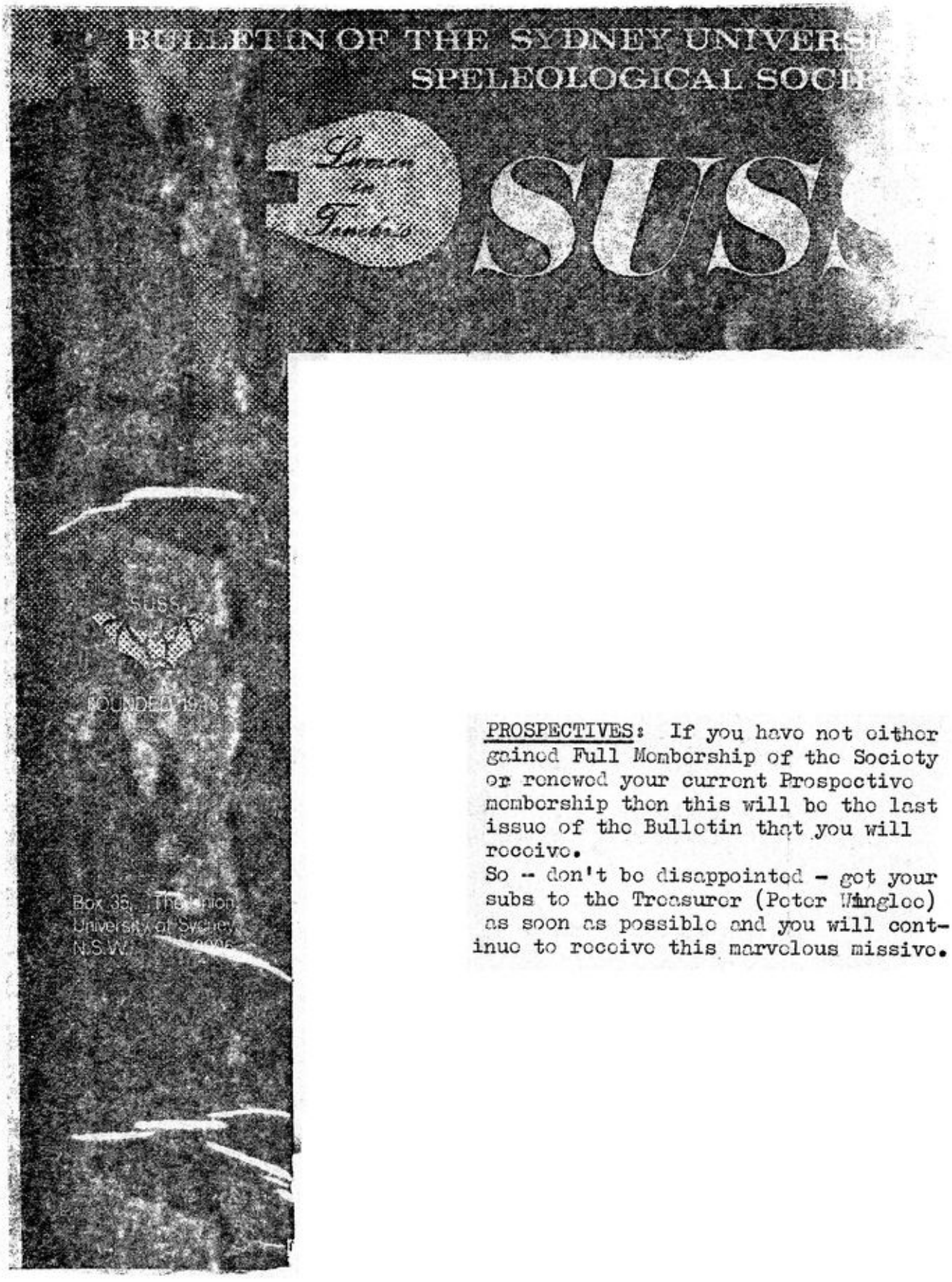

PROSPECTIVES: If you have not either gained Full Membership of the Society or renewed your current Prospective membership then this will be the last issue of the Bulletin that you will receive.

So -- don't be disappointed - get your subs to the Treasurer (Peter Wingloe) as soon as possible and you will continue to receive this marvelous missive.

TRIP LIST.

SEPTEMBER:

27 - 28	BUNGONIA	Tony Austin	750-7785

OCTOBER:

2	General Meeting 7.30pm Old Union.		
4 - 6	JENOLAN proposed work includes having a close look at J174 - Spider Cave.	Bruce Welch	99-1013
11 - 12	JENOLAN Brittle Bazaar and Upper Oolite trips - Malcolm Handel. Tagging - Bruce Welch.		73-2028
Sometime? -	NSW Liason Council Meeting.		

