

# BULLETIN *of the*

*Sydney*

*University*

*Speleological*



*Society*



## EDITORIAL

SUSS Bulletin is changing again ! Bruce no longer works in the University Computer Centre, so we have lost our access to an offset-litho machine, and have had to revert to the duplicator. We hope, nevertheless, to maintain a high standard of quality using infra-red stencil cutting and a duplicator that is in good condition. More important in maintaining the quality of the Bulletin, though, is the quality of the articles in it - and this involves YOU. We are simply not getting enough material submitted to produce a monthly Bulletin - were it not for the unstoppable Mr. Bunton we would not be producing a Bulletin at all ! So send in your trip reports, description of the ultimate piece of gear or your new theory of cave formation. If you can, please type it on A4 paper. If you can't, please write legibly.

We also need help in producing the Bulletin - help with typing, duplicating, and particularly wrapping and labelling. Australia Post now requires us to sort the wrapped Bulletins into postcode order, which has more than doubled the time required for this job. Think about what YOU can do and let us know at the next General Meeting or Committee Meeting (and remember that all members are welcome at Committee Meetings).

And after all that sounding off . . . . .

have a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR and remember -

Caving is Fun !

\* \* \* \* \*

## ERRATUM

In the last issue, Fig. 3 of Guy Cox's review of the Spelean Harpoon was printed upside down.

\* \* \* \* \*

### DON'T MINE URANUS

Mr. Green travelled into town by train this Sunday. The rain had dissolved the Duco of his automobile and it was being resprayed. It had rained that morning and the wet pavements dissolved the soles of his shoes as he trudged to the Domain.

The secretary of Mr. Green's local conservation club had indicated that he shouldn't miss one of the speakers performing today. The speech was to be on "Cave Conservation Battles of the 60's and 70's" - something Mr. Green found significant (he was a landscape gardener).

The sky was bright red this morning. "A near perfect morning", he thought, as the sun glistened on the black waters of Woolloomoolloo.

The speech was a biting one and hit out at each individual in the audience as if it was their fault. Mr. Green felt chronic remorse at the thought of all the cement he wasted each day. But this not the main point the speaker made. He emphasised that it was general apathy which was the cause of the conservation dilemma. An enthusiastic supporter threw his cigarette butt to the ground as he raised a clenched fist. "Here! Here!" he cried.

The speaker quoted many examples throughout Australia. Situations seemed irrevocable even in those days but he assured some action could have been taken.

The speaker's plea, DON'T MINE URANUS, seemed somewhat incongruous until it was qualified:-

Pull your finger out, (cave) conservation starts with you.

Written and authorised by S. Bunton, Royal Anti-Apathy Society.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE MAD OR MONIED - BUT IT HELPS,

ATEA 78 IMPRESSIONS, DEPRESSIONS, and OPRESSIONS.

Stephen Bunton

Mr Bunton circled Port Moresby, this time he was in a plane. Mr Innes nudged him "I hope your favourite colour is green?". It was. Imitation is.... the proof of the pudding. His face was green. He didn't know quite what to expect. It wasn't that he wasn't fit enough, anyone can sit around Mascot for five hours.

As they crossed the tarmac their shoe-leather melted in the heat, their bums boiled- the natives had their crock-pots on "high". The long walk long across de tarmacpela had hurt his feet, so when in Moresby he did like the Romans. It wasn't long before he was removed from the dining room of the hotel for wearing no shoes (a subtle plot to keep out cripples).

Next morning an alpine start, no breakfast and a trip right across Niugini on an empty stomach, quite funny to watch actually. His stomach growling at the jungle he was next about to tackle. The jungle growled back.

It was "bird of paradise fart" when the second mothers began their trek into the unknown. The Niugini jungle was the only place they'd ever visited where you didn't walk on the surface of the earth. Either they walked over it on logs, tree roots and vege or under it knee-deep in mud. After a gruelling trip our hero emerges at the great slum in the sky. As he draws closer a sign welcomes him to the Muller "Bunton Go Home". -he would eventually, either staffed or unaccompanied baggage.

Exploring Atea Gara Anda (Base Camp) took several exhaustive hours but eventually he was able to view the famed decoration on the wall of the mess-chamber- The map of the longest cave in the Southern Hemisphere (and the Asian Pacific Region). The map had forced people to evacuate the chambers at their base and daily they set forth (the slower ones were set fifth) into the depths of Atea Kananda another place where you walk beneath the surface of the earth. It was three hours solid caving, liquid caving and gas to get to the end of the Austral Series, to the place where Mr Bunton, Mr Innes and a man appropriately named Mr Drane were to make their mark. It was not that the Atea was a sinking ship but that the cavers were sinking in shit, that made them flee for the far and distant camps. It was demoralizing to be left (even more dismal to be right) as the only cavers still intent on fame and glory at the Atea, still working to push it to its final length of 30.5 km.

