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**BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

*Lumen
in
Tenebris*

SUSS


FOUNDED 1948

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Next meeting this Thursday,
December 6 in the usual place.

See notice within

F O R T H C O M I N G A C T I V I T I E S

December 6 G E N E R A L M E E T I N G

Badham Room, Sydney University Old Union at 7pm.

A screed nominating John Dunkley for Honorary Life Membership of the Society will be read and voted on.

Following the meeting, those interested are invited to a slide talk on caving in Britain and Czechoslovakia by Ian Wood (UNSWSS), fresh from the International Congress of Speleology (see location below)

8 - 9 WOMBEGAN Denis Ward 9092400
Exploration and surveying. This trip is already fully booked - check with Denis at the meeting if you are not certain whether your name is in. Definitely no more room.

JENOLAN Ron Murray
Exploration in Mammoth Cave. Since ringing Ron in Carnarvon (W.A.) might be a little beyond your pocket, Ludwig has kindly offered to act as Sydney contact on 4282034.

8 - 9 CLIEFDEN Keith Oliver 6231768
General exploration and surveying.

sometime YARRANGOBILLY Andrew Pavey 6622283 work
We heard rumours of a two-week trip in mid to late December, this is an UNSWSS trip but space may well be available in this interesting area if you give ADP a tingle.

Dec. 26 - Jan. 10 CLIEFDEN Keith Oliver 6231768
Annual summer camp. Accommodation available in comfortable house with all mod cons including fridge and showers if you want to. Plenty to do, whatever you will.

December - January TASMANIA
There have been rumours of Tasmanian trips floating around but it's not clear who's going, other than Mr & Mrs Seabrook about whom word has leaked out.

N O T E : There will be no general meeting in January. The next General Meeting after the new year will be Thursday, February 7, 1974.

For possible additional trips during December - January period, try ringing Tony Austin at home on 6606276.

Slide talk by Ian Wood : Location is Meeting Room 1, Stage 3 of the Union Building, University of NSW (that branch of the Roundhouse closest to Anzac Parade)

Sincere congratulations on their forthcoming marriage to Jim Seabrook and Thea Mackintosh.

THE ALLUVIAL FAN IN THE DRY VALLEY
AT COOLEMANL. G. Muenzenrieder and
G. Francis.

At a point where the incised gully enters the main valley an alluvial fan has built up. The fan is approximately 40 metres in radius, and contains a substantial number of angular to sub-angular limestone and andesite boulders (up to 35 cm in length). The proportion of blocky material is about 60% (In no case was it possible to auger more than 50 cm into the fan). Since a somewhat skeletal rendzina has developed on the fan it seems that much of the finer material is of pedogenetic origin, and thus the original sedimentary deposits may have contained an even higher proportion of boulders. The centre of the fan is dissected by a channel about 1 metre wide, and ranging from at the top at one metre deep to a few cms at the bottom. At this extremity the channel turns downstream slightly, and gives way to a mound of boulders piled above the level of the fan's surface. The channel itself is unvegetated, though the fan has a partial cover of tussocky grasses (,ncluding *Poa* sp.) and some shrubs.