NOVEMBER:

6	General Meeting 7.30pm Old Union.		
8	J.C.H.A.P.S Meeting at Caves House, Jenolan Caves.		
8 - 9	CLIEFDEN: Seminar and Field Study.	Randall King	969-4843
29 - 30	CLIEFDEN: trying (!!!) to finish the survey of Taplow Maze.	Randall King.	969-4843.
29 - 30	CANBERRA: Yarrangobilly Research Group Seminar.	Peter Wingloo.	83-9182

DECEMBER:

4	General Meeting.		
Sometime? -	Brittle Bazaar trip.?	Malcolm Handal	73-2028

If you are interested in being on any of the above trips, contact the relevant trip leader and let him know. This is imperative for permit areas as these are limited number trips. Any new areas you would like to visit, again, contact one of the above and see if you can con him into organising a trip that suits you.

Dry Valleys & Caves - Some Speculative Comments

L. G. Rieder

A valley can become dry for several reasons when a limestone lithology is considered. The most common one is rejuvination resulting from a drop in base level not necessarily related directly to the area but which nevertheless, can result in lowering of the water table and hence the weathering front. A second explanation that is common in the literature is that gradually water flowing over a limestone surface will find its way down tectonic fissures, beds and joints enlarging them by solution and thereby effect an increase in the capacity of underground ways to carry more water until all surface drainage is subsumed. The inflow points tend to become concentrated particularly along drainage lines. Thirdly, dryness could be induced by surface stream capture though it is more common on other lithologies then limestone. Few cases of this on limestone have been reported in Australia.

None of the explanations take into account changes in climatic regime. Two things seem important here. The first is based on a climatic regime that is characterised by a transition from a moist to dryer climate. This is more or less Dury's "precipitation hypothesis" Dury ( ). Here before the onset of the dry conditions, cavities have developed primarily in the phreas and their capacity to hold water was always exceeded by virtue of their position below the water table during the ruling climatic regime so that flow occurred constantly on the surface. With a change to a dryer regime, given that the amount of water available did not exceed the capacity of the primary conduit there would follow a reduction in the level of the water table and an increase in vadose activity which in turn would aid further cave development of a primary and secondary nature. The longer that the lithology is subject to either phreatic or vadose activity, the more likely is the occurance of a dry valley. Here lithology, structure and climate are seen to be dynamically interelated. Even if effectivness increases, provided it does not exceed the capacity of existing cavities near the water table and above it to the ground surface, then the valley will continue to remain dry.

Secondly, rejuvination resulting from a decline in base level due to tectonic activity and erosion of material over time must be viewed in context of a climatic fluctuation which has been particularly emphasised during the Quaternary and Pliestocene. These work together in a complex way to produce the morphologies now observed at places such as Cooleman.

With regard to valley development such as at Cooleman, it is evident that the dry stage marks the end of down cutting of the valley unless subsequent cave roof collapse which is probably not demonstrable occurs. Generally however, down cutting ceases and slope processes take over in determining form. The slope, regolith and profile analysis carried out at Cooleman indicate a long period of slope process dominance with intermittent periods of removal caused by frost climate probably about 15,000 - 30,000 BP which restored surface drainage only for short periods. Subsequently Pliestocene surface streams have merely incised themselves into the colluvially derived material that was sloughed off the valley sides probably by frost induced mass movement. The existence of large angular blocks buried in the soil in the bottom of the valley floor are most probably derivation of this frost action. In gorge areas however, there is a more direct relationship between frost shattering and debris location though some larger blocks are clearly derived from rock falls.

SUSS Bull 15(5):87

From remnant evidence, it would appear that the limestone in this area was once covered by a sheet of impermeable lavas similar to those found further west near the contact.

Chert remnants are also present and appear as scattered lags on the crests and valley sides. These are related to the materials on the subjacent karst that lies in the centre of the plain. No doubt since the structure of the different lithologies appears conformable, the initial drainage line developed in the same orientation as today. Downcutting and stripping of the impermeables due to uplifting proceeded until the limestone was exposed at which point water began to penetrate fissures, joints and bedding planes. Downcutting in the meantime continued here at a faster rate given sufficient water and vegetation for solution. Little cave development had occured up to this stage with the exception perhaps of a few solution cavity pockets of no great size. Most of these no longer exist today in the area and are only indirectly inferred by the presence of a succesive increase in the nearest neighbour index of cave distributions downslope in the gorge areas below the entrance to Clown cave. This cave is itself a largely phreatic feature in contrast to its vadose neighbours further down in the valley side. Its phreatic nature is still evident even though secondary breakdown has obscured some of this.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CAVE CONSERVATION.

