

**BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY***Lumen
in
Tenebris***SUSS****OCTOBER MEETING**

The October General Meeting will be
held in the Badham Room, Old Union,
Sydney University
at 7.30pm
on THURSDAY
the 3rd October, 1974.

**FOUNDED 1948****NOTICE:**

TO THOSE MEMBERS ATTENDING ASF TENTH
CONFERENCE.

Contact Bob Tenney to form a SUSS party.

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

TRIP LISTOCTOBER

3 GENERAL MEETING

12-13 JENOLAN Brendon Hyde 4983520
Scaling pole work in Chevallier Cave.

Sometime BUNGONIA Tony Austin 4393688 Ex22 or 23
Tony has said he will run Bungonia trips on short notice whenever
he can get a party together.

NOVEMBER

7 GENERAL MEETING

9-10 JENOLAN Rik Tunney 042-287410
Another attempt at the aven in Cant
Get Lost.

STOP PRESS

Tony Austin will be running
Bungonia trips on:
26-27 OCT 74
23-24 NOV 74
11-12 JAN 75
22-23 JAN 75

DECEMBER

Probably no GENERAL MEETING this month.

7 SYDNEY NORTHERN BEACHES
Visit St Michaels Cave, Avalon and other sea caves and then an over-
night barbeque at Deep Creek, Narrabeen.

27-29 ASF TENTH CONFERENCE Brisbane

JANUARY

NO GENERAL MEETING

1-? ASF CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS
All over Queensland.

25-Feb2 CRACROFT AREA TASMANIA
Run by TCC. Visit Tasmania after the Conference.
Possible BIG discoveries. (Caves 300m deep and 1000+m long.)
Contact Andrew Skinner c/o Tasmanian Caverneering Club, GPO Box 641G,
Hobart, 7001.

NEW MEMBERS

Peter Campbell -FM
David Wynn -AM
Duncan Coles -FM
Peter Winglee -FM
Keith Murray -FM

"Two expeditions into the interior of Southern Australia, during the years 1828, 1829, 1830 and 1831; with observations on the soil, climate, and general resources of the colony of New South Wales."

-Charles Sturt

London, Smith, Elder and Co. 1833 Vol 1.

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...: but at Moulong Plains, a military station intermediate between Bathurst and Wellington Valley, limestone appears in the bed of a small clear stream, and with little interruption continues to some distance below the last - mentioned place. The accidental discovery of some caves at Moulong Plains, led to more critical examination of the whole formation, and cavities of considerable size were subsequently found in various parts of it, but more particularly in the neighbourhood of Wellington Valley. The local interest which has of late years been taken in the prosecution of geological investigations, led many gentlemen to examine the contents of these caverns; and among the most forward, Major Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, must justly be considered, to whose indefatigable perseverance the scientific world is already so much indebted.

The caves into which I penetrated, did not present anything particular to my observation; they differed little from caves of a similar description into which I had penetrated in Europe. Large masses of stalactites hung from their roofs, and a corresponding formation encrusted their

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floors. They comprised various chambers or compartments, the most remote of which terminated at a deep chasm that was full of water. A close examination of these caves has led to the discovery of some organic remains, bones of various animals imbedded in a light red soil; but I am not aware that the remains of any extinct species have been found, or that any fossils have been met with in the limestone itself. There can, however, be little doubt but that the same causes operated in depositing these mouldering remains in the caves of Kirkdale and those of Wellington Valley.

About twenty miles below the junction of the Bell with the Macquarie, free-stone supersedes the limestone,....

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....At Goulburn Plains, however, a vein of limestone occurs, which is evidently connected with that forming the Shoal Haven Gully, which is perhaps the most remarkable geological feature in the colony of New South Wales. It is a deep chasm of about a quarter of a mile in breadth, and 1200 feet in depth. The country on either side is perfectly level, so much so that the traveller approaches almost to its very brink before he is aware of his being near so singular an abyss. A small rivulet flows through the Gully, and discharges itself into the sea at Shoal Haven; but this river is hardly perceptible, from the summit of the cliffs forming the sides of the Gully, which are of the boldest and most precipitous character. The ground on the summit is full of caves of great depth, but there has been a difficulty in examining them, in consequence of the violent wind that rushes up them, and extinguishes every torch.

Trip Report - Jenolan June 1974

Present - J. Seabrook (TL) B. Hyde, I. Milligan (M's) plus several prospectives.

