVANCE TO NO 79
60 HIT HARD ROCK FORMATION - RETURN TO NO 59
59
58 SLOUGH OF DESPOND - RETURN TO NO 51
57
56 BASHFUL JOE ON ROCK - RETURN TO NO 37
55
54 WRONG PASSAGE TAKES YOU TO THE NORTH POLE - RETURN TO NO 59
53 HAND SLIPS AND YOU FALL INTO NORTH TUNNEL - TAKE EXTRA TURN
52 LOST IN CAVE CAN'T GET LOST - RETURN TO NO 44
51
66 GO WRONG WAY IN FORMATION SQUEEZE - RETURN TO NO 57
67 GO BACK THROUGH FORMATION SQUEEZE - DUNKLEY WANTS PHOTO FOR NEXT MAMMOTH BOOK - RETURN TO 59
68
69 FIND NEW SIDE PASSAGE - ADVANCE TO NO 78
70 STOP FOR LUNCH WITH IAN LEWIS - MISS 3 TURNS
71
72
73 TROG LAMP NEEDS PRICKING - RETURN TO NO 65
74 GRANT GARTRELL DIGS TUNNEL - GO WITH HIM TO NO 86
75
76
77 PARTY MEMBER LEFT BEHIND - RETURN TO NO 68
78
79
80. EXPLORING G.N.C. - GO DOWN CYCLOIDAL PASSAGE - FIND YOURSELF BACK AT NO 72
81
82
83 LEFT NOTE BOOK BEHIND - RETURN TO NO 72
84 TAKE WRONG TURNING - RETURN TO NO 75
85
86
87
88 LEFT GLOVES BEHIND WHEN PRICKING LAMP - RETURN TO NO 74
89 FIND NEW WAY INTO TWIDDLEY-OM-POM - ADVANCE TO NO 96.
90
91 TEAR TROG SUIT WITH HOOK ON LAMP - RETURN TO NO 85
92 LAMP GOES OUT - NO SECONDARY LIGHT SOURCE - WAIT FOR NEXT PLAYER TO PASS - OR IF LAST, MISS 2 TURNS
93
94 NOT ENOUGH ROPE FOR GORDION KNOT PITCH - RETURN TO NO 85
95
96
97 FALL DOWN SHAFT - RETURN TO NO 87
98 CUT HAND ON ROCK - MISS ONE TURN.
99 TAKE WRONG PASSAGE - RETURN TO NO 86
100
Twiddley-Om-Pom
FINISH
COLLAPSE HERE AND TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET OUT.

"SUPERSPELEO"

Faster than a Triumph on 5-mile hill.....
Less reliable than a V.W. Country buggy,
Able to leap deep chasms in several bounds.
Look!.....climbing that rope.....
It's a bludger.....it's a poser.....
YES! --- it's SUPERSPELEO --- a strange being
from a certain Teacher's College,
Who came to SUSS with power and ability
far below that of mortal caver.
SUPERSPELEO, who can change the morphology
of mighty caves,
Bend straws in his bare
hands.....
And who, disguised as
the BLOB,
Foul-mouthed caver from
a Uni Speleo Society,
Fights a never-ending
battle
For Search and Rescue,
Conservation,
And THE SPELEO WAY.

CAVING SAFETY

SECTION A: PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

What to buy

Karabiners: The minimum number of Krabs needed by the average caver is two. These should have a breaking strain of about 2,000Kg or more. A useful krab is the Stubai 985 and the other should be of the screw gate trapezoidal variety. These krabs will allow you to perform twisted-knot abseils and set up most bolays.

Slings and Waistloops: Slings are almost invariably made from tubular tape which are ideal for running and static bolays and abseil slings. The waistloop today is usually 2" terylene webbing, but it is recommended that at least one member of the party uses a waist-loop made from 25' of manilla rope for emergency use.

Gloves: are a necessity for belaying and a great comfort for ladder climbing and every member should have their own pair.