The cavers could however live without glory and proceeded to join their associates at places like Mamu Mr Bunton arrived in the area on his legs intent upon festering, well, he was intent, his legs were festering. The most he contributed to in the area was the noise pollution, air pollution and water pollution. The cavers at Atea started the expedition being parched by the sweltering heat and humidity. During the walk in they consumed great quantities of water. Over the time period an adaptation was apparent; the creeping damp, the dripping (stuff like fat.Ed.) forest and running cave streams all drove the cavers to distraction. All were peeing profusely, pondering possible plausible physiological parameters perpetuating such a puzzling perplexing persistent predicament pressing predisposed paramedic prescriptions ... premeditated ... pumkins ... (30 pages have been prevented prohibited from being published here.)

... pensions precluded. Mr Innes' bladder grew ears: each time anyone mentioned water Mr Innes illustrated the point.

As for Mister Bunton's Contribution,  
to the local air pollution;  
It must, emphatically, be said,  
I think the poor old boy is dead.

Like all the others, even the cavers, at Atea, he was having trouble with his food. It wasn't easy to consume:-

A compulsory 18 weethix for breakfast,  
1 plate of porridge,  
x cups of coffee,  
4x cups of Milo and  
a damper (each) followed shortly by  
picklets & pancakes for morning tea.  
1 can of corned dog  
1 heap of sultanas  
1 bag of crushed nuts  
1 chocolate &

some mouldy(soap) cheese for lunch with options on anything up to  
a third lunch till the larder was closed for an enforced 8 hours  
underground. Any person was cautioned only once by the referee before  
they could be sent off- "We're having no slackers up here". The larder  
was re-opened at midnight for a three course meal before the gang  
crashed for 4 hours sleep and then the opportunity to do it all again.

Mr Bunton is home now. He is still restricted to two meals a day  
and longing for the opportunity to do it all again. Niugini was great!

.. \*\*\*\*\*

URGENT ! ! ! !

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND TO BUY  
STEVE A NEW TYPEWRITER RIBBON - FOR  
THE SAKE OF YOUR BULLETIN ! ! !



TR- Bungonia 2-3 December, 1978

Present: Graeme Smith, Geoff Innes, Guy Cox, Peter Winglee, Maryanne sp. combining with Julia James, Al Warild et al.

After arranging to meet Guy, Peter and Maryanne at Jones' farm at 9.30 am, we waited till 10.10 then left for Spring Ck canyon without them. (Cox claims it was all Winglee's fault). After about an hours walk we dropped down into the steep sided Spring Ck gorge where Geoff and I to the tune of "Pikers " put on wet suits before jumping into the first pool.

The first pitch can be descended by means of an uncontrolled ~~slide~~ then a two metre freefall into a deep pool. The third pitch can also be descended with out rope as it is only a 5m jump into another deep pool. The other 4 or 5 pitches require ropes and are between 5 and 50 metres deep.

We lunched at the Shoalhaven River and then went down the river on air-mattresses. Alas, when I blew up my airbed I found two extra holes which were repaired in a fashion by jamming two suitably sized sticks in the holes and stopping every 20mins or so and adding a bit more air.

Julia and most of the others left the river at the "Flying Fox" near Tolwong Mines and climbed back to the vehicles. Al and myself continued on down some rapids and pools for a couple of hours to the base of Mt Ayre and then walked back to camp, arriving at 7.30pm.

I met Guy and Peter and they gave their feeble excuses, claiming they had only missed us by 5mins. They had spent the day on the Bungonia River and had even abseiled into a cave.

Next morning we all went down Odyssey. I didn't get far as I was busy collecting bugs and so only got to the top of the first pitch. The others went further then prussiked out, amusing themselves watching a five foot Maryanne attempt to prussik on a six foot borrowed rig.

Odyssey Cave was surprisingly biotic; probably as a result of the flood a few weeks before. Animals that were collected include-

- 1 opilionid (harvestman) probably *Holonuncia* sp.
- 2 sp millipede (one common throughout the caves at Bungonia.)
- Collembola(or extremely small white spots that jump)
- 1 sp of very small bug(probably *Ceratocombus australiensis*)
- 1 sp of carab beetle(*Trichinomorphus diemenensis* ?)
- 1 pselaphid beetle (*Rybaxis*?)
- 1 slater
- 1 or 2 sp of hunting spider
- 1 very common sp of web spinning spider-
- 1 sp snail( probably *Elosthera funerea*)
- 3 sp of worms
- 1 sp of symphylan(like a small millipede)
- and a few sp of accidentals like flies

Of note was the absence of cave shrimps(amphipoda) and silverfish (*Nicoletia*) found in other caves on the plateau.