Caves entered - Mammoth, Hennings, Wyburds Lake Caves.

Work done - Examination of lake levels at Jenolan, specifically Central Lake, Snakes Gut, Hennings and Wyburds.

Weather conditions - Sat Wet
Sun Fine

General observations - 1 cusec flowed into Bow Cave. Evidence of previous flooding in Mammoth. All lakes down from May.

- Jim Seabrook.

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Trip Report - Jenolan May 1974 (7 days)

Present - John Dunkley, Jim Seabrook, Thea Seabrook, S. Oppen, M and D Richter, M. Garrick, Chris ? .

Caves entered- Wyburds Lake, Lucas, Bow, Glass, Hennings Caves

Work done - Surveying in Silverfrost Cavern, Wyburds Lake Cave. Grade 7 survey of Exhibition Chamber, Lucas Cave for Jenolan Caves Historical and Preservation Society. Survey of several small caves. Reconnaissance of Glass and Hennings Caves.

Weather conditions - Wet

General observations - McKewon Ck (Jenolan R ..Ed) 2 cusec and flowing into Bow Cave. Hennings and Serpentine flooded.

-Jim Seabrook.

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Trip Report - YARRANGOBILLY/COOLEMAN PLAINS
Easter 1974

Present - Mr & Mrs Seabrook, Mr & Mrs Richter (almost), Mr & Mrs McGown, Janet Widmer,

Summary of work done - FRIDAY Photography in East Deep Creek Cave, Yagby.
SATURDAY Drinking in Kiandra.
MONDAY Reconnaissance of Dushrangers Cave, Cooleman

General comments - East Deep Creek 2 cusec. Increase in damage to cave. VW Country Buggy has no trouble up and down the hill at Yagby.

-Jim Seabrook.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR LIMESTONE CAVES?

(Reprinted from "Northern Magazine N.S.W." 20JUL74)

In course of time the Texas limestone caves complex on the NSW-Queensland border will be inundated by the waters of the \$14m Pike Creek Dam, and be lost forever.

And although the locality has never been exploited or even developed as a tourist attraction speleologists and conservationists will undoubtedly deplore the move in the path of progress.

Nevertheless, the people of the Dumaresq Valley have fought and worked for 28 years for the Pike Creek storage which has now begun.

The irrigation benefits of the dam on both sides of the border will extend from Pike Creek to as far west as Mungindi, where the Barwon River turns south into New South Wales.

And it must be conceded that this vast area of water will provide an attractive environment for bird life, and people from nearby towns will have an ideal area for water sports and fishing.

The situation has not gone unnoticed however, by the Queensland Minister for Local Government, Mr E McKechnie, who has suggested some of the most striking stalactite and stalagmite formations in the caves should be removed.

If this were done he would approach the Irrigation Commission to have a grotto built in the proposed picnic area below the dam where the formations could be displayed for posterity in a locality resembling, as closely as possible, their natural occurrence.

Meanwhile, closer to home, attention has been drawn to the desecration and continuing destruction of the Timor Caves, 15 miles from Blandford, which once had the potential to become one of the best tourist attractions in the Upper Hunter.

There is a system of small and large caves, passages, "slides", "chimneys", "squeezes" and crevasses.

A surprising number can be explored by anyone using no more sophisticated equipment than very old clothes and a good torch. It is this ease of access which has been the caves' downfall.

Now there is only devastation where countless visitors and explorers over the years have broken away stalactites as souvenirs, defaced the mass formation known as "shawls", and cut specimens out of the pillars and stalagmites.

They have also thoughtlessly broken away the coloured limestone on the edges of the "linen folds" formations where the constant drip of lime-impregnated water has formed sheets of rock resembling folded drapery.

Again every accessible cave has names and graffitic messages on the walls and even on the limestone formations themselves, as indicated in the Belfry Cavern by a visitor in 1920.

Timor Caves are not by any stretch of the imagination a second Jenolan, but they are still worth a visit in spite of the vandalism that has been going on for more than 50 years.

Trip Report - WEE JASPER
FRESHERS TRIP

March 1974

Members present - Many, many people.

Caves entered - Punchbowl, Thermal and Narrengullen.

Work done - Instructional trip to Punchbowl Cave on Saturday and reconnaissance trips to Thermal and Narrengullen Caves on Sunday.

General observations - Creek at Narrengullen flowing at less than 1 cusec.