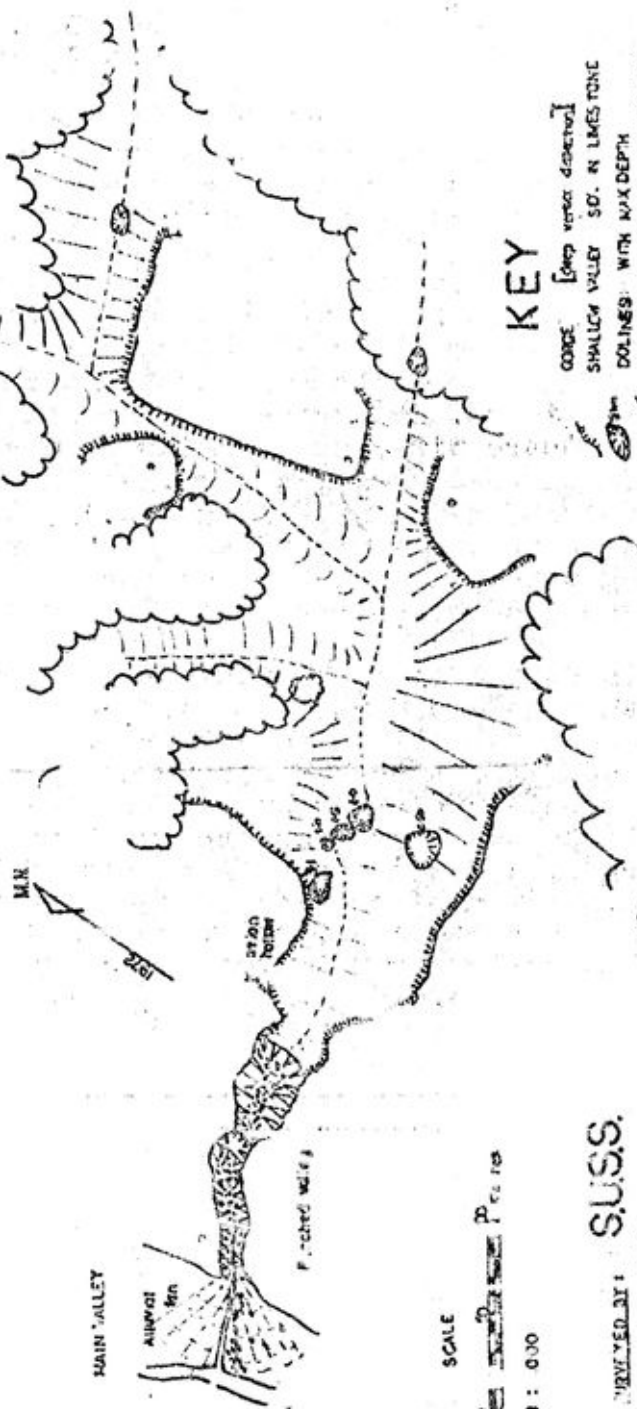
The evidence indicates that the fan has been built up and later dissected, with some boulders being scoured out. Unfortunately it is not possible to tell whether there has been more than one phase of cut and fill, since the augering is so limited. Studies carried out in semi-arid areas by Hack (1965) and Denny (1967) suggest that in these areas fans are built up during phases of higher discharges, and dissected in phases of lower discharges. Such a principle may also operate in the case under discussion. At present it appears that the gully does not carry discharge from the perched valley above, even under conditions of heavy and sustained precipitation. Thus the fan and its channel appear to be relict features.

see map of Cooleman area on page 98 overleaf

INCISED TRIBUTARY AND ASSOCIATED

KARST AREA

Incidence oblique 200 m. trees



KEY

CODE [deep versus shallow]
 SHALLOW VALLEY SO. IN LIMESTONE
 DOLINES WITH MAX DEPTH
 SHALLOW DRY VEGETATED STREAM BED
 LIMESTONE DUECTIA
 TERRACE LINE [GRASSY SUMMIT]
 SHALLOW GRASSY AREAS

SCALE

1:000

SUSSE

REVIEWED BY:

L.G. MUENZENRIEDER

G. MCCOWAN

C. FRANCIS

A. MANN

DRAWN BY:

L.G. MUENZENRIEDER

TASMANIAN TRIP TO EXPLORE AND PHOTOGRAPH THE
CREOSUS, KHUELA KHAN AND EXIT CAVES.

By Noel Fawlinson

The trip was initially scheduled for July but had to be changed to August. The trip over was very calm after all that I had heard about the Pass Strait, arriving in Devonport and disembarking by 10.30 am on the 10 th.

We were met by Andrew and his new bride of six days Roslyn, we loaded up and then purchased some food and headed for Mole Creek and Garry 'McLville's place at King Solomon Cave where we stopped for the duration of our stay in the Mole Creek area. After unpacking and some lunch we decided to go and get some shots of the aragonite in the Ghengis Khan cave. Did not fancy the rockpile in the cave but the aragonite formations were very beautiful. Only two hours were spent in the cave, after which we had some supper and then motored into Mole Creek for some liquid refreshments and to meet some of the other caverneers from Hobart who were due to join us for the weekend but found that they were not due until Friday night.

