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# BULLETIN *of the*

# *Sydney*

ORIENTATION WEEK

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# *University*

# *Speleological*



FOUNDED 1948

CONTAINS THE

"YELLOW PAGES GUIDE

TO CAVING IN NSW"

# *Society*



## THE YELLOW PAGES GUIDE TO CAVING IN N.S.W.

The yellow pages in this issue are intended as a guide to the caving areas in N.S.W., and to the gear you will need to explore them. Currently planned future trips are listed on the inside of the back cover of this (and every) Bulletin. Remember that permits are needed for most areas, and that these are only issued to recognized clubs. Contact the Secretary or President if there are no trips listed to your favourite area !

### CAMPING AND CAVING PARAPHERNALIA

K. Handel

The caver's uniform is a helmet, workboots and overalls, usually worn over a T-shirt and shorts with a jumper in cold or wet caves. If you don't have overalls and boots then old jeans, a jumper and sand-shoes will suffice, with a belt to hold the jumper down, but don't expect to wear them again in civilized places because caves have sharp rocks as well as mud. Expensive bushwalking boots are also maltreated in caves. Gardening gloves are used for abseiling and some cavers wear them all the time as protection against rough rock.

Guides at tourist caves turn out the lights so the tourists can "see" absolute darkness - well, so that the caver doesn't see absolute darkness he/she/it needs to carry a strong, long-lasting light. The most popular light source is a lead-acid battery belted to the waist, with a cord to a lamp that fits on the helmet. A fully charged battery can last up to 12 hours on high beam or 15 hours on low beam. The carbide lamp is a common, cheaper alternative, but pollutes the atmosphere. If you do not wish to commit yourself to this outlay to begin with, then the best light is a strong torch, such as a Dolphin, with a strong strap - the flimsy plastic strap attached to the torch by yielding metal clips is not reliable. Regulations also require two emergency lights, such as a small torch and a candle and matches, to be carried.

Caves have a bad habit of locating themselves in places with cold nights, so take warm clothes and an oilskin or parka for rain. You also won't feel like wearing wet caving clothes and shoes around camp or into a cafe on the way home, so take spares.

The most important items of camping gear are a sleeping bag and toilet paper. Other essentials are billies, plates, cutlery, mug, matches, first aid kit and money for travelling expenses. Food, a tent and groundsheet are often shared. In some areas water containers are necessary as there is no handy water supply. Since cars are usually parked at the camp, luxuries are not forbidden: an airbed or sleeping-mat is especially useful in cold weather; canopener, billy holder, jaffle-iron, soap and towel add some comfort; and a musical instrument or camera is very civilized; but a camping chair is just plain decadent.

Trips are organized at monthly meetings, and tripleaders arrange for cars and tents to be shared. Car drivers should take the usual precautions for country travelling ie check tyres, include jack, spanners etc, since most caves are away from civilization and sometimes on bad roads.

There are always loquacious members at meetings only too willing to advise you on gear, and as a last resort, camping shops hire out many items.

Bruce R. Welch

Sydney's coastline contains many sea caves, ranging in size from the large St Michaels Sea Cave at Avalon, to caves which are very small. Of course many sea caves are below the level of the sea.

Sea caves are formed by erosion of the cliff face, usually at a weak point such as an igneous dyke or a fault. The chemical action of the sea water, combined with the extreme hydrolic force of the breaking waves and the abrasive action of the rock particles carried by the waves, soon (geologically speaking) enlarge these weak points and a cave is formed.

The size and shape of the sea cave is controlled by the nature of the weak point (ie the size of the dyke), the type of rock, and the nature of the bedding.

The cave that is the subject of the freshers field day is St Michaels Sea Cave. This cave was formed when the sea level was some 10 metres higher than it is now, and the cave follows a dyke about 0.75 metres wide in a westerly direction. If you look up at the roof near the entrance this dyke can easily be seen. At the back of the cave the size of the passage corresponds exactly with the width of this dyke, however near the entrance of the cave the passage has been widened considerably. This was caused by the erosive action of the sea, further enlargement has occurred by breakdown of the roof. This breakdown can be seen near the entrance of the cave and conceals the true floor of the cave.

The other set of caves that will be visited is The Ovens, Platform Cave in particular. Platform cave is developed along a fault which can be seen to extend all the way up the cliff. Evidence of a previous sea level can be seen inside where there is a "platform" on either side of the cave.