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From: THE MINING ACT 1973NOTES ON FOSSICKING AREAS

Issued under the Authority of the Hon. Wal. Fife, M.L.A. Minister for Mines and Power.

Under the Mining Act of 1973, areas of Crown and private land may now be set aside as Fossicking Areas, specifically for the use of amateur gemstone collectors; commercial jewellers and mineral collectors may not operate in these areas.

Fossicking areas will be set aside subject to certain requirements: e.g. that the land is free of any title or application for title under the Mining Act, and that the owner's or occupier's permission is granted in the case of private land and Crown Land held under lease. An order published in the Government Gazette will specify land set aside as a fossicking area. (Hopefully there will be a more convenient reference source than that - perhaps a Mining Registrar could help.)

Fossicking licences, which run for a period of twelve months from date of issue, are available from any Mining Registrar on payment of \$2-00. It is essential (i.e. a \$200 fine if you don't) that any person using a Crown Lands fossicking area holds a licence; a licence isn't required when fossicking on private land.

Gemstones, semi-precious stones and rocks (a maximum of 10 kilograms in any period of 48 hours) may be removed from a fossicking area. Gemstones means opal, sapphire, diamond, topaz, ruby, emerald and aquamarine. Semi-precious stone means amazonite, apatite, azurite, chiastolite, chrysocolla, fluorite, fossil wood, garnet, jade, malachite, obsidian, peridot, prehnite, quartz (including rock crystal, smoky quartz, amethyst rose quartz, rutilated quartz, agate, carnelian, chalcedony, chrysoprase, citrine, jasper), rhodonite, spinel, sphère or titanite, tourmaline, turquoise, zircon.

Anyone using a fossicking area is limited to manual excavation (i.e. bulldozers, graders, dragline, bucketwheel excavators are out) to a depth of no more than two metres. Shafts and excavations are to be filled in, and run-off or drainage from any fossicking operations should not erode or pollute surrounding land.

FOR SALE

"THE ROMANCE OF JENOLAN CAVES" by Ward L. Havard

Reprinted from J.R.Aust.Hist.Soc. VolXX. 48pp. 1map. Photos.

This booklet is an authoritative account of the history of Jenolan up to 1933 and is a most worthwhile purchase.

\$1-20 from Mrs Daniel Larkins 225 Kissing Point Rd TURRAMURRA 2074

(Make cheques payable to "Estate of late W.L.Havard.")

Tourist Caving on Los Negros Island, Papua New Guinea.

Trip 23JUN74

Present: Geoff Francis, J.Popei, O.Narumbuai, R.Kaiyeh, M.Pakihian.

Loni Village is on Los Negros Island, which is separated from Manus proper by a narrow channel. The main road from Lorengau to Momote Airport runs past the village. The cave entrances are located midway up a limestone ridge on the opposite side of the road to the village. The owner of the land charges 50c admission for adults and 20c for schoolchildren; visitors must be accompanied by local guides. Loni Cave is undeveloped, except for one iron ladder and a few rough-hewn syeps (bring your own torches).

I dipped into my pockets and took through a group of third formers from Papitalai High. The cave is populated with numerous bats, mud crabs and mosquitos. It has been quite heavily visited over the last twenty years, judging by the inscriptions on the walls of the chamber at the foot of the ladder. We only visited the most accessible sections since the guides weren't keen on going anywhere that was steep, tight or muddy. Apparently they have not explored any of the passages which involve crawling or squeezing.

The cave is of phreatic origin, though the lower levels have been somewhat modified by breakdown. The walls of many sections are sculptured with smooth, sub-hemispherical solution pockets; there are occasional deeper bell-pits. At the northern end of the domed main chamber there is a limestone blade only a few centimetres thick, rising nearly 2m from the floor. In several parts of the cave solution has followed a set of major joints bearing between 340° and 355° . Even in the main chamber, where joint control is not so evident, a wall of stalactites and columns has been formed by deposition from water infiltrating along one of these joints.

Passages are developed on three main levels; the lowest level consists of a small chamber at the bottom of a shaft near the most northerly point visited. This chamber contains a pool of water, which was about 0.4m deep and slightly brackish. I hope to do further work on the cave, including exploration, a higher grade survey and morphological studies.

- G. Francis.

