

TRIP LIST

AUGUST

- BUNGONIA Rik Tunney 042-287410 or 042-299015 3-4 This trip will be a good opportunity to visit some of the smaller but very interresting caves.
- Opening of Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society 10 Museum, 2pm by Mr Lewis and Mr Coates.
- 10-11 JENOL. N John Dunkley 062-810664 Attend the opening of the museum and then go caving.
- 24-25 JENOLAN Rik Tunney Mammoth cave with some general exploration near Cant Get Lost.

SEPTEMBER

- GENERAL MEETING
- JENOLAN Glenda Mackay 5701324 or Thea Seabrook 7-8 womens lib trip this one but male chauvinists are welcome. Wyburds Lake Cave will be visited.
- SUSS Dinner. See page 54 for details. 13
- 21-22 SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE WEEKEND We still don't know where it is.
- 28-29 JENOLAN Rik Tunney. More work in Mammoth.

OCTOBER

- GENERAL MEETING
- JENOLAN Long Weekend Brendon Hyde 4983520 5-7 Brendon will be using a Scaling Pale in Chevallier Cave if he can find it in time.

NOVEMBER

GENERAL MEETING

DECEMBER

- SYDNEY NORTHERN BEACHES Visit the sea caves north of Sydney and then a barbeque at Deep Creek, Narrabeen.
- 27-29 ASF TENTH CONFERENCE See page 57-58 for details.

Whoever has the Dräger Gas Detector from the JULY 13-14 Bungonia trip contact Rik Tunney immediately.

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Chris Patterson 108 Hayberry St. Grows Nest Graeme Smith 37 Vista St. Caringhbah. Peter Campbell 5 Marion St Strathfield 2140 768855 John Foulds (GEGS.) c/o Poultry Research University Farms Camden.

"A Holiday in the Country - Caving on the QLD Border." 25MAY74 - 01JUN74

T.L. A.Watt. L.Holiday (M), M.Mandel, R.King, P.Campbell, P.Winglee, A.Wilton, R.Fleming (P), J.Rogers, J.Jeffery (V).

Our base for the week was my father's property, "Bondonga" about 45Km west of Tenterfield. Included in the package deal was a most succulent sheep, a Mazda ute and a guided tour of the property. Most people arrived on the Saturday, Malcom and Peter Campbell by push-bike from Tenterfield. The high points of the day were the hot shower and the roast dinner.

In the wee small hours of Sunday morning unbeknownst to us, Peter Winglee and Alan arrived. They had apparently considered circumnavijating the globe and approaching from the west, but had turned back after they had gone 50Km east of Tenterfield.

On Sunday we crossed the border into Joh's land. Didn't see any bananas.Randall saw lots of non-rabbits, but he was thick as a brick. We visited Riverton Cave on the Colvin's property. Lots of lovely batsh was the main attraction. About 100 tonnes of the stuff had been removed (by pack horse) long ago. There was some interresting crystal formation, and an odd, point-like (fungal:) growth on one section of the walls. Results of analysis are not yet available. This cave is on a ridge of limestone which would be $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ Km long by 400m wide. Surface trogging is made difficult by the thick scrub. Surface exploration should at least yield pot-holes. One dig was attempted, but was abandoned as it was getting towards shower time.

On Monday we walked up Limestone Creek to the north of the Bruxner Highway, about 30Km west of Tenterfield. Spent a pleasant afternoon abseiling on the non-limestone and got home just in time for tea.

Louise, Jenny ans Jeff arrived that evening by V! express, so our numbers were complete. Louise allowed her true self to show through by accepting the offer of a bed (with sheets!) at my parents' place.

Tuesday morning saw us setting off bright and tennish to the Viator caves on Pike Creek. We went shopping in the dam-site town - which a year ago was a grassy slope. Various caves were visited, including Main Viator, Russenden and the Glen Lyon River cave. This last is a combination of older upper passage and active lower passages. Various other small caves and potholes were visited by some. Trying to get into U.Q.S.S. digs was a little hazardous as getting out seemed harder than getting in. Malcom made friends with one of the local bats, but nearly got his thumb bitten for getting fresh.