How to use it

Perhaps the best method of tying onto the rope for belaying is with a waistloop of 2" webbing and 25 feet of manilla rope which will spread the load in the event of a fall. This results in little chance of the wearer turning upside down. A screw-sleeved krab should be used to join the bolay rope to the waistloop via an overhand figure-of-eight knot.

SECTION B: ROPE MANAGEMENT

Belaying

Belaying is a safety measure taken during climbs etc, where the climber is tied onto a rope, which is being controlled in its movements by another person. The rope movement is controlled by a number of different techniques, all of which rely on friction as a brake. If a fall does occur the fall can be stopped within a few feet, so that the climber suffers no ill effects. Therefore for safety's sake all climbers should be tied onto a belay where there is the slightest danger involved.

Knots

The best knot for tying onto a waistline and krab, is the overhand figure-of-eight if tying directly onto the belay rope. In nylon, the bowline and two half hitches is the next best, but this must not be tied in kernmantel. The other knot that members should know are the tape knot for joining synthetic tape and the double fishermans knot for joining ropes. You should also be able to tie a Beaudrier Alpin with your tape sling.

CONCLUSION

1. Learn the knots as set out in the SUSS Handbook. This is not only important for safety, but also saves time if everyone can tie onto a rope, or set up a belay, quickly.
2. Wear a waistloop(2" webbing or ¾" manilla) or Beaudrier Alpin.
3. Tie onto the waistloop or Beaudrier Alpin with an overhand figure-of-eight knot, via a full weight screw sleeved karabiner.
4. Learn all methods of belaying for all situations.

I would like to point out that caving accidents are rare, but this is no reason to become complacent. Prevention is better than a full-scale rescue, so keep in mind the following when tying onto a rope, setting up a belay, preparing to abseil etc;

Accidents don't happen, they are caused by Unsafe Acts and by Unsafe Conditions.

*condensed by A. Jenkins from "Caving Safety and You", by M. Anderson in SUSS Bulletin, Vol 11, No. 1, May 1971.

KNOTS

There are four basic knots that every caver should be able to tie.

The three main requirements, in order of importance, for caving knots are; i) The knot must be safe i.e. once tied the knot must not fail under the conditions that will be used.

2) The knot must be easy to tie. This is to avoid any mistakes that can result in an incorrectly tied knot, as well as reducing the time spent tying "complicated knots".

3) The knot must be easily undone (only when required) This will prevent people spending "hours" tying and undoing "jammed knots"

Knots can be divided into three groups:

i) The knots that all cavers should be able to tie (even in the dark)

2) Useful knots that experienced cavers should know

3) Special knots that are used occassionally rescue).

In this article I will only deal, at any length with the basic knots.

Possibly the most important knot to know is the Bowline, this knot is easy to tie, is safe (as long as the tail is secured with a thumb knot or two half hitches) and does not jamm tight so that it cannot be undone.

It is used for tying a rope around a tree or a mans waist.

It should only be used at the end for rope.

There are many variants of the basic bowline, but they are all knots of the "sheet bend"family. The bowline is a sheet bend sideways. (see opposite page).

Caving uses for this knot include tying onto a belay rope and fixing a single rope (prussik) to an anchor.

Before I go any further maybe I shall mention some of the main knot types (with caving mention only)

I). SHEET BEND Used for joining two ropes (often of different diameters) (see opposite page)

There are 3 main other basic knots that I will discuss in this article.

I). TAPE KNOT

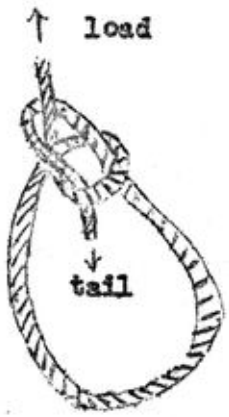
With the increasing use of tape for waist loops, slings etc the tape knot is about the second most usefull knot that a caver will use. It is the only common knot that can be safely used with tape

2) FISHERMANS KNOT

Used to join two ropes together or to form a sling out of a rope. It is generally used as a "double fishermans". this knot is very easy to tie, and is the safest way of joining two ropes, it can tighten and become hard to undo after heavy loadings.