This work is part of a long term project by Steve Bunton and myself comparing doline and cave ground faunas, esp in Odyssey Cave and Phoenix Caves. This will eventually be sent to *Helictite* for publication.

Anyway, after extricating ourselves from the rockpile we purchased some wine from Ev Crabb and Chris Dunne (HCG) and we made our way back to Sydney and Neil Hicksons 21st.

Graeme Smith

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• NOBODY

has written a trip report on Neil Hickson's

21st !

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Another T.V. Show Review .. S. Bunton

(Yes I wrote the previous one)

John Farnham's Survival ABN 2 5.35pm Saturday 23rd September

"How would you like to be trapped underground for thousands of years?" was the introduction to the latest cave biology program to hit the air. The narrator then went on to explain in not too accurate terms how this was the fate of any troglobite. There was no mention that it was evolutionary adaptation which decreed this fate. The whole show's theme, "some how they manage to survive", concentrating primarily on food chains and how lucky the animals are to be able to find food in caves etc.

The program did illustrate food chains well and covered many underground animals - frogs which had adopted behaviourally, flightless parasitic strebilid flies, blind roaches, many bats and even possums which navigated by sense of smell.

The film was made in Jamaica (on Trinidad) in Tamana (?) Cave by an American biospeleologist who caves with a huge spotlight, a motor cycle battery and a gas mask. The film was produced by the B.B.C., who (I believe) provide the soundtrack that Johnny Farnham reads. He doesn't do it himself, but it's none the worse for that.

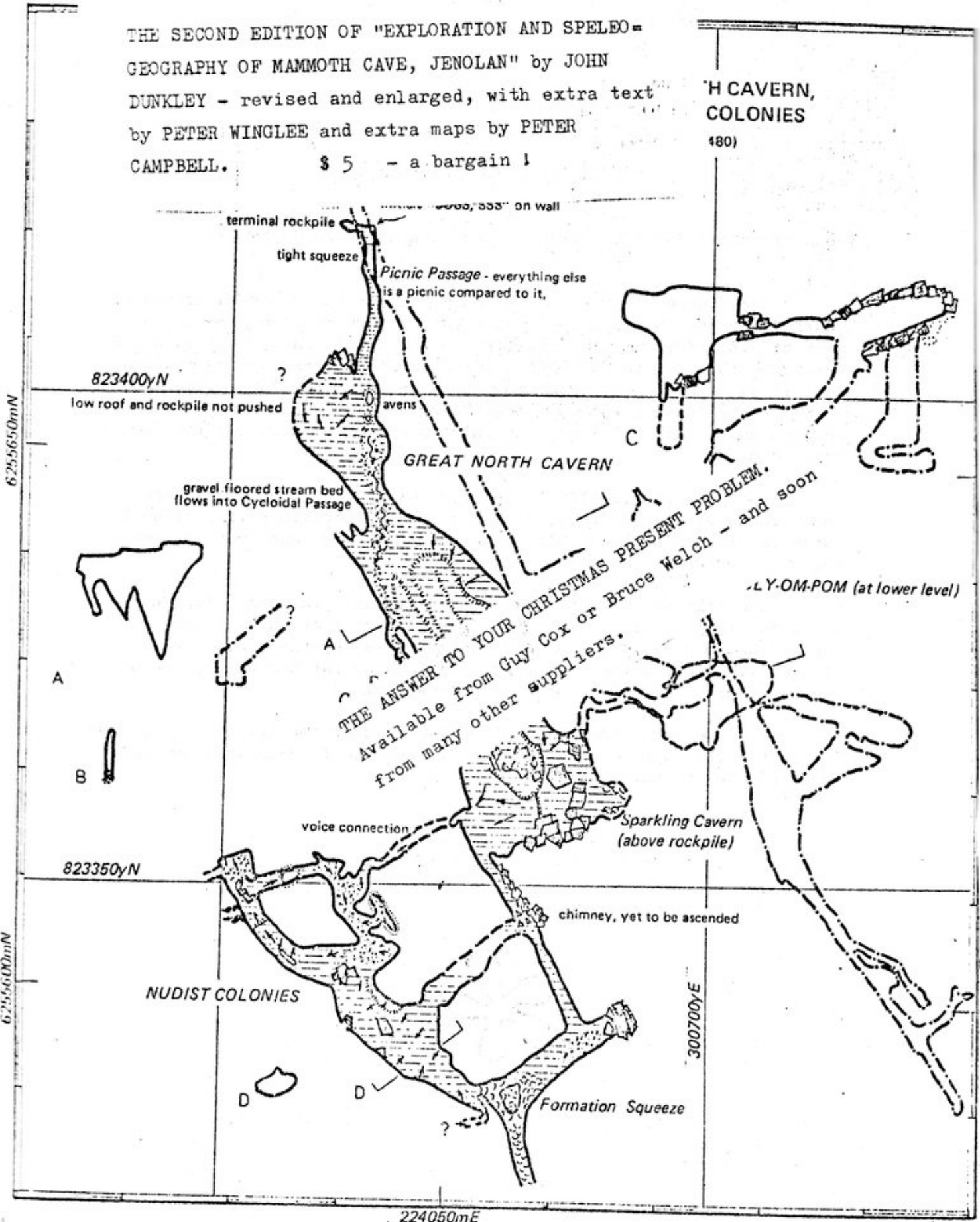
In some areas the information was so oversimplified as to be incorrect. I repeat - the show was only good to illustrate food-chains, not serious cave and evolutionary biology.