On Wednesday we packed our camping equipment and embarked on an overnight trip to the famous Ashford Caves. The cave is a quite extensive walkthrough cave - now. Earlier in the century entrance to the only extant
passages was to crawl in the top. This entrance is now about 6m above the
floor, due to the removal of some 700 tonnes of bat manure. At one time a
shaft was sunk a further 5m into the floor. However mining of batsh has not
been profitable for some time, so anyone wanting extensions to the cave will
have to dig them themselves. Prospects are not very obvious.

After a somewhat batshy lunch outside we traversed the limestone belt in an easterly direction. Rewards were at first fairly poor. Where the limestone ended one small pothole was found. The resident rabbit was not pleased at being dug out, and was probably having quite a laugh to itself when alan needed tape to haul himself out. Across the fence and up the next rise proved better hunting. The cows were quite speechless in their amazement

Continued from page 49

at the sight of 10 people tearing at rocks as though possessed. The apparently more interresting discoveries were not entered, as without crowbars and instruments of destruction entry proved impossible.

We camped for the night above the Macintyre River Falls. A batch removing swim was compulsory. The cold was such that it damn near removed a few other more essential things as well. Next morning was spent in and around the most pleasant gorge. An absell was set up which ended in a pool below the falls. Exit entailed a 50m swim across the pool.

After lunch we interviewed the land-owner to the east of the cave, whose land we had been trespassing on the day before. From him we gained information on the cave, the limestone outcrop (of which there is some 600 acres (whatever that is in S.I.)) and some interesting water movements. He also told us of some sink holes to the west of the main cave, behind the next hill of limestone in that direction. After a brief and un profitable surface trog in the area of his house we went in search of these dolines. They were there in great profusion, some ten or a dozen in a small area. However all holes entered were small, though not without interest. A small watercourse was noted in the earth floor of one hole entered. On the limestone knob itself a number of pots were also entered. People who enjoy putting numbers on holes (even if they dont go anywhere) would have extasies of delight. The impression gained was that we were the first to enter most of these holes (no wonder).

In gathering dusk we headed back to the bustling metropolis of Ashford. Peter Jinglee's passengers were beginning to wish they hadn't taught him to swing the tail of his 1100. In Ashford, Louise, apparently not approving of the only publit a fire in the street and made a nice cup of cocoa. It gave the locals quite a thrill.

Meariness was setting in by this time. Even Alan was needing help out of some of the grottier potholes. Louise, Jenny and Jeff decided Friday morning that they were heading back to Sydney, and Randall, who looked set to spend the day in his sleeping bag with a bottle of brandy had to be persuaded to get up by a glass of cold water. Thus the Magnificent Seven returned to Pike Creek, no-one having seen all its glories. We also went and shook our fists at the dam construction site.

The sheep was gone, kandall's guitar was worn out and we were getting sick of fine weather, so we came back to Sydney and its rained ever since.

- A.W.Watt.

Safety Officer's Splurge

- Terry Fardouly

You might not know it, but there is such a thing as a Safety Officer in SUSS. Traditionally, he doesn't do much but really there is no reason why he should since the first and last step to safety is <u>commonsense</u> on the part of the caver (or climber, walker, etc.). By having a sensible outlook when setting up and carrying out an abseil, puffing up a ladder, chimneying, or crossing or diving in a cave river, so many "stupid accidents" can be avoided.

also practise days are arranged for the specific purpose of learning the basic rules of caving technique, the rules which enable you to be able to enjoy to the full the sport of caving.

"THREE EXPEDITIONS INTO THE INTERIOR OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA" Vol II
Major TLMitchell

Chapter XV Page 359

.....This includes a rich alluvial tract, watered by the river Bell, one of the principal tributaries of the Macquarie, and it is about 170 miles to the westward of Newzastle. It is bounded on each side by a compact calcareous rock, resembling the mountain limestone of England, and rising on the east side to about 100 feet above the Bell.

.....

The limestone presents a maked and rugged surface, composed of pointed, weather-worn blocks, between which are small crevices, leading to caves and fissures. From these crevices a warm air ascends, accompanied by a smell peculiar to the caves. The worn aspect of the external rock, resembling half dissolved ice, is very remarkable, particularly near the largest caverns.