3) THE DOUBLE FIGURE OF 8

This is a very strong rope knot for making a loop at either end of the rope, such a loop can be looped into a krab or a waist loop for a belay(rather than a bowline). It is faster to tie and has never been known to fail, it is harder to undo (this is unimportant if a number of people are wearing waist loops) To tie it double back a metre of rope and tie a fig 8 knot with the double rope.

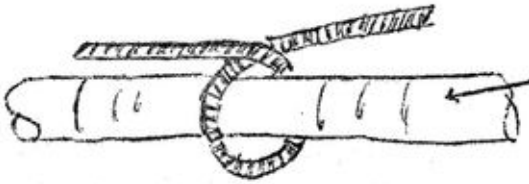


BOWLINE

SHEET BEND → Bowline Family
→ Harness Knots

OVER HAND or THUMB KNOT → Tape Knot
→ Double Overhand
→ Fisherman's Knot

Double Figure 8 ←
Figure 8 Bowline ←
FIGURE 8 KNOT



Spar or rope ←
HALF HITCH → Tarbuck
→ Prussik
→ Securing of Bowline

Does SUSS have a library ? ? ?

Yes, the society boasts a library of no mean proportion being roughly 3.5 cubic metres in volume and growing at a rate of 0.127 cubic metres per annum. It contains literature that has accumulated over a period of 24 years from all over the world including the Communist countries which demonstrates the internationality of speleology.

The library displays a variety of material ranging from caving as a science to caving as a sport or recreational activity. Numerous articles on methods and techniques are available along with other club newsletters, information and reports on caving areas, maps, books and foreign publications. The latter includes literature on caving from Romania, Hungary, Russia, Yugoslavia, Spain, Poland, Italy, Cuba, U.K., U.S.A., New Zealand, Germany, France and Austria.

Books, newsletters, miscellaneous publications and maps may be observed or borrowed (depending upon expedience) from the librarian whose name, if you can pronounce it, appears at the foot of this paper, the phone number and address are also given.

LIBRARIAN SUSS...

LUDWIG G MUENZENRIEDER.

Phone, 428.2034

Address,
20 Figtree St,
Lane Cove, 2066.

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Ludwig Muenzenrieder is also records officer and this entails looking after trip reports, copies of exploration work and maps in fact all relevent data or information should be presented to him for placing in the club's records.

This is important as too much information has been lost over the years. Cave entrances have not been able to be found after the person has left the club or forgotten to record them. Surveys have been redone simply because people did not know they were surveyed.

Ed.

SUMMARY REPORT ON ACTIVITIES ON THE SOUTHERN LIMESTONE AT JENOLAN.

The society has now begun a systematic study of the Southern limestone motivated by the survey of the Barellan Cave and by the belief that large systems as yet untapped exist in the area.

The surveying of known caves is proceeding, some have already been completed. A surface traverse by theodolite has also been begun and will be tied into the controls being established for work on the northern limestone. Some new caves have been located with the help of the guides at Jenolan and through the society's surface explorations over the past two years. This exploration has understandably been slow because of the interest in the Northern limestone resulting in limited manpower and time. Only in the last 18 months have trips been organised with specific attention to this area but even these have been numbered only three which is precious little to that actually required.

Further surface exploration need to be carried out over a good portion of the area, something like 80% to be correct. The potential is good but readily observable entrances are far and few between. The latter point illustrates the need for a more systematic approach to cave finding and requires as a beginning an accurate knowledge of the structure, geology and history of the area as well as surface searches based on the emu parade principle.

Topographic and drainage maps have now been produced and divided into search grids of known area. It is proposed over the next year to systematically examine each grid in detail taking into account the geology, structure and history of that grid and of the area as a whole. As the caves are mapped and described their origin, development and position with regard to the whole Southern limestone system will be discussed.

As a means of assuring that the progremme as indicated will get under way, the following trips have been planned for the Southern limestone for 1973. Those of you who are interested may thus choose which trips they would like to attend.