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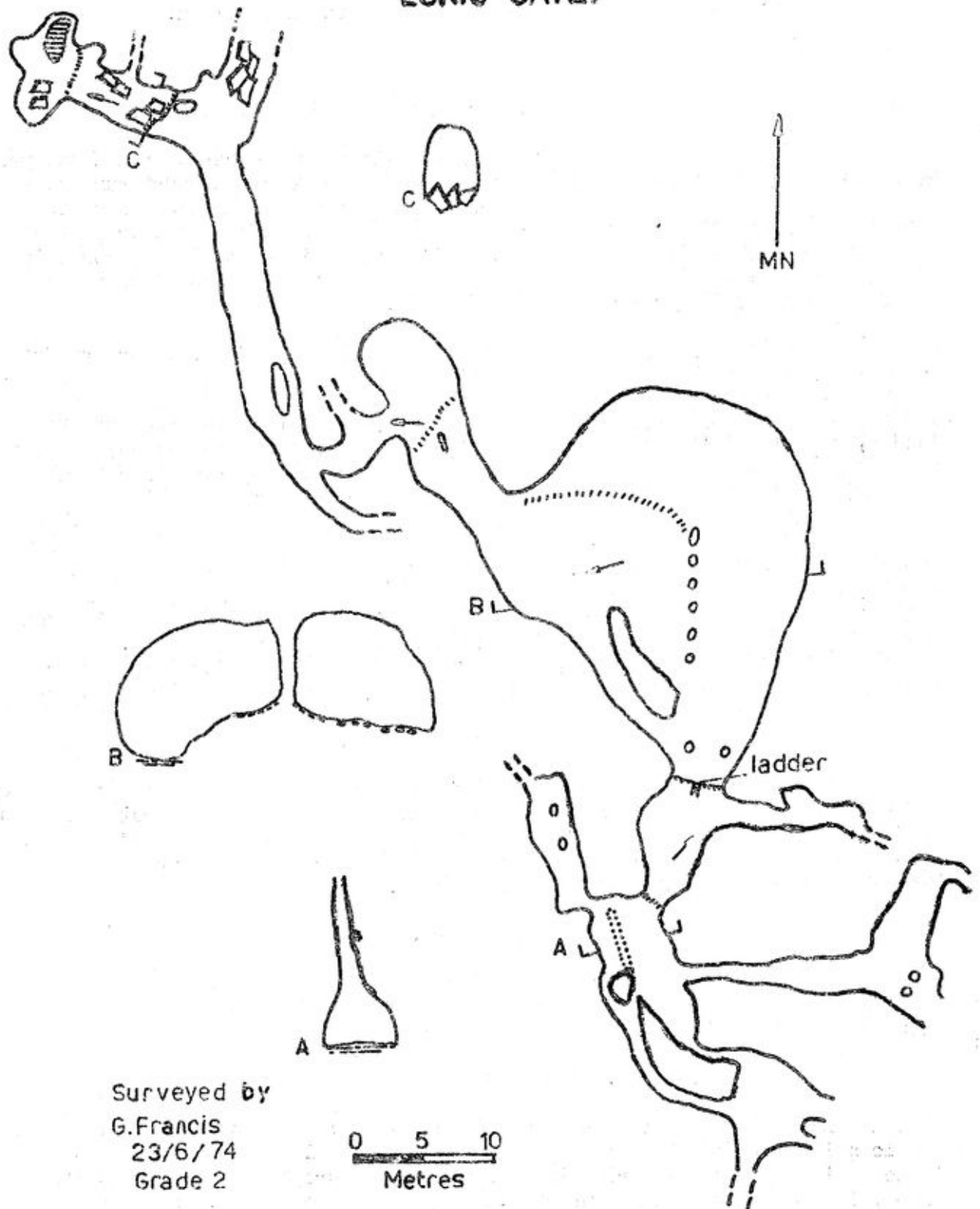
From "ABORIGINAL PLACE NAMES" A.W.Reed

(A.H. & A.W.Reed Sydney 1967)

JENOLAN CAVES: the origin of the name is uncertain. The Aborigines called the locality 'Binoomea', while at a little distance is a mountain called 'Genowlan'. The name was probably conferred by a European, and one amusing theory is that it was in honour of J.Nolan, an early settler. The only literal meaning we have seen advanced is: foot.

BUNGONIA: creek which flows only in the rainy season.

LONIU CAVE.