An account of the survey of these caves was communicated to the Geological Society, in a paper read on the 13th of April, 1831, of which an abstract was published in its Proceedings, but the particulars respecting the animal remains found by me, have derived great additional importance from the discoveries made by Professor Owen, since my return to England. I may be excused, therefore, for again calling attention to the situation of those curious caves, respecting which the following details are now published, with the consent of the Council of the Society. Page 360

The entrance to the caves of Wellington Valley, is in the side of a low hill, and 65 feet above the adjacent alluvial flat. It consists of two crevices between large blocks of limestone, in one side of a hollow about 12 feet deep; and which has evidently been widened by water. (Pl 41)

He first descended the fissure at the mouth of the large cave, and then clambered over great rocks, until, at 125 feet from the entrance, we round these inequalities to be covered by a deep bed of dry, reddish dust, forming an even floor. This red earth lay also in heaps under lateral crevices, through which it seemed to have been washed down from above. On digging to a considerable depth at this point, we found a few fragments of bone, apparently of the kangaroo. At 180 feet from the mouth, is the largest part of the cavern, the breadth being 25 feet, and the height about 50 feet. The floor consisted of the same reddish earth, but a thuck stalagmitic crust extended for a short distance from a gigantic stalactite, at the further end of the cavern. On again digging several feet deep, into the red earth here, we met with no lower layer of stalagmite, nor any animal remains.

On a corner of the floor, behind the stalactite, and nearly under a vertical fissure, we found a heap of dry white dust, into which one of the party sunk to the waist.* (G. Fl.44)

Passing through an opening to the left of the stalactite, we came upon an abrupt descent into a lower cavern. Having reached the latter with some difficulty, we found that its floor was about 20 feet below that of the CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

* The dust, when chemically examined by Dr. Turner, was found to consist principally of carbonate of lime with some phosphate of lime and animal matter. - Proceedings of Geological Society for 1831.

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

cavern above. It was equally level, and covered to a great, but unascertained depth, with the same dry red earth, which had been worn down about five feet, in a hollow or rut.

A considerable portion of the farthest part of the floor (at H) was occupied with white dust or ashes, similar to that found in the corner of the upper floor (at G). Page 361

This lower cavern terminated in a nearly vertical fissure, which not only ascended towards the external surface, but descended to an unascertained depth beneath the floor. At about 30 feet below the lowest part of the cavern, it was found to contain water, the surface of which, I ascertained, was nearly on a level with that of the river Bell. Having descended by a rope, I found that the water was very transparent, but unfit to drink, having a disagreeable brackish flavour.

This lower cavern is much contracted by stalactites and stalagmites. After having broken through some hollow sounding portions, (at 0 and N), we entered two small lateral caverns, and in one of these, after cutting through (at I) about eight inches of stalagmitic floor, we discovered the same reddish earth. We dug into this deposit also, but discovered no pebbles or organic fragments; but at the depth of two and a half feet, met with another stalagmitic layer, which was not penetrated. This fine red earth or dust seems to be a sediment that was deposited from water which stood in the caves, about 40 feet below the exterior surface; for the earth is found exactly at that height, both towards the entrance of the first cavern, and in the lateral caverns. (See Pl.44)

That this cave had been enlarged, by a partial sinking of the floor, is not improbable, as broken stalagmitic columns, and pillars like broken shafts, once probably in contact with the roof, are still apparent. (See the view of

the largest cavern, Pl.43.)

Eighty feet to the westward of this cave, is the mouth of another, of a different description. Here the surface consists of a breccia full of fragments of bones; and a similar compound, confusedly mixed with large blocks of limestone, forms the sides of the cavity. This cave presents, in all its features, a striking contrast to that already described. Its entrance is a sort of pit, having a wide orifice, nearly vertical, and its recesses are accessible only by means of ladders and ropes. Instead of walls and a roof, of solid limestone rock, we found

Page 362 shattered masses, apparently held together by breccia, also of a reddish colour, and full of fragments of bones. (Pl.45) The opening in the surface appears to have been formed by the subsidence of these rocks at the time when they were hurled down, mixed with breccia, into the position which they still retain. Bones were but slightly attached to the surface of this cement, as if it had never been in a very soft state, and this we have reason to infer also, from its being the only substance supporting several large rocks, and at the same time keeping them asunder. On the other hand, we find portions of even very small bones, and also small fragments of the limestone, dispersed through

this cementing substance, or breccia.