26-5-73 to 27-5-73 in UNI HOLIDAYS

30-6-73 to 1-7-73

30-8-73 to 1-9-73 in UNI HOLIDAYS

24-11-73 to 25-11-73

15-12-73 to 16-12-73 in UNI HOLIDAYS

If you think you can make one of these trips, then ring me at 428 2034.

L. G. Muenzenrieder.

——oooooOooooo——

p.s. Beware - Ludwig will trap you into helping survey the area. He may also trap you into being in on the discovery of the vast cave south of the Barellan Cave. Get in now, avoid the rush.

THE PRECIPITOUS BLUFF EXPEDITION

by Peter Radcliffe

(A.S.F. supported trip, organized by Southern Caving Society, Hobart)

The reason for this trip was to find some evidence that might help in the court case regarding mining leases at Precipitous Bluff. The Bluff, composed mostly of dolerite, rises abruptly only a few miles from the sea to a height of 4000ft, on the south coast of Tasmania. Large limestone outcrops around its base are the subject of an application for a prospecting licence by Mineral Holdings Ltd. An outline of the case was given in ASF NEWSLETTER No. 58 (December 1972). The lease was refused in the Mining Warden's Court, Devonport, but the company has appealed to the Supreme Court of Tasmania. The case is being vigorously pursued by, and was won on the evidence of conservationists. The main point of the case was the aesthetic value of the area, and in this regard any more evidence about the existence of caves that could be brought to light would help immenseley in the case.

Participants: leader Kevin Kiernan (SCS, TCC, BFL), John Dunkley (SUSS,SRC), Andrew Pavey (UNSWSS, SRC), Neil Montgomery (SSS?), Greg Middleton (SSS), Phil Glasby (SSS), Andrew Skinner (SCS, TCC), Lee Gleeson (SCS), John Cater (NZSS), Keith Dekkers (NZSS, WASG), Ros Bell (SCS?), Peter Radcliffe (UNSWSS, SUSS) and Chris Fisher (UNSWSS).

Sunday 14 January

We drove down from Yarrangobilly to Melbourne, parked the car and caught a 727 T-Jet to Hobart. Stayed at Brian Collin's (TCC) place overnight).

Monday 15 January

After some rush shopping for a week's supplies we made out way out to the Hobart Aero Club. Met John Dunkley who had flown through directly from Sydney that morning. Some members had left earlier in the week to walk in via the South Coast track, and some again flew in from Southport with gear. The flight in was by sea plane (amphibian) to New River Lagoon which lies beneath Precipitous Bluff. The weather was overcast with fair winds and some rain. Three flights were needed to get in all the people and gear. Camp was made near the shore of the Laggon.

Tuesday 16 January

A party of six explored PB1 (Damper Cave) which was discovered by TCC in a trip in December 1960. Progress was made for about ½ mile. Another party of six climbed the limestone contact above the cave to a height of about 850ft, beyond which there is mostly dolerite to the summit at 4000ft. One cave was located and some dolines checked out.

Wednesday 17 January

A party left early to explore the caves located yesterday and another party rowed off down the lagoon in search of tributary creeks. With considerable difficulty one was located and followed up for over 2 miles. It was thought to

be an outflow stream and we were very disappointed when it was found to apparently be just a normal creek with no evidence that it was flowing out of a cave. The party up on the mountain pushed the cave to a depth of about 90 metres (270ft). Two other caves , PB202 and PB203 were found.

Thursday 18 January

The camp again split into 2 parties. One walked to the top of P.B. from which a splendid view of some 50 miles in all directions was obtained. The weather was incredibly fine and quite warm. On the way 3 more caves were found, PB204, 205 and 206 were discovered,by the second party which was skirting the limestone ridge towards yesterday's turning back point on Limestone Creek. A large inflow cave, about 100 metres from PB 204-5-6 was numbered PB 207. All agreed that it was a most productive day. Returning from the summit of P.B., the first party located another cave also, PB 208. With the 3 found in 1960 (PB1, 2 & 3), there are now 11 caves known in the area, and really only part of it has been properly explored.