On the Friday, we ventured into Creosus cave, a very beautiful cave with the river running through its entire length. I had been in this cave last May but was not happy with the shots that I took then and so this cave was one of the major objects of the trip. We went right to the end of the cave and photographed our way back taking a lot of multi flash shots. This is a very pretty cave possibly a tourist cave of the future. The rimstone formations in this cave are one of the many attractions and a great deal of thought would have to be put into the development of the cave for tourism in order to avoid damage to them. The colour of the cave is as good as you will find anywhere the cave being all at one level to my knowledge. By the time we arrived back at the entrance again we had been in the cave for five hours. On both my trips into this cave I have been told about some unscrupulous person or persons who have been taking calcite formation out of the cave and selling it at shops in Launceston to the public. This I am now led to believe has been stopped through the efforts of members of the Northern Caverneering Club by approaching the shop keepers and informing them of the facts behind calcite and where it came from. They have their suspicions about who the culprits are and justified bounding would be appreciated if administered thoroughly.

After supper we went back into Mole Creek to pick up the people from Hobart and show them the way out to the caves.

On Saturday morning we took the gear up the hill to the entrance of KHUELA KHAN and rigged the cave for entry by our party. One has to negotiate the entrance either by abseil or by ladder

30 feet free climb and then the 60 foot pitch against the rock then down the mudslope about 90 feet up a bit of flowstone and then into the water traverse for about 300 feet with its many obstacles such as the trapeze drumdrop and stalictite shuffle and then into the water for the last 100 feet to the Cairn Hall and up into the Pleasure Domewhere there is the most fantastic section of flowstone that I have ever seen and probably will ever see. This we photographed to the fullest using everything we had. Boots are forbidden by mutual agreement. From here we worked our way up towards the part of the cave known as the Forrest which had to be rigged with a short ladder. Through the Forrest, past the pools called Sallies Folly where you have to climb along the wall and hang onto a few projections, a tricky section of the cave, onepast this there is a chimney up to the next part and along some passages then up a further chimney into XANADU. The first thing that meets you is the KHAN, a monstrous great stalagmite some 58 feet high and a deep red or brown in colour. On the opposite side of the cave The Begum which is gigantic at 80 feet in a cavern of two and a half acres. After admiring these two formations we ventured up into the Jade Room and from there into the Forbidden Cities, a part of the cave that is a speleos' dream having everything that one would expect to find in a well decorated cave. Parts of this area are known as Kings Road, the Silk Shop, the Opium Den and the Khan's Army. We returned to the surface after an eleven hour trip somewhat exhausted a condition soon alleviated by a hot bath, a good feed and bed.

On Sunday we washed all the gear, packed up and after lunch headed for Hobart via Caveside and had a brief look at the Wet and H neycomb caves before arriving in Hobart at 7.30 that evening.

After stocking up with the provisions that would be needed in Exit Cave on the Monday and packing our rucksacks mine weighing approximately 100 lbs, we then went over to Roy Skinner's place on Monday night for dinner.

We arrived at the Ida Bay area on Tuesday 14 August around lunch time, donned our packs and started walking towards the cave. Exit Cave at last after walking for about one and three quarters of an hour. We continued to camp one and had a rest. It was not until I recieved the June issue of Spiol that I found out that Exit Cave is not only the longest but also the biggest in Australia and I was now starting to see why. After coming through the wind tunnel we entered the first of the big caverns nearly 2000 feet in lenght, 100 to 120 feet in height and up to 200 feet wide in places. In this cavern there is a high traverse above the river from which the Ballroom, the Colonade and the Hammer passage branch off. The D'Entrecasteaux river and another stream join in this part of the cavern. Next came the Talus Heap, a large rock pile through we had to make our way with the packs and took about 45 minutes. We emerged not far

from Mini Martin once the deepest sections of cave in Australia at 720 feet deep. From here on to camp two which would be our home for the next few days.

When we had rested and eaten we entered a part of the cave known as Edie's Treasure named after Edith Smith who was a foundation member of the Tasmanian Canerneering Club and who died in 1967. This passage has a good variety of gypsum crystals in it of which some excellent photos were taken. When we came out of this section we went into the Western passage and into a higher level of the cave to the Devil's Stovepipe which is another aven just like Mini Martin but this ones height is unknown. Apparently there are 47 of these in the cave and some bigger than the ones that I had seen.