A.S.F. Code of Ethics

This code of ethics was passed at the January, 1974 Committee Meeting of A.S.F. and will be included in the forthcoming edition of "Spelco Handbook".

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The federation expects that the following rules will guide the actions of members of A.S.F. societies.

- 1.1 They will in reporting their work, avoid and discourage sensationalism, exaggeration and unwarranted statements.
- 1.2 They will in publishing their work take particular care to acknowledge other peoples' contributions to the work involved; either as clubs or individuals, published work, personal communication or whatever.
- 1.3 They will be discreet in disseminating information that might endanger caves, particularly entrance locations and access routes.
- 2.1 They will treat guides and other officials of tourist caves courteously and respectfully.
- 2.2 They will endeavour to be courteous to the general public, but will defend caves from the attentions of the uninstructed where this is deemed necessary for the protection of those caves.
- 3.1 They will carefully observe the established rules of good camping conduct especially in the removal and proper disposal of rubbish.
- 3.2 They will bury their faeces when camping in bush conditions but should avoid the catchment areas of caves.
- 4.1 They will have specific or tacit approval from the owner or guardian before entering private property or caves reserves.
- 4.2 They will follow local normal practices regarding gates on properties or reserves.
- 4.3 They will not, except in cases of emercency, presume on the goodwill of the owners.
- 4.4 They will take care to avoid interference with stock or crops.
- 4.5 They will, where a cave entrance has been blocked by the owner to prevent injury to livestuck, reblock the entrance after use and will liase with the owner to erect some fence or other less offensive means to protect the integrity of the entrance.
- 5.1 They will not leave rubbish in caves; their own or other peoples'. Spent carbide, flash bulbs, wrappings and other refuse must be brought out of the cave.
- 5.2 They will not disfigure caves by any unnecessary markings. Survey marks should be small and inconspicuous.
- 5.3 They will take care to avoid disfiguration or destruction of cave decoration or any other natural features of the cave. Disturbance should be confined to tracks. In areas of clean flowstone floor, muddy

Continued page 54

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clothing or boots must be removed and only clean clothing worn. Tracks should be rigidly adhered to. Helmets should not be worn in the vicinity of stalactite clusters.

- 5.4 They will not under any circumstances leave faeces in caves, they will prepare themselves beforehand or, when underground, make provision for the removal of faeces.
- 5.5 They will take stringent precautions to isolate all artificially introduced organic wastes from the cave ecosystem.
- 6.1 They will, when visiting an area frequently visited by another club, do all in their power to co-operate with that club.
- 6.2 They will conduct disputes in a restrained and gentlemanly manner.
- 7.1 They will behave responsibly in environmental matters.
- 7.2. They will endeavour to protect the caves of Australia.

SUSS ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY 13th (Aah!) SEPTEMBER 1974.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY REGIMENT HALL, CITY RD., DARLINGTON

\$5-50 Single \$11-00 Double (Cheques to SUSS by Fri 16AUG74)

The date sounds ominous but this promises to be the social highlight of the year. Dress is optional (i.e. you may or may not dress) but armour plate may be worn to avoid the ravages of deadly buns.

The SUR hall has been designed to withstand the violence of peaceful anti-conscription demonstrations, attacks by enemy aircraft, and bombings by modern day anerchists, BUT WILL IT SURVIVE VOLLEYS OF SUSS BUTTERED (or unbuttered) BUNS? Buns supplied at no extra cost.