19-23 January

The remainder of the time was spent boating on New River Lagoon (the weather continued to be unbelievably fine - this is the dreaded South-West, you know), surveying PB1, 2, 3 & 201 and general familiarisation. One party found itself needing about 5 people just to row Lee to the end of the lagoon. The opportunity for a sun-bake on the coastal beach was not overlooked!! Later, a crew of wet-suited cavers pushed PB3 through a quarter mile or so of bloody cold water up to the neck, and also pushed another quarter mile beyond the previous known end of Damper Cave. Over half a mile is now known in the latter, which is a superb example of a stream cave.

Further prospects in the area are tremendous. This was the first speleo trip since December 1960; very few bushwalkers even reach the area, although in an incredible incident we fished one exhausted lone bushie out of the water on the first day and put him on the plane to Hobart. A search for a missing Victorian bushie was on in the South Coast track while we were there.

The survey maps of Precipitous Bluff area show an apparent doline with four streams flowing into it, about 8 miles NNW of the Bluff. A feature known as Vanishing Falls, off the north-east side of P.B., apparently has a large body of water plunging into it. Both features are known to the air-drop pilot of the South West, Jim England (who flew over on the 16th just to deliver Kiernan's boots and the morning papers from Hobart); he has flown low over both and reports definite caves. Both are in very inaccessible country, not far in distance from accessible tracks, but probably very hard to get to through the horizontal scrub and rain forest which inhabits the area. Further limestone deposits, almost totally unexplored, are known on the Cracroft River and other parts of the South West. There is enough to keep bushwalking speleos happy for quite a while.

On Monday 23rd, two flights to Southport and Hobart took out the sloths, while several returned over the 30mile South Coast track. John Dunkley & Greg Middleton flipped for the doubtful privilege of being interviewed by the A.B.C. and Greg won (or lost as you like). Must a limestone quarry disfigure this superb area. It is at least as significant a case as the Bungonia and Colong ones.

THE DISCOVERY OF TWIDDLEY-OM-POM, MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN

by Bruce R. Welch

The latest extension to Mammoth Cave is the stream passage in the rock-pile east of the Great North Cavern (GNC) andrunning parallel to it.

Rick Crowle mentioned looking down a hole in the rockpile to a dry stream passage some years earlier, so a party from the NIBICON field trips decided to have a look for it, on 4 January, 1973. This party consisted of A. Pavey (UNSWSS), Peter Radcliffe (UNSWSS, SUSS), Al Rogers (UNSWSS, Wendy Mackenzie (SUSS), Ian Lewis (CEGSA) and Derek Barthow (NZSS). After an extensive search in the rockpile Ian looked into a small hole which went down. All the waist tapes were tied together and Ian and Andrew descended the pitch (later named Gordian Knot Pitch after the mess of tapes).

Extensive sections of dry stream passage were found at the bottom. One passage went NE for about 12 metres to a gravel sump, another SW for about 5m., also to a gravel sump. A third passage continued approximately NW for in excess of 60m. up a dry stream bed. At one point some excavation of the floor was required to proceed onwards (named 'Mud-in-your-eye Squeeze'). At the end of this passage was flowing water which later proved to be Central River.