On the Wednesday we headed for Conference Concourse found during the 1971 Conference. From here we entered the pressure tunnel and on to the area known as the Last Straw which is not far from the abandoned quarry. The skeleton of a possum indicated that we were not far from the surface. From this point we photographed our way back to the Grand Fissure stopping to look at Bill's Aven along the way. The flowstone at the bottom of this aven looked like big blocks of round cheese piled on top of each other in terraces with the decorations being covered by a thick paste. This is a mystery that I would like explained if possible. The Grand Fissure is enormous and well decorated with calcite and gypsum. During a recess in this section our trip was nearly cut short by an incident that should never have happened, our waste carbide tin exploded when placed too close to a naked light. We finally arrived back at the camp site buggered.

On Thursday we headed back to camp one where we would spend the night and leave the cave on Friday. One of the chief attractions near camp one are the glowworms that were around D'Entrecasteaux River. The Colonnade, a high section of the Big Cavern was visited and is the smallest of three passages that branch off the big cavern. The floor is covered with moonmilk which is very common in the first half mile of Exit cave. Next we visited the Ballroom which would have the prettiest formations in the cave and has the most unusual decoration known as The Pendulum, an enlarged straw stalactite that has a large lump of moonmilk on the end of it. This decoration has become the unofficial symbol of Exit Cave. Finally we climbed into the Hammer Passage which lies opposite the Ballroom and The Colonnade. This is a long passage that extends for over a mile with considerable moonmilk on the floor especially in the first parts and is most impressive and mysterious when seen for the first time.

On Friday 17th we set off from camp one and crossed the D'Entrecasteaux River noting that it was higher than when we had crossed it before. By the time we reach the entrance we found that the water had risen by about two feet since Tuesday and also it was raining outside. We then faced the long trek back across the

bog, this time no ice but rain and mist. When we had stowed our gear we headed for Hastings Cave and Roy Skinner's to have a hot shower.

On Saturday we prepared for our trip to the Junee Florentine area at Maydena. We arrived there in the afternoon and had a look at the Junee Rising draining the higher level caves in the area. The water comes from Khasa Dum and other caves that are up in the hill. This water I was told carries approximately 1 000,000 tons of limestone a year and has the biggest discharge for any cave in Australia.

After arriving at the parking area we trogged up and set off for the entrance to Khasa Dum about a mile distant through the forest. This was one of the caves that I had heard a lot about being the deepest in Australia at 1054 feet and we were going to the top of the Ninty Footer. We followed Andrew in and got wet in the icy cold water as we were only about 200 feet below the snow line. Next up a short ladder pitch of 12 feet, along a passage down a ladder pitch and then along another short passage that dipped steeply requiring a rope into a hole about twenty feet below and then into the Flattener about forty feet long and about fifty feet away was the top of the Ninty Footer where you could hear the water roaring down into the deeper parts of the cave. We then started back as we had no intention of venturing any further. A brief excursion into the Serpentine extension of the cave was made while waiting for Andrew and the rest of the party that came in after to look at the Ninty Footer. After coming out of Khasa Dum we went into a very scungy hole J#40 I think the number was. We then went back to our cars.

The caves in the Junee-Florentine area are very wet and muddy. The Cauldron Pot has a very fast flow of water going down a waterfall into it as does Khasa Dum and this water comes out of the Junee Cave. The caves are nearly all vertical and one needs to be an expert in S.R.T. which yours truly is not. The limestone in the area has been tossed nearly vertical and the area lies just below the snowline thus having all the qualifications for deep caves.

This was the end of my wild caving trip to Tasmania and what a trip. Into the deepest, the longest and the biggest and to top it all off, the most beautiful cave that I will probably ever enter, the Khubla Khan. One thing that I noticed on the trip was that the cavers who had just started caving have very little respect of the caves they enter as they go into them with hand held torches, a thing that all trip leaders should frown upon. In conclusion, I would like to give my thanks to the Skinners', Andrew and Rosalyn who arranged our stay in Tasmania and accompanied myself and Catherine when she was in a cave. Special thanks to Andrew for his time and patients and for giving up time with his new bride with me in the Exit Cave, the poorest of poorest substitutes.

END