Also better-than-Union-quality food and ample drink. PLUS

at great cost Dr Michael Walker will provide a moving bun-target by STANDING UP and attempting to give, amongst a continuous stream of flying buns, a talk on

"Caving in Spain"

Answers to Spelcowords from last months newsletter:

ACROSS- 1,JOHNDUNKLEY 6.GONG 8.US 12.AS 13.NIBICON 17.AM 19.EATING
20.NORM 22.BUN 24.TREE 26.SLUG 27.SHANNON

DOWN- 1.J22 2.HCG J.DIG 4.KEG 5.EMU 7.ORIENT 9.SINGING 10.MAMMOTH 11.SCIBBLE 14.BAT 15.IT 16.ON 17.LUMEN 21.RRAE 23.UU 25.END 28.NO

(As editor I wish to say that I am not respensible for those crummy clues and answers - Rik)

. Comedy of Errors - But Potentially Lethal.

- Rik Tunney

Drum Cave (813) Sat 20JUL74

I travelled down to Bungonia for the day just to do the Drum,which I had not entered previously. The other three members of the party were an ex-member od UNSWSS and two members of Central West Metropolitan Area Caving Team a Scout group. All members of the party had had much experience in vertical caves.

The Bungonia Bible says:

"The old tourist railing denotes the start of the drop, where a wedged log provides the belay point for the ladder. This pitch has a wide ledge at 18ft, is against the rock for the next 70ft and free fall for the last 50ft."

"Tackle required: - 1st pitch: 150ft ladder, 2 traces, 300ft rope." ("Bungonia Caves" R.Ellis et al. S.S.S. 1972) To me this says that the distance from the belay to the bottom is 150ft

and is probably a 138ft drop. Accordingly I threw down a Blue Water II rope which I have since measured at 143ft 8in, which I anchored with a sling and carabiner to the log at the top, as directed by the Bungonia Bible.

I grabbed my set of Jumars, as I was going to Jumar out and then belay the others up a ladder. Big shock however when I abseiled in and found the rope was too short by 15-20ft. It was too far to jump so I changed over to Jumars, getting soaked by a small waterfall in the process, and Jumared out.

another rope - 50m - long of 6mm mylon was thrown down and the party abseiled in while I bade good-bye to the leader and returned to

the camp cold and suffering a mild form of shock.

- a time later a person ran into camp and said that a person had fallen in the Drum! Together with some members of La Perouse Rover Crew I rushed bach to the Drum. Apparently the last of the party had decided the 6mm rope was too thin and he had used my rope, intending to change over to the ladder for the final 15ft. However he had fallen aff the end of the rope onto the floor. Fortunately he was only bruised and with the help of another caver on another ladder, he was able to return to the top. No need for a massive rescue fortunately. I then returned to camp.
- A time later a person ran into camp and said tha a person in the Drum was exhausted and was unable to climb up. At the cave with the help of a friendly party from Metropolitan Speleological Society a Jumar helay was set up and a lot of people held the rope to haul the tired caver up bodily if necessary. The climber made it up in safety.

Although no-one was seriously injured the following points must

be considered:

1. The standard of competence of the party was comparable to that of a typical party from an ASF society. In spite of this members of the party were subjected to extreme and unwarranted danger for a variety of causes (see below),

Physical injury caused to the party:

a. One person (me) recieved a big scare and suffered mild shock. Further injury was avoided by having a set of Jumars with me.

- b. One person taken to Goulborn Base Hospital suffering from back injuries. These were not severe and he was released after some tests.
- c. One person taken to Goulborn Base Hospital suffering from exhaustion and exposure caused by his long idle wait at the bottom of the ladder but he wascreleased after treatment.

d. One person sent to bed suffering from extreme tiredness.

3. The causes of these injuries were:

- a. Misleading and potentially dangerous information in . "Bungonia Caves". This raises the question as to how accurate other information in that book is.
- b. An error of judgement in that a rope which is known to be too short chould not be abseiled on except with stringent safety precautions,

c. The wearing of insufficient clothing to keep warm when not moving. The problem is that if sufficient is worn for this, one

.bacomes too hot when moving.

I hope that incidents like this, where fortunately little injury was caused, will provide a lesson which will help us to modify our procedures to provent future injury.

POLLUTION AT CAVES

-Sun-Herald June 30, 1974.

Sir,- The Jenolan Caves, one of Australia's most beautiful tourist

resorts, is being ruined by Government owned air pollution.