Sea caving is an ideal sport for the summer, and exploration can usually be combined with a swim (intentional or not), but beware - sea caves can be dangerous. Be careful not to get trapped in a cave by the rising tide!

JENOLAN

Although it is probably better known as a popular tourist area, Jenolan contains a large number of caves that are only accessible to members of a recognized caving club. SUSS has been largely responsible for the majority of exploration and mapping work that has been done at Jenolan, and two books, "The exploration and Speleography of Mammoth Cave" and "The Northern Limestone" have been produced by SUSS members.

Jenolan is located about 60 km from Mt. Victoria; it generally takes about 2 - 3 hours to drive to from Sydney. All caving trips require a permit from the Department of Tourism. On such "official" trips the usual camping area is Mammoth Flat - here there is limited water on tap!

The tourist caves at Jenolan are at the centre of two separate systems. The Northern System, which is the most extensive, contains a number of large caves. The best known of these is Mammoth Cave which is one of the most strenuous and exciting sporting caves in the country. Spider Cave, which was discovered by SUSS in 1975 has since been found to contain part of a large river, sections of which can also be seen both in Mammoth Cave and in the Imperial Cave (in the tourist system). There are numerous other large caves in the Northern limestone, many of which possess excellent prospect of further extension. The Southern Limestone system appears to be less extensive, though the possibility of further discovery (and maybe even the fabled Southern Limestone Master Cave) is everpresent.

Caving at Jenolan has something for every enthusiast, several separate underground river systems, numerous sporty sections and squeezes, as well as some of the best formation anywhere in N.S.W.

Richard Mackay

#### CLIEFDEN

Cliefden Caves are located 20 miles S.E. of Blayney, past Bathurst, on the banks of the Belubula River. The limestone here was the first discovered in N.S.W. and the caves were well known in the early 1800s.

Trips to Cliefden are notoriously luxurious. Cavers have the use of a shearers house with fridge, electricity and a warm fireplace in the winter. Many an inspired trip has foundered within the realms of the house! The caves, being in private property, have controlled access, so numbers are limited on these trips.

Cliefden Caves undoubtedly have some of the most magnificent decorations of any cave in N.S.W. Cliefden Main, the major cave, contains the Helictite Wall, rivalling the helictites in Orient Cave, Jenolan. Most major caves are gated, and contain numerous speleothems.

SUSS's major project at Cliefden is the surveying of Taplow Maze. Every trip discovers new cave, and of course, this has to be surveyed! This has been continuing for 4 or 5 years and a reasonable map is developing.

Conservation issues loom on the horizon for the Cliefden area. The Bathurst Orange growth area plans include a dam on the Belubula River. One of the proposed sitings would completely inundate the caves and surrounding area.

The immediate area around these caves is located in gently undulating farm country and is a geologists paradise par excellence. Trilobite Hill has had many trilobite fossils taken from it.

So for a trip away in the country for a quiet gentleman's weekend, Cliefden is definitely recommended.

Randall King.

### ABERCROMBIE CAVES

Abercrombie caves are in a 44 hectare reserve located 75 kilometres south of Bathurst and 16 kilometres south of the nearest hotel at Trunkey. Camping facilities include Barbecues, hot showers and power points for caravans, although cavers would never be so decadent as to arrive in such a manner.

The Grand Arch at Abercrombie surpasses in size and beauty the Arch at Jenolan though I loathe to admit it. Measuring 221 metres long, about 60 metres wide, and, in places, over 30 metres high, the Grand Arch is one of the greatest natural tunnels in the world. Within this Arch is the Hall of Terpsichore which includes an old dancing stage of the gold rush days.

There are around seventy-five undeveloped caves at Abercrombie; Bushranger Cave was allegedly used as a hide-away by the notorious Ben Hall and Jack Piesley.

S.U.S.S. trips to Abercrombie are usually arranged in collaboration with M.S.S. (another speleological society). Abercrombie is a fine alternative to Jenolan Caves and well deserves a visit.

MIKE LAKE

I didn't think anyone needed to be told the location of Bungonia because everybody to whom I mention caving seems to answer - "I tried that once ---- at Bungonia". In case you haven't been there yet, turn off the Hume just south of Marulan, follow the signs to Bungonia and then the sign to Bungonia Lookdown. The area is so well visited that a special camping area has been established and a ranger lives on site. Camping fees are \$2 a day and water, toilets and showers are available.