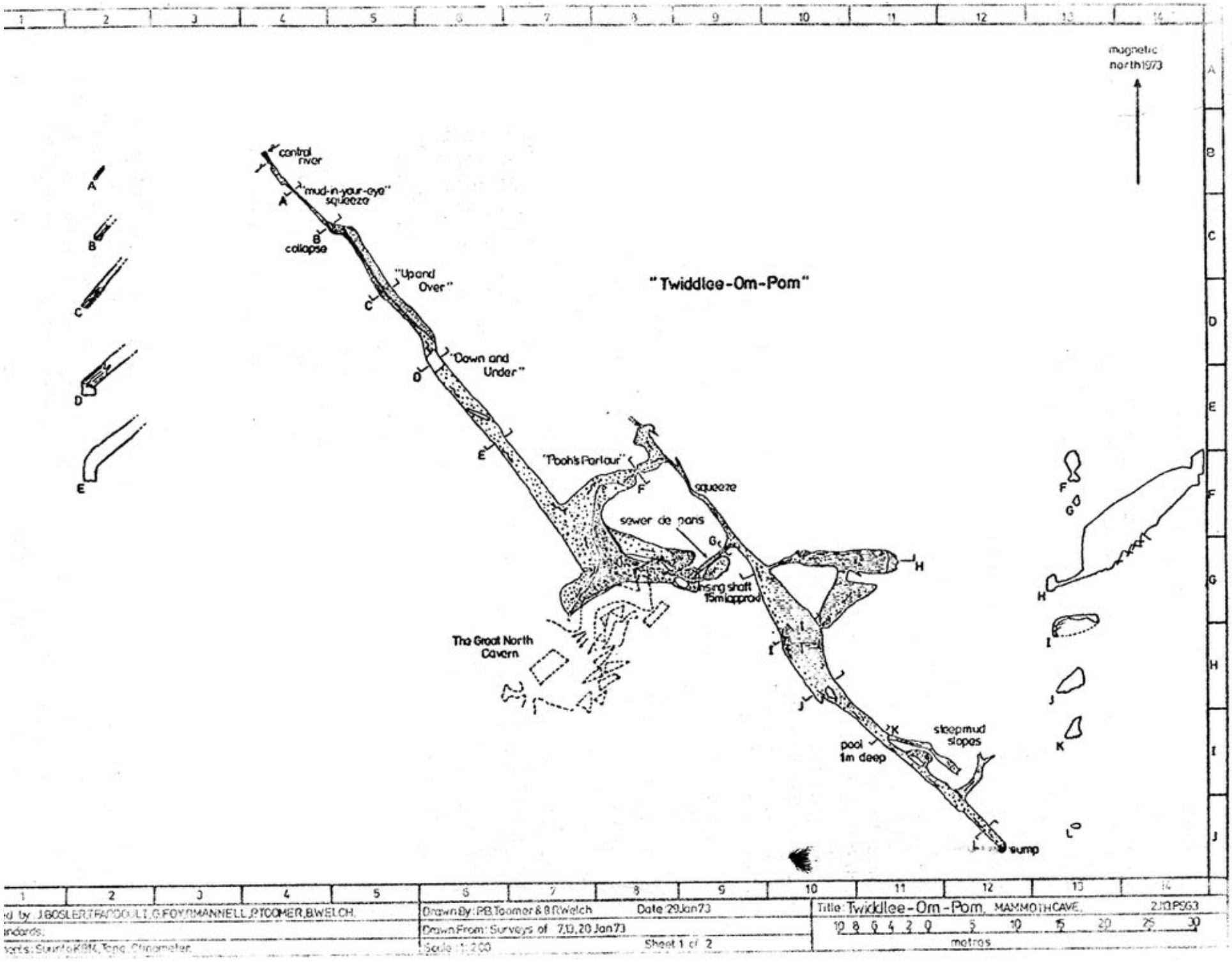
The water rises from a sump and disappears soon after down a minute floor hole in the west wall. Thus inspired the party returned to Hampton to tell NIBICON of the discovery, and a sketch map was produced.

The following weekend Henry Shannon (UCSS, SUSS) arrived on the scene and a trip was quickly organized to go this new section (now named Twiddley-om-pom after a humorous remark in a 1972 CEGSA Newsletter about NSW caves). Leaving on 7 January, the party comprised Henry Shannon, Bruce Welch (SUSS/PSG), Phil Toomer (SUSS/PSG) and Terry Fardouley (SUSS). Henry noted that Central Lake was very low. 60 feet of ladder and some surveying equipment was hauled into the GNC, and after spending a good hour looking for T-O-P, Phil finally found the slit that Ian had found a few days earlier.

While Henry and Bruce went NW to look at the stream, Phil and Terry looked at the other passages and surveyed them, then started on the main north-western passage. Once that was done, we moved out and back to Hampton.