P. Campbell

In the short time I have been caving I have come to view the A.S.F. as theoretically a responsible group with at least some control over what happens to caves. As such it should make attempts to set an example in preserving the caves that it does have dominion over. However it appears that this is not always the case, which may be due to the fact that certain measures are not taken.

Some examples may illuminate the problem. Last year I was in a party which discovered a new section in a cave. We did not really give much thought to our actions and a mud floor was completely tracked over. The floor mud was an unusual ripple form and in its own right, was a unique formation. Further it may have given clues to further cave (I am no expert on this point) since it may have been characteristic of mud washed and deposited from above, or settling in still water (I don't know which). In any case the simple precaution of sticking to 2 or 3 tramped-out tracks would have preserved this feature. Fortunately in a cave discovered this year, where a 6 foot patch of flowstone intervenes in between 2 mud patches, meticulous care has been taken to confine tracks to one small portion.

I am told that in a clean section of a well decorated cave (unusual for its area) "privileged"A.S.F. members ruined the decoration by neglecting to detrog. The same happened when a new section of cave was discovered in a system that had not been extended for many years. No track was marked and the decoration ruined by parties of supposedly responsible people taking their friends for a look.

Cave Conservation (cont).

A new cave was opened in a well trogged area and attempts to keep it secret failed. It has been claimed that valuable sediment banks have been disturbed reducing their scientific value. Again, people were taken in "for a look".

In an A.S.F. publication, front and back covers were devoted to photographs of magnificent formation, publicising the area but adding a warning not to go in and ruin the formation. An article in the publication reports the trip to survey the areas the unsuccessful attempts to do this without damage. The tone of the articletaunts, implying; "we've been into to see this absolutely incomparable, super, formation, but don't you go in".

In a widely disseminated speleological publication a cave with undamaged flowstone (unusual for the area), notes that an alternative route from a point further into the cave can be negotiated through a hole across this flowstone, without pointing out that this in fact should not be done.

All the above acts involve directly and in one case indirectly A.S.F. members Some points should be made;

* When an explorer discovers a new section, he does not have divine right to do what he will with it. This means the "normal" procedures of not tracking mud and confining oneself to a restricted track, apply even to this person. With adequate documentation, names of discoverers and early visitors are unnecessary.

* If the section was not discovered, it would not be exposed to damage by people Thus it is the explorer who has allowed the cave to face the possibility/probability of being damaged. As a result he is responsible for the protection of that cave, <u>right from the start</u>. This may involve various conservation measures. The discoverer must decide what measures are necessary. While steps are not taken, people without a task at hand and large unco-ordinated groups should not enter sections which can be damaged. Unavoidable disturbance must be restricted to a single track. This should be marked in an obvious but <u>Reversible</u> manner (ie. no spray paint, carbide arrows). Since there is adequate oppurtunity in most caves for groups of considerable variety to carry out the documentation and other speleological tasks, all interested parties (within reason) should be allowed to take part in these activities, since once again, no person (discoverer, or otherwise) has a right to exclude genuinely interested people from taking part in these activities. This exclusion appears to be motivated by the fear that if more members are involved, the prestige that may have or have not gone with this work is spread more thinly. Exclusion may lead to unauthorised and uncontrolled trips. If these measures are taken there will in most cases be no demand for "tours" especially those founded on the practise of nepotism.

To avoid the chance of uncontrollable visits to caves, where necessary, absolute secrecy must be maintained until the work is completed. This means that nothing is pulished, and people, even other caving colleagues are not told about the cave <u>AT ALL</u> unless they are to be involved in the work. As a result, work must be done rapidly and efficiently from each viewpoint. The draw back is that one cannot bask in the glory of discovery. If a section of cave is to be protected, then don't publicise it and if it is likely to be damaged. Preservation should rate higher than the need for surveys. What is the point of having a detailed map of something that should have not been visited?

Cave Conservation (cont).

Finally it should become common practice, like belaying people on ladders that clean formation is not muddied and that all people who inadvertently cause damage take all steps possible to reverse this damage as soon as possible. All freshers and other speleological groups should be informed in this respect before they encounter the problem.