The area is a limestone plateau between Bungonia Creek and the Shoalhaven. The caves are mostly vertical although several do not require much gear. 154 "caves" are tagged in the area and the Bungonia Caves book has maps and descriptions of most of these. Several new caves and major extensions have been found since its publication. About 20 of these caves are worth visiting, some being well over 100 m deep and containing several pitches up to 50 m deep. The caves are usually dry however, they have the added problem of high levels of carbon dioxide in their lower regions. The symptoms of carbon dioxide "poisoning" are obvious and it is easy to avoid problems. Carbon dioxide can give you a brilliant hangover without the expense of drinking. Major caves include Odyssey, Argyle, Drum, Grille, Hogans Hole - Fossil, Acoustic Pot, Hollands Hole, College and Putrid Pit.

Many SUSS members scoff at Bungonia as an area, however, it has several unique advantages.

- (i) There are many promising surface digs so you can legitimately not have to go caving.
- (ii) The scenery at Bungonia Lookdown and Adams Lookout is magnificent so its good walking country. A walk out to Tolwong mines or through the Gorge is a day well spent.
- (iii) Finally, there are 3 excellent canyons at Bungonia. To traverse these canyons is like exploring a world class cave without a roof. Lots of swimming and abseiling and then a pleasant stroll back up several hundred metres to the cars.

The caving region is located in the Deua National Park some 30 km south of Braidwood and consists of five distinct cave areas. With the exception of Bendethra, all are reached by travelling south along the Krawarree road which parallels the Shoalhaven River. Access to Bendethra is something of a 4-wheel drive epic and not often visited by the likes of SUSS. The main cave is relatively large (about 200 m of horizontal passage) while the remainder are mostly vertical and require tackle. Windlass Pit is 61 m deep.

Access to the other 4 areas involves crossing the Shoalhaven. Previously it was possible to cross at Emu Flat property to get to Big Hole, Marble Arch and Cleatmore. The ford was quite deep and tales of water washing over the bonnet were not uncommon. Recently the farmer solved this problem by closing the road entirely. The walk from the river to Big Hole takes about 1 hour, Cleatmore 2 hours and Marble Arch 2 hours.

Big hole, as the name implies, is a big hole and nothing more. Located near the top of a hill this 110 m deep hole is well worth a visit. The basically free hanging 90 m pitch is tiring but not technically difficult (unless you have to pass a knot) and the view from the bottom inspiring. This "cave" is usually attempted by SRT enthusiasts keen to practice their techniques.

Cleatmore (or is it Cheitmore) is further north and down in the Deua valley. These caves are generally small and not worth more than a casual visit. The largest cave (CH2) has a 100 or so metres of reasonable passage and is reported to contain a bat colony. A small resurgence is active, even in times of extreme drought.

At one stage on its journey to the Deua, the water of Reedy Creek travels along a narrow band of marble and has formed a number of caves in this area, including the large, walkthrough, Marble Arch. This area is well worth the walk for the gorge and arch alone. It also has two or three interesting caves worth poking into. The more enthusiastic can even get wet and muddy. Marble Arch Cave has four main entrances and about 90 m of passage (mostly large). Moodang Cave has 4 entrances and

about 140 m of passage. With the current drought it can be negotiated for most of this distance although one is bound to get very wet. The resurgence (MA 4) is located a few metres up the wall of the gorge and is quite tight and wet - obviously worth doing.

Finally we have the Wyanbene Cave area. Access is via a ford across the Shoalhaven at Gundillion and a drive along 8 km of road to the cave entrance. In wet weather the road and the river crossing can be quite impassable to 2 wheel drive vehicles and it is easier to camp at the river and walk. Several small caves are reported to exist but I've never found them. Wyanbene Cave has about 1900 m of passage and is entered at the resurgence end. The cave is wet by NSW standards and trips into the cave can extend for several hours so dress accordingly. It is basically horizontal but there are a few short climbs and ladder pitches. The cave is well decorated and boasts a magnificent aven - "the Gunbarrel" - which rises 100<sup>+</sup> m up into the roof. Several large chambers exist and a wade or two through the Diarrhoea Pits eventually leads to the terminal sump aptly named Frustration Lake. This cave is best considered a cave for people who know they like caving and not one for those who like to keep their feet dry.