Surveyed by
G. Francis
23/6/74
Grade 2

0 5 10
Metres

NOTES ON THE COLLECTION OF SOIL SAMPLES

from "An Open Letter to Senior Scouts, Speleologists and Wildlife Workers" - Dr.D.Frey

(Dr.Frey is engaged in research into Histoplasmosis - see SUSS 14(4):41)

For our studies we would like to obtain and examine soil samples from as many geographical regions of this country as is possible. You are in a position to help us in this respect and for this reason we are enclosing information on the types of soil samples that are of particular interest for our survey. Unfortunately, like most research institutions, our working funds are rather tight but we will be very happy to provide any necessary containers, to refund mailing expenses, and to answer any questions or provide further information to anyone who is interested in the project. Any help that we can get in the collection of material is appreciated.

Generally the soil samples desired for examination will be expected to come from rural or semi-rural areas but certain types of urban sites are also of prospective interest. Soil samples can be collected from the following kinds of sites:

- (a) Caves - particularly those in which birds or bats roost; soil samples should be taken both within the cave and around the entrance.
- (b) Abandoned houses in rural areas - these often contain bird or bat roosts in the attic or underneath the floor.
- (c) Fowl yards, including chicken houses - this can include both soil samples from runs currently in use as well as soil samples from sites which have contained fowl runs in the past; there are now many residential sites which have been developed on the land of former poultry farms and these soils may still harbour the fungus.
- (d) Underneath or within the hollows of trees used by birds or bats for roosts - such sites may be found in suburban parks as well as in rural areas.

There are some procedures which we suggest for the collecting of soil samples.

- 1) For soils from temperate regions or sheltered spots, take the first two inches of topsoil from a six inch square of soil; this will yield about half a pound of soil and each individual sample of this type can conveniently be contained in a small plastic tie-up bag (Gladwrap type) which we will be happy to supply to anyone co-operating in the scheme. If the soil is in a very hot, dry region, remove the top 3 - 4 inches of soil before taking a sample; the fungus is killed by the high soil temperatures you would expect to find near the surface of many Australian soils during the summer and yet the fungus may still survive in the cooler soil below the surface.
- 2) The soil should be free of large stony material and, if possible, dry although dryness is not absolutely essential.
- 3) From a small site, such as under a tree in a park, a pair of samples taken close together is all that is needed. When the site is fairly large, such as a cave or a fowl yard, please take at least six pairs of adjacent samples from different parts of the site.

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- 5) A small pocket knife is useful for digging the soil. Make sure that you clean off the blade after each sample is collected.
- 6) In very dusty locations always wear a handkerchief, tied at the back of the neck, to cover your face and nose.
- 7) So far as is possible, include the following information on a card or piece of paper which can be placed in the bag with each individual sample:
 - (i) Date of collection.
 - (ii) Exact location of site - district where the site is located, and additional information for identification such as name of street, park or caves. Please indicate where the sample was collected at the site and for this a rough sketch of the site marked to show sampled areas would be most helpful.
 - (iii) The approximate air temperature and general description of humidity conditions in the region.
 - (iv) Any climatic information you may know about the region such as average annual rainfall.
 - (v) Any indication of the current presence of birds or bats around a sampled site. If you know what types of birds use the site as a roost please indicate this and for bats a general indication of the roosting type would be helpful; bats have two roosting patterns - some species (solitary types) tend to roost individually while others (colonial types) tend to roost in large closely-packed colonies, sometimes numbering hundreds at a time.

We would be grateful if you could forward the samples through your local scout, speleological, or wildlife organisation. It would be much easier for us to recompense the larger group for mailing expenses. If you can personally bring us samples at any time or if you have an opportunity to visit the laboratory, we will be very happy to explain our work in more detail and to show you our project in operation.

The address for mailing samples is:

Dr.D.Frey,
Mycology Reference Laboratory,
Institute of Medical Research,
The Royal North Shore Hospital of Sydney,
St.Leonards, N.S.W. 2065

BUNGONIA

1st Sept. 1974

Party: Tony and Cathy Austin, Steve Warrell.

It was early on Sunday morning when we arose, packed the car and started on our merry way to our favorite caving area - however we had worked quicker than we had planned and had to almost, but not quite, drag Steve out of bed. It was a quick and uneventful trip out, although Steve and I began to wonder if it was going to be warm enough to thaw us out when we arrived. We made a short detour on the way out to show Steve the old Flying Fox as he was interested in having a look at it and the type of country around the area. A glance at a topographic map indicates a steep drop to the river from this point and that there are some interesting canyons there.