If all the above measures are taken and implemented then perhaps absolute access bans by certain authorities will be unnecessary, the scrubbing brush be used infrequently, and the caves be kept in something resembling their original state.

AUSTRALIA SCOOPS CAVING WORLD WITH NEW WATER TRACING TECHNIQUE

P. Campbell

Yes, a new technique has been developed that will give both qualitative and quantitative (flow rate) results on the spot with a stop watch and materials obtainable in your local store.

Just add 6 cups of water, 5 cups of sugar and 1 bottle of raspberry concentrate!

Raspberry cordial makes an excellent tracer since in the hands of even the inexperienced a qualitative study can be made due to the property that raspberry cordial has. That of a distinctive red colour. With an expert raspberry cordial consumer, (there is only one in Australia who is also a speleo!), amounts as low as 1 raspberry molecule, sucrose covalently linked to a red raspberry moiety can be detected by consumption of samples of creek water.

If the time between raspberry molecules is measured with a stop watch then;

$$\text{Flow Rate} = \frac{d\ \text{raspberry}}{dt.}$$

Further, raspberry cordial is biodegradeable and will provide ample nutrition for thriving colonies of cave fauna. This is because of the excellent nutritional value of raspberry cordial.

In all a highly recommended water tracer.

N.B. Whilst no claims can be made for the advantages to nutrition of cave fauna by raspberry cordial, it is a proven fact that it - because of its sucrose component, is detrimental to the nutrition of man - and that includes speleo water tracers! THE SUSS DIETITIAN

THE N.S.W. CAVE RESCUE GROUP. Philip Toomer.

Since the "first release", several important things have happened to the Cave Rescue Group. It is now a member of the N.S.W. Volunteer Rescue Assoc, and will be addressing the October meeting of the Association to tell other members of the kinds of problems encountered, and the kind of support that is required for cave rescue. The Cave Rescue Group has been granted formal Observer status at N.S.W. State Liason Council Meetings, and will be organising a simulated Rescue at Bungonia, N.S.W. on the weekend of 13/14 March, 1976, on behalf of the N.S.W. Liason Council.

Further information regarding this event will be available later, but it is intended that the weekend will be in the form required by participating speleos. To this end I ask any person who is interested in any particular situation being investigated, or who has any specific hopes regarding the weekend, to contact the Cave Rescue Group so that their ideas can be incorporated into the plan for the weekend.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Cave Rescue Group was held on 13th August, 1975, and was attended by 15 members and 10 visitors. The Group now has a membership of 22. Two sub-committees have been established, and they are investigating, in a general way at the moment, "techniques and equipment" and "The A.S.F. Simulated Rescue, '76". Plans are underway for the compilation of a list of contacts, hospitals, police, etc., for each caving area, and also a check list of what to take if called out for a rescue.

The membership of the Group is continuing to expand, but it is still not as broad as the Committee hopes it eventually to be.

As Liason Officer of the Cave Rescue Group. I am prepared to attend any club meeting and talk with members to answer any questions which they may have. I have extended this invitation previously, and have already spoken at two Sydney clubs.

It has been previously outlined, but I will state again: the N.S.W. Cave Rescue Group is not another club, but is rather intended to be a clearing house for information and an instrument of assessment, as well as a source of competent rescuers, who will hopefully be already caving in the area when assistance is required. I re-state that the police are only entitled to use volunteers who are members of the Volunteer Rescue Association.

If you feel that you could be of assistance to the Group, or that you could gain by membership and are already a competent caver, I ask you to contact the Membership Officer, N.S.W.C.R.G.,

Don Matts,
176 William Street,
BANKSTOWN, 2200 Ph. (02) 70-0374

Don will then be able to arrange for you to receive an application/information form.

Any enquiries regarding the structure and aims of the Cave Rescue Group, or any request for me to talk with members of your club should be made to the Liason Officer, N.S.W.C.R.G.,

N.S.W.C.R.G. cont.

Philip Toomer,
2/19-21 Tunks Street,
WAVERTON, 2060. Ph. (02) 929-0432

The next General Meeting of the Group will be held at 7.30 p.m. on 26th November, 1975 at:

176 William Street,
BANKSTOWN. N.S.W.

The next activity of the Cave Rescue Group will be a Simulated Rescue on 1/2 November 1975.

The Group's present postal address is:

The Secretary,
New South Wales Cave Rescue Group,
40 Acacia Avenue,
Punchbowl. N.S.W. 2196.

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NEWS FROM OVERSEAS:

Brendon Hyde, on the SUSS Committee for Remote and Inaccessible Places, writes from England.....