#### YARRANGOBILLY: An Introduction.

Peter Winglee

Yarrangobilly (Yagby, for short) is located in the Kosiusko National Park about 70 kilometres south of Tumut and it provides a stimulating venue for extended caving trips, particularly during the vacations, since there is an opportunity to undertake worthwhile projects with cavers of many societies.

The Yarrangobilly outcrop is a narrow band of Silurian limestone running approximately north-south for a distance of some 13 km. and varying from 0.5 to 2.0 km. in width. Like Jenolan this limestone has a steep dip, although here it is to the west. Rising to the east of the limestone, the Yarrangobilly River crosses the outcrop near its northern boundary and then turns southwards giving this area

a 200+ m gorge. All the caves here, bar a few small relics, are located to the east of this gorge and the main caves are found on the plateau or down the limestone cliffs.

Younger granites and porphory completely surround the limestone and gives rise to many westwardly flowing streams that, on striking the limestone, form large blind valleys and dolines that mark the beginning of each cave system. The water eventually resurges into the Yarrangobilly River in a fairly complex hydrological pattern but is basically a series of lateral cave systems, with an abundance of water and sumps.

Yarrangobilly has an abundance of well decorated caves, among them are the tourist caves which have very dense and delicate formation of a high standard. Eagles Nest is the main undeveloped cave, being the deepest (174m) and the seventh longest on the Australian mainland. This system has three parts: East (Y2) and West Eagles Nest (Y1) and the Eyrie (Y3). It contains huge caverns, rockpiles and deep stream canyons and has good formation. This system is an excellent example of stream piracy in which the creek has moved progressively eastwards. There is, however, little possibility any significant depth increase as the level of Deepest Dig is estimated to be approximately that of its resurgence, Hollin Cave (Y46).

About 1km north of Eagles Nest are the Deep Creeks, East, West and North. Each of these is fed by a separate creek and has an active stream with plenty of crisp mountain water. Of these East D.C. is the most substantial being the third deepest cave (139m) on the mainland. The main entrance, Y5, has a rockpile chamber giving way to an active streambed crawl and huge roof pendants with deep scallops on the walls. Further in, on a higher level there is more formation in the 'Donkey Tail Room'.

To the north, the next main system is Coppermine (Y12), which is the resurgence of Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y45. Coppermine Cave is at river level and one has to wade through the stream passage before the decorated parts are reached .

SUSS has had a long history of exploration here starting in March 1950 but now most work is done within the Yarrangobilly Research Group. This was formed to stimulate and co-ordinate speleological work in this area and comprises mainly of cavers from Canberra and

Sydney. Although most of the work on the documentation of the caves has been completed there is still a need for manpower on joint trips to help with hydrological, geological and biological research being undertaken by the YRG. No special expertise is required on such trips and they provide an opportunity to broaden one's knowledge of the many aspects of speleology as well as seeing a very attractive area in comfort (the YRG has the use of Cotterill's Cottage for camping).

Like all N.P.W.S. controlled areas a permit is required for entry and the caves are gated. Since SUSS does not currently have its own project there, trips are usually conducted in conjunction with other societies so that it is best to watch out for these trips and to let your interest be known so that more trips will be organized.

### COOLEMAN PLAIN

Guy Cox

Coolleman tends to be a 'poor relation' to nearby Yarrangobilly, particularly since both are in the Kosciusko National Park, and the same access conditions apply. It is, however, a distinct and unique area in its own right. Coolleman plain is only about 50km from Canberra as the crow flies; about 100km by the shortest route (the rough Brindabella Road (dirt) and a steep four-wheel-drive track), or about 200 km from Canberra by sealed road, with about 30km of dirt and a slightly easier track. In other words, it is quite remote!

The area is dominated by the Blue Waterholes, a huge rising from which a river flows through spectacular gorges to join the Goodradigbee. Downstream is the much-visited Barber Cave, a through-trip tributary to the main stream. Up the dry valley above the Waterholes are the Coolleman-Right Coolleman system and Murray Cave, both dry and much trogged. These are the largest and best known caves at Coolleman, but these are not what give the Plain its special attraction.