JUST OUT !

THE SECOND EDITION OF "EXPLORATION AND SPELEO-  
GEOGRAPHY OF MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN" by JOHN  
DUNKLEY - revised and enlarged, with extra text  
by PETER WINGLEE and extra maps by PETER  
CAMPBELL. \$ 5 - a bargain !

H CAVERN,  
COLONIES  
480)



TRIP REPORT: JENOLAN, 24-25 JUNE 1978.

Present: P. Winglee(L), M. Lake and P. Mattes.

Main Activity: Surface surveying on Dwyer Bluff.

The party arrived on Saturday morning which turned out to be rather pleasant weather-wise, despite the rather wet week.

The upper levels of J41 were visited shortly afterwards in order to familiarize some of the party with some of this delightful cave and to let them see what they were trying to tie into the Mammoth survey. Thus the afternoon was spent surveying down to the creek and on to Bow Cave (J16). This took a little while as Peter was the only one with any surveying experience. The details of the survey which links: J41, J22/43/53/110, J83 and J16 will be published in a later article. (S.S.S. are reported to have determined the relationship of J41 and Mammoth. This survey attempts to add in some extra caves.)

McKeowns Creek was flowing at about an estimated 0.1 cumec and although some water was flowing into Bow Cave most flowed down the Creek but sank between the Mammoth entrance and Dillions Creek.

Mammoth was entered on Sunday and the Cold Hole area was found to be free of water although some was draining through the roof of Sand Passage about 10m from its start.

Peter Winglee.

TRIP REPORT: JENOLAN, 23-24 SEPTEMBER 1978.

Present: P. Winglee (L), B. Welch, Paula, J. Bateman, P. Mattes & friend.

On Saturday Mammoth was entered after some mucking around over keys and the best way get out the cave (ie. get the keys or use S.R.T.) Our purpose was to get to Twiddly-Om-Pom and do some digging. Progress through the Northern Section was quick enough although it had been a few years since Peter had been through this part of Mammoth. The Dry Siphon was found to have an increased gravel infill compared with past inspections. In addition, water was steadily seeping out of Waterfall Passage and this built up that annoying pool. The combination of these two factors meant that going through the Dry Siphon would have meant getting wet and so after a rest the party turned back.

The project for Sunday was to tie in some for the caves on Wiburds Bluff. As we strolled up bubbles were observed in some of the pools in McKeowns Creek. Hennings Cave was entered and was found to be quite dry despite the relatively strong flow of water from Hennings Creek.

In Wiburds the Lake was up, to my surprise and delight, and in the Lake Chamber it was about 3m deep.

Peter Winglee.

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All the above are trip leaders - contact them for details of short-notice trips most weekends.

### FUTURE EVENTS

January 1st onwards - WACCON and caving in the Nullarbor

January 6-7 BUNGONIA - Spring Creek and Odyssey Cave.  
contact - Graeme Smith 524-6447

January 20-21 JENOLAN More madness in the Southern Limestone ?  
contact Peter Winglee 713-9182

January 22nd Committee Meeting. Place to be announced.  
Monday

February 1st SUSS General Meeting - Common Room, Holme Building.  
Thurs.

February 19-23 ORIENTATION WEEK. Volunteers needed to man the  
SUSS stand. Caving film shows, etc.  
contact - Malcolm Handel - YOU can help !

February 25th FIELD DAY Cliffs and Caves of the Northern Beaches  
Sun. followed by a Barbeque at Tony Austin's place.

March 3-4 FRESHERS MEET - Caving at Bungonia.

April 11th Wedding of Peter Campbell and Lizette Heness !  
(Invitation only)





# SUS

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of the  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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