"Last week hitched to Cheddar Gorge to see the caves and camp for a day or so. They were so pathetic, and the gorge so uninspiring I walked out at 2 p.m. after arriving at midday. They only have two real caves open. No joke, the formations on the postcard (grotty fungus covered flowstone) are the ONLY ones worth seeing. Much of the things they show we would only walk on at Jenolan. They blasted into the cliff to try and find another cave. No luck! So they installed an artificial waterfall and fishtanks inside and call it the Waterfall Cavern or something! Then went to Wales to see caves in the Brecon Beacons. They were not worth wasting ink on!. We are very lucky to have such beaut caves in Australia and it is a crime to loose them. Fight on for Cliefden - if they were here they would be world famous.

Cheers to all in SUSS".

Brendon will be trekking to the base camp at the foot of Everest in the Himalayas at Christmas time. So far this year he has done 2 trips over Europe ranging as far south as Italy and Greece and as far east as Russia Readers will note that these travellings have not changed Brendons character.

Randall King.

The following is an account from a Log Book prepared by Brian Cooper for his Duke of Edinburgh, Ramblers Badge, Baden-Powell Award. The expedition involved a 128km walk over a period of 10 days (2.5.75 - 12.5.75). The route taken was:

'Boyd Crossing - Uni Rover Trail - Mount Savage - Hayten's Spur - Billy's Creek - Lanigans - Kowmung - Church Creek - Mt Armour - Limestone Ridge Road - Camden Oberon Stock Route - Yerranderie - Scotts Main Ridge Road - Mt. Cookem - Gauging Station - White Dogs - Medlow Gap - Breakfast Creek - Carlons Farm - Megalong Tea Room's - Blackheath.'.

Of special interest is his record of three days spent at Church Creek Caves.

"MAY, 6

We got up fairly late, about 08.00h, we had muesli and redistributed some of my gear to the other guys.

Bruce Cook fom Ingleburn Rover Crew came down Lanigans from Colong Caves with two members from Gymea Venturer Unit. Bruce was doing his Ramblers Badge - Katoomba to Kanangra Tops, Katoomba.

After cleaning up our campsite we departed up the Kowmung to go to Churgh Creek as this was the quickest way to the Caves, as a day was lost because of my misadventure.

Progress down the Kowmung was fairly rapid as we saw evidence of wild dogs near Mossy Camp and a few burrows. By 11.30 we arrived at the campsite of the fourth and had inspected the campsite and the gear which was wrecked to see if it was repairable.

The route down the Kowmung was fairly interesting as I learnt what a point bar deposit was, what undercut bank was, and several other features of the stream became more evident.

The banks seemed to have plenty of blackberry and stinging nettle growing along them.

By 13.15 we had lunch at Broken Point.

Broken Point had a red gum forest opposite, near the bend of the river which narrowed from 25m to 15m and 2m deep. At this point the river became extremely fast. Dick found another bone which he seemed to be rapt in.

At present we have found five dog burrows, each burrow had dog prints around it,

We rested near Black Knoll at 14.25. The country at this point was relatively open. We crossed the Kowmung at a section 6m deep. The current was relatively slow.

As we came to Church Creek we could see plenty of kangaroos and we heard several bell-birds in the distance. On the flat Dick found

some galvanised iron and a rusted pipe which seemed to be several years old.

Church Creek was a dried up stream bed with a deposit of stones at the entrance raising the river bed 2m above the height of the Kowmung. At 150m upstream we found some small puddles with a small trickle flow from each puddle. Judging by the amount of plant growth in the stream bed volumes of water nearly flow down the water course. As we wandered upstream we came to an excellent campsite except for the fact that there was no water.

We put our gear down and went upstream and looked for the N30 peg, all we could find was a N48 marker on a tree about 50m from the rock.

We found Fife Cave on the original bearing from the rock. The country in the gorge is magnificent, all that beautiful limestone and so little time to explore the limestone bluffs.

On the northern bluff four entrances were found. From spot inspection the entrances seemed to lead into large systems.

At five we decided to have tea, John decided to cook. The water was slightly limey. We then went to sleep.

MAY, 7

We began the survey of CC4. I assumed that the cave would be fairly easy to survey according to the map.

As we wandered into the cave we saw a visitor's book put in the cave by Mr. Ashley Gibbons of La Perouse Rover Crew (highly illegal). The cave was fairly old formation in the northern section. The stream passage seems to have cut its way into some block marble at the base of the limestone. There seems to be two definite levels in the cave, a river level which is flowing in a north-west direction. The northern section is the older section of the cave, this could be seen by the dryness of the formation and the crystalline shape of the formation. Most of it was very beautiful, with some discolouration on the most used route. One surprising factor was that there was some unspoilt flowstone on a major route.

As we progressed up to the unsurveyed sections, we commenced to survey a side section which seemed to go off the right, as we proceeded to the surveyed section, Dick took some photographs of bats in order to identify the species later on.

The section we first surveyed had small passages leading off the main passage-way. There was little, if any, decoration in this chamber. One of the passages led down to a pool with a current flowing in it.

Church Creek Caves (cont)

The next chamber was approximately 3 to 4m high, 3m wide and 6m long. In this chamber there are two pieces of limestone protuding from the wall. One was shaped like a sea horse, so it was decided to call it Sea Horse Chamber. From there we went down a 17m long passage approximately 3m high and 1m wide, at the end of the passageway there was an overhead passage which seemed to be an older stream passage.

This upper passage indicate three stages in the stream development of the cave. The first being the upper passageway, the second being the dragway and the development of formation, the third being the stream passage that is flowing at present.

From the dragway we proceeded through a small chamber and we started going down to the stream passage level. Once we reached the stream passage level we reached a level of marble which the water had worn a path through.

The effect the water had on this harder rock was very fantastic. The rock pattern had an overawing effect on us. We called this area Hallowed Hall. As soon as we had finished the survey we left the cave and washed our eating gear. After collecting some firewood we had our tea.

MAY 8

We got up and had an early breakfast and commenced to survey Peter's cave and Dick's caves. The hardest part of the survey was triangulating the caves with known reference points.

Peter's cave was a small hole about 4m deep and 3m x 5m surface. At the base there was a chamber but it was too tight to go into. Peter called it Nottlepot.

We commenced the survey of Dick's caves. The first cave was approximately 8m across and 11m deep with a pile of guano approximately 4m high. The guano was mostly from the swallows that nest in the cave. The smell was not bearable a nd the survey was finished as soon as possible.

The survey of Richards second cave took much longer though it was a smaller cave. The cave had a dip of approximately 30 degrees. There were signs that the cave was inhabited by some rather small animals by the smoothness of the rock.

At the back of the cave there were some minor passages found at the top and sides of the cave, because of the fig at the entrance the cave was called Fig Cave.

We then went to CC4 and finished the survey commenced on the previous day and toured the cave as well as photographed it. The trip up to the northern section was relatively fast and we finished surveying the 3m connecting the passage.

CHURCH CREEK CAVES (cont.)

We then wandered down the 3m passage and found some fossil bones which were fused into the rock. Some of the fossils were loose, we promptly photographed and then hid the bones in case they were vandalised by future partys visiting the cave. We discovered that the overpass connected through a rockpile to the Hallowed Hall. We then wandered down to the Southern Section. This area is very active with some beautiful formations growing.

Peter photographed a broken formation about 1m long and 5 - 6m wide. We followed the water course down to a low section. As we did not want to get wet we finished our travels through the cave.

After leaving the cave we had tea and a good night's sleep.'

TRIP REPORT: Eisriesenwelt and Dachstein Eishohle, Austria.

24th to 28th Aug. '73.

Leader: Jeanette Parkes (alias Dunkley).
Others: nil
(All times mentioned are local time.)

This trip was unusual from the beginning in that no-one applied to the trip leader to join the trip. Since therefore no car was available, an alternative means of transport had to be found. It was finally decided by all concerned to proceed by aeroplane to Munich, by train to Salzburg and then by car.

The party left Sydney at 3pm an Friday 24th and after refuelling stops at Singapore (temp. 26C, time 8pm) and Bahrain (temp. 33C, time 12.30am), arrived at Frankfurt at 6am Saturday, somewhat dishevelled and exhausted, 24 hours after leaving Sydney. Since a "go-slow" airport strike was in force, a four hour wait ensured before the one hour flight to Munich. No difficulties were experienced with customs as they were also on strike. An exciting ride in the airport bus carried our party to the Hauptbahnhof whence it embarked on a fast train to SAlzburg.

At Salsburg our party proceeded to the hotel and slept for a number of hours. Sunday was spent sightseeing and on Monday our party descended upon the Avis office and after parting with vast sums of money departed for Eisriesenmelt in a brilliant red VW with a loose rear number plate. At this stage some difficulties were experienced by our driver who had , it turned out, never driven a VW before. The instruction manual, being in German, was not of great assistance and it took some considerable time to find out how to turn off the heater. (It was a very hot day and the car had black Upholstory.) Also, for some obscure reason, the flashers worked by a stick which protuded from the LH side of the steering wheel, which as all good Holden drivers know is where the gear stick ought to be! However, our driver showed great skill in overcoming these difficulties and we proceeded, on the right side of the road, to the town of Werfen, visiting a castle or two on the way.

Trip Report: AUSTRIA (cont.)

The car was left at Werfen and our party went by minibus and foot to the base station of the cable car railway (Seilbahn) and embarked for Eisriesenwelt (World of the Ice Giants). At the top of the seilbahn is the Dr Oldl Haus where our party was to spend the night and from there a long steep path led to the entrance of the cave. Here the temperature dropped by about 50 degrees (C) and the guides did a roaring trade with hired overcoats. The cave is not electrically lit - the guide hands out carbide lamps(about one for six people). The features of the cave are lit by magnesium ribbon which the guide carefully deposits on everynice piece of ice. It was very hard to get a good view of the cave and often one caught glimpses of interesting parts but was unable to see them. Most frustrating!!!

Our party returned to the Dr Oedl Haus which appeared to be completely deserted and as no meals seemed to be available, went to sleep. In the morning (Tuesday)our party arose and after clunking around the house for a while, managed to purchase coffe and bread. Thus fortified our party descended in the seilbahn once more and proceeded to the Dachstein mountains. The drive over the mountains was very pleasant, the weather fine and warm. The Dachstein Eishohle is also reached by seilbahn followed by a plod up a steep hill. However our party found it's exertions well rewarded. The cave is lit with electric lights and both the ice formations and the cave itself are very impressive. The cave is very large and was well lit. Photographing is not permitted but slides are on sale. There are at least two other tourist caves there and the seilbahn also continues to the top of the range, presumedly giving a tremendous view. On emerging from the cave our party found that the weather had deteriorated and the cable cars were disappearing into thick fog. It was unanimously decided not to bother riding to the top, so we descended in the seilbahn to the road and returned to Salzburg.

Summary: Eisriesenwelt ++ - Interesting, worth a detour.

Dachstein ++++ - A must for your next Austrian Visit.

P.S. Take plenty of warm clothes, good shoes and gloves!!!!!

TAGGING AT JENOLAN 23/24 August, 1975

R. King.

Present: R. King, B. Welch, B. Nurse, other members of S.S.S.

The tagging trip part of a week long stay at Jenolan from 19 - 24 August, the activities of which will be reported elsewhere. On the Saturday and Sunday, most of the caves documented on the SUSS UCL list between the Devils Coach House and J97 Bluff were tagged. These were from J152-J200 inclusive, a total of 49 tags, which must rate as something of an Australian tagging speed record! Ben still appears to be fitter than most, as trogging up and down the most inaccessible and steep bluffs, and near shear surfaces caused no trouble! One also has the tendency to distrust compass bearing now, as an event where a Bunton, Silva and Sunto differed by as much as 7 degrees taken from the same spot. A detailed account of tagging appears in JSSS and will not be duplicated here.

JENOLAN (cont)

Some surveying was also undertaken late at night in the Devils Coach House by Bruce and myself. Standing at 1am in the morning in miserable, rainy and cold conditions with a gale tunnelling through the Coach House is a most miserable and unpleasant experience. However, most of the detailing on the Eastern wall was completed with the exception of Fingals Cave, and when the map is completed will probably be the best completed by SUSS yet.

All in all a most successful weekend.

TITBITS FROM THE PAST.....

R. King.

SUSS Circular, July 1958.

"Jenolan

.....The crisp weather has resulted in some magnificent ice stalagtites in the Grand Arch."

Sound familiar,??

"..... A new record was set with the recording of 13.5% carbon dioxide at Wellington."

Bad luck Bungoniaites!

SUSS Circular, August - September, 1958.

"LIBRARY

The SUSS Library is the first speleological library on the Australian mainland and over the last 10 years has accumulated a fine collection of material...."

Any society wishing to contest this SUSS first should contact me, with evidence!

SUSS Circular, October 1958.

"Jenolan 4-6 October.

.... During the digging in the Jubilee, a member found an apparently ancient candle. Another member was dissuaded from lighting it just before it was identified as decomposed golignite!!!"

Hows about that!

Trip Report - Jenolan 4 -6 October led by Noel Fraser.

"Serpentine found blocked at entrance by rockfall. Extensive digging in Jubilee extension was the main purpose of the trip, and much was accomplished. Ian Williams discovered a small cave high on the slopes above Playing Fields by dropping his lamp into it. This was opened and fully 10 feet of formation covered passage explored.".

COMMENTS: This reference is interesting in that:

a) Serpentine is shown to have had a long periodof instability of the entrance..

b) the "small cave high above playing Fields" possibly refers to Henrys Hole or Playing Fields Cave, but these certainly more than 10ft long!! If this is so, then this predates the generally accepted history that the caves were discovered by Henry Shannon et al. from SUSS un the early 1960's. Any elucidatory correspondence on this matter is welcomed.

SUB-TRIP REPORT: PISA CHAMBER - MAMMOTH CAVE Peter Campbell.

JENOLAN. 26.7.1975.

Present: Tony Austin, Peter Campbell, Paul Greenfield, Max McGreevy.

After the morning spent with Peter Winglee, Bruce Welch(Trip Leader) and Guy Cox, searching the Entrance Cavern of Mammoth for the fabled lost passage, and seeing the effects of the June flood on the Horseshoe Cavern Ice - Pick Lake and Central Lake (about ½metre above normal level) which had much mud deposited and some washed away, we started for the Southern section via Mammoth Squeeze, but piked when we found that it contained about 5 cm. of water which would have soaked my back using the patented Cambell method for negotiating the first U - turn. We went down the Forty Foot and Paul found his legs a bit short for the free climbing of the last part. The main route on to Lower River was negotiated in the the usual manner; there were numerous pools of water. Also the area around Lower River in very fine, slippery mud about 0.5 cm thick. Lower River was very loud and much higher than normal. Tony stated that it appeared to come out of its entrance as if under (considerable - Ed) pressure and was at least 1m. up on normal. With a few side tracks to examine wrong routes I lead the way to Oolite Cavern where we had a short rest before recommencing the 60 foot chimney. I had the usual grovel/struggle that I always have with chimneys and eventually reached the Balcony which is almost as precarious as the Skull and Crossbones and probably should be negotiated with a tape. I shall leave a tape in the 45° squeeze up the chimney if I am going up here regularly. Tony followed me with greater ease and next came Paul who was unable to go past the 45° squeeze. We could not help him, either from above or below. Max tried unsuccessfully to break his neck getting out of Pauls way who found going down much easier than going up and waited in Oolite Cavern.

After two unsuccessful attempts, I found the way on to the Oval and was followed by Tony who then decided that he might throw up and that LOWER River was a better place than the Pisa Chamber, so he returned to Oolite Cavern. I was finally joined by Max and we detrogged and went into the Pisa Chamber.

The purpose of the trip was to find out what was required in the way of "conservation" in the well decorated chamber which is on a similar level to the Brittle Bazaar. The Major threat immediately is the tramping of mud onto the flowstone, because people do not know where to stop and detrog. As a result, the red flowstone mey be ruined now and there are signs of deterioration on the cave coral around the pool. The other threat seems to be from the mud on the walls which for some reason is being dislodged. This may be due to natural causes or people but it is gradually covering the upper slope of white flowstone above the Pisa stalagmite. I tried several cleaning methods and it is encouraging to note that most mud is removable by water, requiring no detergents etc.. It has not yet been incorporated into the calcite. The delicate and uneven nature of the surface necessitates reasonable amounts of water and a brush to remove mud from crevices. Water is available in two pools in the oval, but I do not know how quickly they are refilled. The red flow stone, being damaged for a longer time may be a different matter.

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The first priority is a sign to tell people where to detreg which should be at the second pool before thr red flowstone. Care should be taken initially to avoid taking mud from the red flowstone into the Pisa Chamber until this has been cleaned. A plastic box with a book will provide the bulk of instructions and if signed by visitors will provide a record which can be correlated with damage, or lack of it. Care should be taken not to proceed beyond the flowstone onto the mud unless gear is brought for another change of clothing. Sponges will be provided for cleaning ankles, batteries and wrists before going into the Pisa Chamber. The possibility of track marking needs looking into as does the removal of most threatening mud on the walls.

We rejoined Tony and Paul in the Oolite Chamber. Tony tried to return to Lower River via the more southerly overhang method and decided on the way down that it was not the best way on. Except for some frolics on the Forty Foot, the return trip was uneventful. The prussik out was faster with two ropes. We surfaced at about 5.30 - 6.00 p.m.

P.S. Is it my imagination or can you hear the rivers in Mammoth from a greater distance since the last flood?

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