Above all Coolleman is a region of active stream caves. Barber is one such, but the stream is small. The aptly-named Wet Cave, above Murray, is more typical - a large, very wet stream passage with even a free-divable sump. The Clown-Frustration-New Year-Zed Cave system is even more choice - tight, sharp passages often half full of water and seeming ten times their real length. Any York-shireman would be instantly reminded of Wharfedale.

Because of its distance from Sydney trips to Coolleman tend to be long weekend affairs (though not always on official holiday weekends!) I go there quite often as I am carrying out a research project there - anyone interested who can spare the odd Friday and/or Monday should get in touch.

## EXPEDITION CAVING

Malcolm Handel

(Inside every Med. student there is a romantic novelist struggling to get out .....)

Drizzling rain eases, the steamy warmth of the tropics seeps through the undergrowth. We strain with laden packs to lift our feet from the mud that sucks at each footstep. Up ahead a New Guinea native, bush knife in hand, expertly slices the vines and bamboo. Uri Pogoba squeals excitedly and we move forward to where he stands at the edge of a deep shaft. Instantly the mood changes as packs are taken off, throwing rocks sought, and people clamber around the rim of the hole for a better look. A rock is dropped ... one ... two ... three seconds before a thud is heard. That's 150 feet deep, the same size as the deepest underground pitch back home in NSW. Quickly a rope is produced and tied off to a tree - there's no lack of anchor points around here. As the caver descends into the murk the onlookers wait for the answer. Does it go? Or is this just another shaft blocked with debris?

Expedition caving is undoubtedly the most exciting and unpredictable aspect of speleology. For those of us who live in Sydney the potential for new discoveries on home territory is rather limited. There are certainly some good discoveries to be made at Jenolan, Bungonia, Yarrangobilly and the other well-visited areas, but such discoveries are hard won, and not likely to make any impact on the world caving scene. To satisfy the fundamental urge, present in most cavers, to go where no other has gone before, to descend pitches of uncertain depth or to swim an underground river that flows into the unknown, he or she must take part in an expedition to distant parts.

Some of the first expeditions undertaken by SUSS members were to the Nullarbor Plain in the early '60s. Aerial photographs were used to spot entrances and as a result many new caves were found in the flat, almost featureless, desert. This included Mullamullang which, at 6 miles was the longest cave in Australia at that time. There is still potential for finding long caves on the Nullarbor, especially for cave divers, who recently made the world's longest underground dive of over a kilometre in a water-filled passage that is still going.

Interest in Tasmanian caves has always been strong, and although it is not necessary to mount a real expedition to go caving there, I mention it here because of its remoteness from Sydney. Various individuals from SUSS have made contributions to exploration in Tasmania, and the smallest state now boasts the longest, deepest and wettest caves in Australia.

The South Island of New Zealand is the land of the so-called mini-expedition. There are three areas of special interest; Takaka Hill, Mt. Arthur and Mt. Owen. Over the years these areas have yielded some of the world's greatest sporting caves. At Takaka Hill there is Harwood's Hole, with its 600 foot (180m) entrance pitch followed by a kilometre of streamway to the Starlight Cave exit, which must rank as one of the best of all "through trips". Nearby is Greenlink Cave, which has 16 pitches, mostly in waterfalls, down to the first sump at a depth of 900 feet (270m), beyond which exploration is still continuing. At Mt. Owen and Mt. Arthur many of the caves are in the alpine heath above the treeline. The rope, tackle, food and camping equipment must all be carried in, and good organization is at a premium. Fortunately cavers have usually been rewarded for their efforts and most mini-expeditions make one or two major finds. A Mt. Owen trip in 1977 found and explored 14 new caves in a period of 10 days. One of them was 700 feet deep, another was 650 feet, and anything under 100 feet was considered too insignificant to be called a cave.

At Mt. Arthur exploration has traditionally taken place in the high altitude areas, which is not surprising since vertical cavers are continually searching for the 'deepest cave'. This has produced caves like Gorgoroth and Blackbird, both in the order of 1000 feet (300 m) deep. More recently some trogs with inverted thinking have started exploring at the foot of Mt Arthur. Exploring caves from the bottom and climbing up inside them has become all the vogue. In January 1981 Nettlebed, which had been explored from the bottom up during several expeditions over the last couple of years, became the deepest cave in New Zealand. Those SUSS members who were on this recent trip will undoubtedly tell us all about it at the Society's forthcoming meetings (too late Mal - Graeme told all at the February meeting - Ed).

As climbers have aspired to go to the Himalayas, Australian cavers have aspired to go on expeditions to Papua New Guinea, which may well contain the deepest cave on earth. Most Australian efforts have centred on the Muller Range in the Southern Highlands. Three full scale expeditions have gone into this area (1973, 1976 and 1978) and plans for a fourth trip in 1982 are already underway. Caving in New Guinea requires, as well as caving skills, the ability to carry a heavy pack all day, through wet and muddy conditions, and to remain cheerful about it.

Why do we keep going back to New Guinea? It is because there are vast amounts of limestone still unexplored, because New Guinea already contains the deepest (Bibima) and longest (Atea Kanada) caves in the Southern Hemisphere, because there are dolines which could swallow up the whole Central Business District of Sydney and cave rivers with volumes of water greater than anywhere else in the world. Much of the exploration has been done by Australian and New Zealand cavers, but British, French and Spanish cavers have also found it worthwhile to trek halfway round the globe for a couple of months' caving there. The best account of why we go there, and what we have found, is in the just published report of the 1978 Australasian expedition, Caves & Karst of the Muller Range.

### CAVING SAFETY

Every caver is surely aware that no aspect of caving deserves more attention than that of underground safety. This is true for a number of reasons, e.g. if caving accidents are allowed to mount, caving as a sport will decline in public favour, caving societies will dissolve, and then what would all we weirdos do for congenial company? Furthermore, careless caving is bad for the caves themselves - blood spilled in caves is unsightly and makes them slippery for cavers to negotiate. Finally, and perhaps most worthy of note, certain caves are so constructed as to make recovery of accident victims virtually impossible. If sufficient safety precautions are not taken, such caves will become packed solid with bodies and will thus be rendered impassible for explorers. It is therefore to the caver's own interests to pay heed to the dictums expounded in this article.

First, we will consider a few personal rules of personal safety:

1. Never go into a flooded cave. You will be unable to keep your carbide lamp burning under water and will surely become lost.
2. Never enter a cave during an earthquake. Blocks of stone may fall from the roof and in so doing may tear your clothing. This may cause you to catch cold when you leave the cave.
3. Always use a rope when you abseil. This point cannot be stressed too strongly.
4. Stay away from caves that are known to be inhabited by cave bears, dragons, sabre-toothed tigers, pterodactyls and bunyips. Some scientists feel these animals may be dangerous.
5. Showing off in a cave is frowned upon. No matter how skilled you may be walking on your hands on the Hairy Traverse in B4-5 (Bungonia) is extremely unsafe. The rock here is rough and you may scrape your palms most painfully.
6. Be choosy about your caving companions. If you have just stolen your mate's girlfriend, or if your flatmate has taken to dropping pellets in your coffee and standing beside your bed at night with a meat cleaver in his hand, it is best not to take these persons in a cave with you. Though they may appear physically weak and puny, they could be possessed of diabolical cleverness. Play safe!
7. Do not go caving if you are suffering from gangrene, a broken neck, bullet wounds, hydrophobia, smallpox, fractured ribs or food poisoning. Many situations arise underground that demand alertness and top physical form.
8. Under no circumstances should you ever try to drive through a cave in a car. If you run out of petrol there is no place to buy more.

EXTRACT from "SPAR" 46, July 1975

If the rate of tourists inspecting the seven tourist caves continues, they could be worn out by the turn of the century - thus forcing the opening up and modification of "wild" caves....

A TOURIST'S GUIDE TO SPIDER CAVE  
2000 AD

"G'day and welcome to Spider Cave. Just walk through here and we'll be on our way along the moving footway.

"This here is the Main Chamber. Here one can see scratch marks on the wall - once thought to have been made by trapped animals - but actually created by a near-sighted Speleologist who thought this wall was the site of Dingo Dig. Up and on our left is the Jail, where cave convicts used to be detained. Be careful of the fallen false floor as you step back down, as you can see they didn't have the technology to construct caves in the old days that they do today. Now on through Dingo Dig to Z-Squeeze, so called because in the old days Speleos who squeezed through came out black and white - like a Zebra. Some older guides still believe it to be named due to its shape and because it was far from the A, B and C of easy squeezes.