So enthused were we that we decided to return the next weekend and finish the mapping of T-O-P, dig in the gravel filled sump in the north-eastern passage, and put fluorescein in the new river. Henry and Phil worked hard putting in charcoal bags at all places where water was known. - 2 in the Overflow, 1 upstream of the Bypass, 1 in the Central River, 1 in Central Lake, 1 in Ice Pick Lake, 1 in the botoom of Snakes Gut, 1 in Grinning Monster Lake, 1 in Lower River, 1 in the slit on the LHS on way to Slug Lake, and 2 in Slug Lake itself.

Henry made a trip to T-O-P with Ian Wood (UNSWSS) and Grahame Love (NZSS), on Friday 12 January, and put 1½lbs. fluorescein in the stream there at 7pm. On the following day, Bruce Welch, Phil Toomer, Ian Lewis and Greg Foy made their trip in with folding spade and surveying equipment . The fluoresein had already reached upstream of the Bypass at about 11.30 Saturday morning when the party



Drawn By: P.B.Toomer & B.R.Welch Date: 29 Jan 73

Drawn From: Surveys of 7,10,20 Jan 73

Scale 1:200 Sheet 1 of 2

Title: Twiddlee-Om-Pom, MAMMOTH CAVE. 2J10PS63

10 8 6 4 2 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 metres

arrived there. While Phil tied the T-O-P survey back to the alcove to the left (as you enter GNC from the North Tunnel, Ian & Bruce spent some time, exhausting hours digging in the gravel sump looked at on previous trips. By 6pm they were almost through and a few more minutes of feverish, incredible squeezing by Ian saw them into a new downstream extension of T-O-P, thereby doubling the lenghh of it. They staggered around in awe noting all side passages, then pushed out quickly. A look at Central Lake confirmed that the fluorescein had reached there. A sketch map was prepared back at Hampton by Ian and Bruce.

A trip consisting of Bruce Welch, John Besler, Greg Foy and R. Mannell went again to T-O-P on 20 January to survey the new passage. Once through the dig, John and Bruce investigated a very muddy tube to the right (aptly named 'Sewer de Paris') which led to the bottom of a rising shaft in excess of 15m high which probably connects with GNC through a rockpile.

All possible passages were pushed but to no avail, the main passage ended in a water filled squeeze. It is interesting to note that there was no brfeak in the western wall except for the 'Sewer de Paris', probably attributable to the dip of the strata.

The party surveyed back to the other side of the squeeze, pulled up the ladder which had been there since January7, and started back. The charcoal bags upstream of the Bypass, Central River and Central Lake were collected and later tested by Phil (all positive).

The inaccuracies of the existing survey of the rockpile in GNC were exposed by the survey of T-O-P, so on 10 February, Andrew Pavey, Dave Perkins (UNSWSS), Dav Riley (SUSS, Rick Daniels (MUSIG) and Chris Fisher (UNSWSS) went to GNC with the intention of surveyingthe cavern more thoroughly. However, they left pen and paper behind and had to abandon the surbey. They had a look at T-O-P in the wet, and in the process Andrew found about 15 m. of passage at a higher level in the main NW passage of T-O-P. On this trip Central Lake had over 3m. of water in it and Central River in T-O-P had overflowed the hole it was previously sinking in, and was flowing south a few metres into the dig. Another stream emerged a few metres north of the dig, providing an interesting place for a future dig. This dig is the only possible passage which could lead to the stream passage north of T-O-P and thus north of GNC.

The provisional map of Twiddley-or-pon is appended. The full-size original is held by SUSS and PSS. All the original trip reports for the discovery and exploration of this cavern are in the NIBICON Log Book for Jenolan, held by SUSS. They will be published in due course. The first published report of the exploit appears to have been in the CEGSA Newsletter for February-April 1973.

Postscript

Renewed interest in extending Mammoth Cave northwards into the Woolly Rhinoceros was apparent after this, the most substantial and significant discovery in Mammoth since the North Tunnel and Great North Cavern were found in 1960, by SUSS. A report on digging in Little Canyon Cave in search of the Woolly Rhinoceros, and the connection with Serpentine Cave, will be published in the next newsletter or the one after.