On to the reserve we went. Once again the weather promised to be unhelpful, more precisely it looked as though it would rain at any time. The dig in the B15 doline was inspected. It proved to be very disheartening. There has been several collapses of soil into the bottom of the doline from the surrounding walls and the heavy rains have resulted in waterflow into the doline managing to wash silt into the dig undoing the previous work, a guesstimate is that the dig has decreased in depth by approximately a half. From there we headed for the Lookdown - as magnificent as ever, even though there is a quarry doing its best to spoil it.

By this stage we ready to do some caving, so it was off to B4-B5. We entered the cave at the base of Hogan's Cliff and went via the Hairy Traverse. The cement bag was as dusty as ever, but a pleasant change from the mud and water to be found in other parts of the cave. It was initially thought that we would have a look at the entrance to the Extension but we did not get far before we found water blocking our way. It was not our intention to get wet so that plan was quickly abandoned, and we retraced our steps to proceed on our way out. However our good intentions were not fulfilled for not much further was a rather low passage containing just enough water to make sure we would have wet clothing for the rest of the day. All in all it took two hours to complete the trip.

Tony and Steve were still keen to do some exercise and decided that a walk down Bungonia Creek might satisfy them so it was off to the Swimming Hole. They had not realised that the Creek would be as high as it was. Whilst they were contemplating the problem it started to rain rather heavily, and two panting, disappointed, wet cavers appeared at the car. So ended a different sort of caving day.

Cathy Austin.

Trip Report - Jenolan Caves
24-25AUG74

Present: Rik Tunney (TL) G.Smith, P.Campbell, R.King, M.Handel, P.Winglee (FM)
G.Hunt, R.Wallbank, N.Burgess (V).

Most of the members of this trip had not been to Mammoth Cave before, so it was decided to spend Saturday on a leisurely trip towards the north of the cave. As SUSS has automatic expulsion for those who go caving before noon on a Saturday, the morning was spent sleeping, slothing around, visiting the Guides and cooking breakfast/lunch. A problem also arose when I discovered that a bag full of clothes which I had left at the Smith Family in Wollongong had really been full of caving gear and the bag of caving gear I had brought was really full of clothing. However I was lent some gear so I could go underground.

We finally entered the cave and headed for the northern end of Railway Tunnel in search of some rubbish and a rope which had been reported there. Neither were found. The new members of the party were baptised into Mammoth caving when they landed in the pool at the bottom of the mud slide in Railway Tunnel. The party left with mud splattered liberally all over.

While descending Skull and Crossbones the party were subjected to a tirade from Malcom and others about how the unsurveyed connection from Railway Tunnel to Snakes Gut was in the wrong place and was not really the unsurveyed connection. In addition one of Bruce Welch's ubiquitous digs in a small chamber off the start of Snakes Gut.

The party continued its way on, across Central Lake which was about 3m high, and further northwards. At the 100% Friction Squeeze it was decided, due to lack of time to turn back and return via Can't Get Lost and the Sewer Slide. Can't Get lost was examined, especially the aven which reminds one of Acoustic Pit, and we set off down the Sewer Slide. None of us had been down this and when we first came to a 3m drop, some of the party turned back. The mud in this section has an exceptionally lubricating nature so descent of the Sewer Slide itself was most rapid. At the bottom was a 5m drop down a non-frictional wall to the North-west Passage near the Junction. We had to tie some tapes together and leave them to get down this. The party then returned to the surface in time for tea and some Goon Shows.

On Sunday the thought of putting on dirty, wet boiler suits was abhorrent so we drove/walked down to the tourist area with the aim of doing a tourist cave. It was school holidays and the place was crowded so most of us set off home while the others stayed for Spike Milligan's Jenolan trip the next day.

- Rik Tunney.

Trip Report:

FRESHERS TRIP NO. 1

9 - 10 March 1974.

or

SUSSpicious Activities at Bungonia

On the whole the first freshers trip was quite a success - the two freshers that turned up loved it! Though the fresher attendance was very poor - they all claimed that they hadn't received enough notice. - it did bring a lot of the SUSS heavies out of apparent retirement. Just for the record the following cavers were present:

Tony Austin (SUSS), Cathy Lawlor (SUSS), Duncan and Jenny Coles (SUSS), Brian and Georgina Spilsbury (SUSS), Steve Warrell (SUSS), Graeme Smith (SUSS), Andrew Smith (SUSS), Anne Simpson (SUSS), Terry Pardoulis (SUSS), Arthur Jenkins (SUSS), Robert Matthews and last and least the freshers Jim Bennett and Richard Fleming.

The party arrived at the Becks Gully campsite all through Friday night and early Saturday morning. Following an old SUSS tradition everyone made an early start - like about 11 o'clock! After breakfast the party split into two - one group being led by Terry into the wilds of the College / Hollands area and the other led by me over to Acoustic Pot. We descended the 100' pitch which was enjoyed by all! At the point where the cave bifurcates we thought that we could detect the smell of gelignite fumes emanating from the right hand branch. The left hand branch looked as though some intrepid soul had been doing some digging but no great change in the interior decoration of the cave was apparent. In all we spent about $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours in the cave. What followed must have been some sort of record - even for Bungonia! We decided to have a bash (bad choice of word for a caving journal!) at the Blowfly system. Just for the record we spent a total of $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours in this cave - I know a caver who has done it in 11 minutes - and he thinks that he can still do it in less! Thus ended Saturdays caving.

Sunday saw us making an equally late start but we made up for it as the day got older. We visited that well known hole for undersize armoured snakes known simply as B23. The party then split again with Terry going to do B4-5 and my group going for a jolly jaunt through my home - away - from - home ... the Grill. The wet and muddy group of stooges that emerged were more than happy to call it a weekend and head for home. Pity we didn't have any fresher's!

Tony Austin.

BUNGONIA

3rd August 1974

Party: Tony and Cathy Austin.

The purpose of this trip was to return to Rik Tunney the Drager Gas Meter which he had kindly loaned to the Society. Originally we had plans of spending some time underground, or even walking down to the Shoalhaven River, hoping to start at the old Tolwong Mines Flying Fox. However a quick perusal of the sky plus several showers persuaded us against both these courses, and we decided to have a day motorist - type touring.

The day turned out to be very enjoyable. We drove into the Flying Fox and had a good look at the Shoalhaven then headed out and around to Penrose-Bundanoon, making sure we did not miss any of the lookouts along the way. It was interesting to see the river from a different angle and made us realise how fortunate we are in having the opportunity to see it.

Cathy Austin.

BUNGONIA

25th April 1974

Party: Tony Austin(SUSS), Steve Warroll(SUSS).

Suffering from the usual case of the dreaded Bungoniaitis Steve and I decided to take a quick trip out on Anzac Day to attempt three things - namely to have a look at the then newly opened B70 as described by M.S.S.; to measure the CO2 levels in B23 with the Draeger gas meter which Rik Tunney has very kindly made available to the Society and thirdly to continue digging in the B15 doline.

Well - two out of three wasn't bad going considering the time available. We found the area around the old B70 looking as though someone had been digging for long lost buried pirates treasure. There are newly dug holes everywhere! The net result of all this industry is a new and very much more interesting B70 and a new, yet unnumbered hole about 30' deep that ends in a dirt cho k. Both of these caves are excellent chimneys - especially the first pitch in B70. For anyone interested in finding out more about this cave the M.S.S. newsletter has quite a few comprehensive articles on it.

While pottering around the reserve we ran into Graeme Smith with some members of the St George Area Caving Team. They told us that the CO2 level in the Grill was exceptionally low so we decided to give B23 a miss. It didn't take much to dissuade us though as the cave is not exactly tight but it's jagged geometry more than makes up for it.

Thusly we started on the third objective - to continue digging in B15. By the end of the day we were more than pleased with the work that we (Steve) had done. We found the old shoring to be in surprisingly good condition considering it's age. Never the less we feel that if the cave is to be kept open in the distant future that new, stronger shoring will be required. For some reason Steve didn't want to stay all night digging so we left late that afternoon for Sydney and an uneventful trip home.

Tony Austin.

BUNGONIA

July 13th-14th 1974

Party: Graeme Smith, John Foulds, Jim Seabrook, Tony and Cathy Austin.

It was my birthday on the Saturday, and I celebrated it by driving back to Sydney with a very sick husband. He was feeling so sick that he even refused to go caving!

Planning for the trip began well. There were many people eager to go on a trip specifically for trip leaders or those who would like to become such. However with one thing and another only a few could make it. The result- a very poor weekends caving.

We had driven out on Friday night to deliver ladders and ropes to those present. After a very sleepless night we decided to head back to Sydney, leaving Graeme and John, both experienced cavers, to have a go at F16-B51. It was not long before Jim joined them and from what we heard the weekend did not live up to the hopes everyone had for it!

Cathy Austin.