I am from New Zealand, the country which is meant to have all the best scenery in the world. However, when my wife and I arrived at the Jenolan Caves last week-end we were over-awed by the magnificence of that eighth wonder of the world.

To our horror we had been there for only a few minutes when clouds of thick black diesel smoke into the mountain air, driving birds from

the trees and forcing us to reach for our handkerchiefs.

In fact, we left early because of the acrid waste continually

drifting into our faces.

On the way out we spoke to a carpark attendant who agreed with us about the pollution, but said: "We're public servants and not paid to think,"

. So with that in mind I am doing something. "We cant do anything about it, but you can."

We could not help but notice the signs along the road in the Blue Mountains, saying "You can now take a deep breath of pure fresh mountain air."

However, in the heart of these hills at one of the country's greatest tourist attractions one is confronted with what could be compared with the heart of industrial Sydney, as far as air pollution is concerned.

-John Newton. Kogarah.

AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL FEDERATION
10th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND 27th - 29th DECEMBER, 1974

REGISTRATION FORM - CLOSING DATE 1st DECEMBER, 1974 Accommodation cannot be quaranteed to late registrations.

Venue - Conference sessions will be in the Physiology Lecture Theatres, 100 metres from UNION COLLEGE, a free thinking co-ed college which provides three square meals a day, and objects only to physical damage to the building. . limited number of twin rooms are available. Adjacent rooms can be arranged.

\$27-00 COSTS - ACCOMMODATION 227 covers the 3 day period "afternoon Thurs 26th to 10am Sun 29th", or "10am Fri 27th to 10am Mon 30th". Persons wishing to stay "afternoon Thurs 26th to 10am Mon 30th" will be charged for an extra day. Meals for non-residents by tickets. PROCEEDINGS Pre-conference order price 34-00 Post-conference order price v5-00 REGISTRATION Administration and abstracts 3-00 95-00 CAVEMINS DINNER . specially ordered hearty whole animal roast prepared at the college, with beer, cider, wine and mead.

TRANSPORT from rail, air, bus terminals by arrangement with the organising committee. The travel means savings for groups of 15.

RETURN FORM	∃Y 1st DECEN ∴ lat	MBER, 1974 TO te fee will be	.VOID SLEEPING	IN THE RA	.IN
POST NOW to:	THE 74SF	CONFERENCE, P	.O. BOX 29, <u>AN</u>	NERLEY 410	13
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I expect that I will / will not need transport to the college.

I expect to arrive by train / air / bus.

Two is the official travel consultant to this Conference.

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

Fri, 27th Opening ceremony, 10 papers.

Sat, 28th Conservation symposia. Covemans dinner in evening.

Sun, 29th 6 papers, speleosports. Mon, 30th Committee meeting.

No evening sessions - instead films, slides, discussion etc.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

Tropical karst; geology; geomorphology; hydrology; palaeontology; surf ce and subsurface fauna and flora; anthropology; expedition reports - local and overseas; conservation; pseudokarst and lava tunnels; techniques photography, surveying, caving etc.

"BSTRACT DE DLINE 1st September, 1974.

FIELD TRIPS

CAMOCWEAL - UCSS. Distant area, expedition level, group travel. Possibility of substitution of Undarra Lava Tunnels due to "wet".

CHILLAGOE - CCC. Wet weather may impose group travel up the coast. Return charter air fare Cairns to Chillagoe 333.

MT.ETN. & LIMESTONE RIDGE - CQSS & UQSS. Group or individual travel possible. Close to reef, coast etc.

KEMPSEY - USS & KSS. Individual transport. Exciting area, unspoilt country, convenient for those travelling south by road.

EQUIPMENT

as field trips will be wildly dispersed, organisation will be facilitated if each society delegate brings 2 ladders and 1 rope.

PLPERS - Papers from interested persons are invited:
I am / am not interested in presenting a paper, dealing with
FIELD TRIPS I do / do not wi h to participate in field trips.
I shall be available for field trips from to
I am / am not bringing a vehicle / 4WD / cycle, takingpassengers
I hope to go to CAMOOWEAL Dates please. UNDARRA
CHILLAGOE MT.ETNA KEMPSEY ELSEWHERE (specify)
ANY OTHER DATA: