BULLETIN of the

Sydney

University

Speleological



Society

SUSS TAPLOW MAZE SURVEYING SAGA CONTINUES

CLEIFDEN TRIP

10/ 11 July, 1976

R. King.

Present: D. Creed, B. Welch, G. Smith, D. McMaster, S. Bunton, V. Moran,

R. Kirg, (SUSS), B. Mitchell(MUSIG), C. Merchant(SSS/MUSIG),

S. Wheatley, J. Carmichael, G. Pattison, L. Osbourne, H. Wallis,

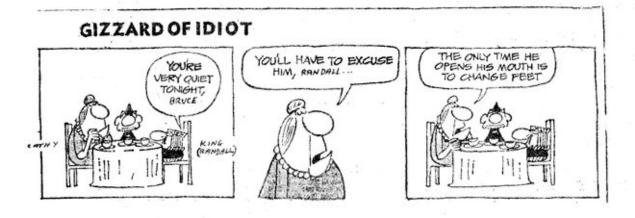
G. Lawler, I. Challson, P. Dummer, D. Symnott and 4 HCG(Canberra).

Over the last 5 years there have been numerous SUSS "last trips to finish surveying Taplow Maze". This was another one. Taplow Maze must rate as the most confusing caves in NSW.— one interleaved mass of semiphreatic joint controlled passages; the only feasible means of exploring the cave being to survey as you go. Thus the current state of the Taplow map is a composite of about 13 different surveys, and the cave is still continuing!

Come Saturday, Des, Vince and myself spent the day surveying the "Roots Extension" (off the far NE corner of the cave) which Pavey had sketched to CRG1 on 13/6/74. Unfortunately we found an additional 100m. or so of passage with good formation, which required surveying. A narrow rift passage was still continuing onwards but this had to be left because of lack of time. Graham, Steve, and Brian maenwhile did a forestry compass survey of the entrance section of the cave; relating this area to Cantilever Cavern.

Since many people had not been to Cleifden before, Sundays main objective was a trip into Cleifden Main for photography etc. Dave Creed continued with some more work on his dig on the hill above Transmission Flat; which is now down about 3m. in rock choked passage with a small draft.

All in all, a very successful "mini ASF conference"- maybe next time we'll finish surveying Taplow Maze......



PHOTOGRAPHY AT JENOLAN

Present: P. Winglee (L)

22-23 May 1976.

R. King

K. Brister (M)

Randall and Peter arrived at Jenolan on Friday night and after a short session of soul-searching, went caving. We visited Spider Cave to take some photographs of the longer known, more easily accessible areas and these included the entrance crawl (after spending half an hour setting up the portrait) the animal scratches and bones and the main chamber.

On Saturday morning we spent sometime taking some surface photos until Keith arrived. Towards mid-day we entered Casteret for still more photographs and upon emerging, had a late lunch. Peter went back into Jenolan to go touristing. Once the afternoon crowds had died down, it was possible to arrange a quick trip into Imperial to photograph Lower River as it emerges from the sump. Its sedate, placid nature is a sharp contrast to its appearance in Mammoth. Meanwhile Randall and Keith went up to the Serpentine area to take some photos of McKeowns Hole, Little Canyon Cave and Diggin's Diggings.

Sunday involved a full scale trip up the McKeowns Valley carrying all our assorted camera equipment. On the way up we visited Devyers Cave, J.83, and Hennings Cave for the monotonous reasons of taking pictures. The stroll up was quite pleasant and we stopped frequently to observe all the sights. Although I have lost count of the time I have walked up the track, each time gives one a new insight into the Northern Limestone; it is possible to see the Big Rift quite clearly from Wiburds Flat and the fault line is obvious. Lunch was consumed at the main sink of the Jenolan Underground River, Waters End, to the ever present clicking sound of camera shutters. On the way back, Randall and Peter tried to get shots of the Big Rift from various angles but the usual low light made things difficult.

Finally we arrived back at Mammoth Flat at 6.00p.m., packed up and went visiting.

PITY WE DIDN'T HAVE SOMETHING TO FILL THIS IN WITH

NORTHERN LIMESTONE - JENOLAN BOOK PHOTOGRAPHY

12/13/14 June 1976.

Present: Lisette, Peter Campbell, Prue Kirby, Des McMaster: Chris Smith,
Guy Cox, Bruce Welch, Cathy Merchant, R. King, W. Harris, Peter
Winglee and 2 others.

The objective of this weekend was to finish off most of the feature photography for the Jenolan Book. Following a disaster on the previous trip when a roll of film with a full day's photography was blank (the film wasn't winding on), much of the work was a repitition of this and other shots that hadn't come up to scratch.

On Saturday one party photographed their way north via Diggens Diggins (pressure tube section with unique scalleping), Little Canyon Cave(Nibicon dig), McKeorn's Hole(chamber shots, old formation, broken column), Hennings Hole(phallictite, strew chamber, aragenite) and Serpentine Cave(snake-like incised meanders). Peter Winglee and Co. proceeded south for photography in False Frenchmans and Frenchmans Cave (entrance pitch, historical signatures etc.). After a dinner at Caves House by some people, a party ventured forth for a late night trip to J79 (Maiden Cave) to photograph the formation.

The spectacular fault rift on the northern end of Wiburds Bluff was visited on the Sunday, with a brilliant photograph resulting. Bruce also led a trip into the Southern Section of Mammoth for those who hadn't been to Jenolan previously, before progressing to Spider Cave to continue with the dig. After 3 or 4 hours photographing and digging, the cave was left until the next day.

Finally to round the long weekend off, on Monday I led a trip to the entrance of J41, J83, and Hennings Hole to take some more shots. The BIG BIG news of the trip was that in the afternoon Bruce and some enthusiastic (but thin) new SUSS cavers made the breakthrough on the Spider Cave dig doubling the length of the cave and finding a large chamber of pristine formation. This has been reported by Bruce. So back to Sydney to indulge in Malcolm's 21st, party, with a very tired group of cavers who had been bottoming the "deep 5 in a day" at Bungonia and abseiling Bungonia Gorge as practice for the Muller Range. New Guinea expedition.

B4-5 EXTENSION ETC.

BUNGONTA TRUP 25/26 September: 1976. Randall King.

Present: D. Rothery, C. Sadler, C. Killick, M. King, and 3 others(MUSIG)

R. King(SUSS).

This was primarily a MUSIG trip with the objective of checking out the B4/5 Extension is close to 1000m, long of predeminantly small and tight squeezes. Unfortunately, the extension is a floodway for a large creek entering the Hogans Hole deline during heavy rain, and the passage would be suicidal under such circumstances. With this thought in mind, the trip was quickly completed. A few colonies of spiders, including some light coloured varieties, were noted, and the end was reached without problems.

Sunday was spent relatively slackly, with a few keen people going through B16/51. Definately a high class joint trip.

EXCENDENCE EXCENDENCE EXCENDENCE EXCENTERED EXCENTERED EXCENTERED SUSS Bull of (3): --

SOME NOTES ON PHOTOGRAPHY

Below is a list of some simple points raised by various people in the course of our photographic efforts and they are primarily intended just as reminders. None of these points are, of course, directed at any individual.

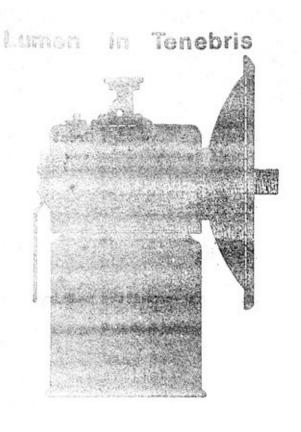
- Bruce Welch has a bulk film loader and is willing to make it available to anyone wishing to use it. Not only can this give you High Speed Ektachrome (H.S.T.) at a quarter of the retail price (the only way to make its widespread use viable) but it can give you cheap B and W as well. The latter is particularly significant if you want to shoot off large quantities experimentally and only print a few of the result. It is possible to buy quantities as small as 4 metres (27 frames per metre) so that holding large stocks need not be a problem and in any case, if refrigerated such stocks will keep indefinitely. There is frequently some cheap M.S.E. circulating within the Club and the more that help to form a co-operative, the more stocks will be available and the range that can be offered will be wider.
- (2) Most people always use Kodak film however it is not the only good range available. Certainly H.S.E. is in a class of its own but in B and W., Ilford have a very good range. I have found the Ilford films to be marginally better than their Kodak counterparts and Pan F (Ilford's 50 A.S.A.) is at a better speed than Panatomic X (32 A.S.A.) for most fine grain work.
- (3) The most useful lens for most care shots is a wide angle. Very often it was used as a standard lens and only changing to the 50mm. for the occasional surface shot.
- (4) Continually check your camera to see that it is working; see that it is winding on, remember whether or not it has film in it and do not throw lenses etc., away if you have trouble.
- (5) Take particular care to estimate the light eating coefficient of a chamber or passage. The walls and floor of Wiburds especially, have notoriously poor reflective qualities.
- (6) Althogh people in photos, particularly of underground features, serve as a scale and as a source of added interest this does not mean that people should be included in every photo. Two notable situations are: when the model is bored stiff with morons clicking madly away and where there is a beautiful patch of formation with a grotty trog in its midst...

Peter Winglee

COMING TRIPS, EVENTS ETC.

- 16/17 October. Jenolan. Bottomless Pit descent. Hennings Cave dig. Great North Cavern photography. Contact R. King.
- 23/24 October. Cleifden. Further surveying Taplow Maze. Contact R. King.
- 13/14 November. Jenolan. General work. JCHAPS meeting. Contact B. Welch.
- 11/12 December. Jenolan. Southern limestone. Jenolan sub-committee metting. Contact B. Welch.
- January- 1st. half. TASMANIA MOLE CREEK Contact Guy Ccx.

MONTHLY MEETING. THURSDAY 4TH. NOVEMBER.



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CONTENTS

Page		
33	SUSS Taplow Maze Surveying Saga Continues.	Cleifden 40/11 July 1976 Randall King.
34	Photography at Jenolan, 22/23 May 1976.	Peter Winglee.
35	Northern Limestone-Jenolan book rhotograp	hy.12/13/14 June 1976. Randall King.
35	B4/5 Extension etc. Bungonia 25/26 Septemb	er, 1976 Randall King.
36	Some Notes on Photography.	Peter Winglee.
37	Coming Events.	