"Next we come to Pirates Delight where it was believed there was buried treasure, so a gullible speleo dug it out looking for a reward, and found it - being able to walk through it and not recieve a sunken chest. At the top of Pirates Delight is the Bus Stop. In the old days it was usually quicker to crawl, and then wait for the Bus.

"Here is the rockpile. As you see, the cave convicts didn't get very far. Next we come to Glop Hole Gallery, and if you are quick and keen sighted, you can see a rare animal - the Glop - hopping from hole to hole. These animals are timid and rarely seen, but are often heard - especially their mating call of "glop-glop". On the left is the Khan Passage with its splendid white minaret - called the "Pikelet" after an ancient speleologist. Further upwards we come to the Whales Throat, where one often gets a feeling of being regurgitated.

"Upwards into the Eyrie - one poor speleo thought eagles lived in caves - and into Caverna Alba, which once used to be white and full of fine decoration. Parts of this cavern can now be seen in Caves House.

"Retracing our path we come to the river, where we step into the boats which will take us back into the Grand Arch. But before we exit Spider Cave, we drift through the Mausoleum, where the old men of speleology lay in state - Mike Lake and Bruce Welch - before they were buried in Tomb Chamber with many other deceased speleos.

"Well I hope you enjoyed Spider Cave, and didn't find the steps too tiring, or the blasted out tunnels too claustrophobic."

Guy McKenna

You have all seen the Minaret in  
Lucas Cave at Janolan,  
sketched below is a similar formation  
found in Spider Cave - The Pitelet.



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## NEW YEAR BARGAINS FROM BADGER !

### VICTORIAN CAVES AND KARST

Guidebook put out by Cave Convict - the 13th ASF Conference. Maps, guides, surveys, photos and descriptions for all the caves and caving areas in Victoria. Much the best book ever put out on the Victorian caves, and much better printed and produced than previous ASF Conference Guidebooks.

\$6.00

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAVES AND KARST OF THE MULLER RANGE

The report of the 1978 Australasian Speleological Expedition to Papua New Guinea. Includes description and large-size survey of Atea Kananda, longest cave in the Southern Hemisphere (30.5 km), and much more. Colour cover, 150 pages, hundreds of photographs.

\$15.00

ALSO still available - the report of the 1973 expedition to the same area, reduced to

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\* \* \* \* \*

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- see me at meetings, call in at the Electron Microscope Unit (Bank Building) or give me a ring on 692 2351 (Uni) or 818 1896 (home).

## TRIP REPORT

JENOLAN 13, 14 DECEMBER 1980.

PRESENT: Mike Lake (T.L.), Paul Greenfield,  
Richard McNeall, Guy McKenna,  
Ross Newbury, Peter Newbury,  
Judy Strickland, Helen Turton,  
Geoff Innes, Norm Poulter.

### SATURDAY 13TH

Photographing Caverna Alba in Spider Cave was the primary objective. Norm and Ross both had excellent cameras and together they photographed as much as the available film permitted.

Paul and myself, with wetsuits, explored the downstream rockpile in an effort to make the Imperial connection. Progress was made by finding a squeeze which led to a small rockpile chamber another 5 metres further on than Bruce Welch and myself had reached some months previously. Later we found that this squeeze can be avoided in favour of a wet swim. At one squeeze Paul had to remove his wetsuit top to get through! Small pebbles in this rockfall chamber which lie an inch or so above water level are covered in mud. This implies that the water level only rarely, if ever, backs up - suggesting that we are near the termination of the rockpile.

After two hours' exploring in the rockpile continuously in cold Jenolan water, we emerged to find Richard McNeall waiting for us - which we greatly appreciated. Photography in Caverna Alba had ceased ages ago. Further progress here will require more pushing - not only of the rocks, but also of our courage!

### SUNDAY 14TH

Block Cave in the Southern Limestone contains a promising dig which Guy McKenna has initiated at the suggestion of Guy Cox. Digging is proceeding upstream through soft dirt and pebbles. As of yet there is no luring breeze to guide us onwards.

The guides had lent us a metal rake for scraping the ashes out of the fireplace at Mammoth Flat - however it came in more useful as a digging implement!

Digging will be maintained in Block Cave every few weeks or so. Hopefully a breakthrough is not far off.

Mike Lake

#### Nuclear caves

WASHINGTON, Friday. — The safest and cheapest way to dispose of radioactive waste from nuclear power is to bury it in caves deep underground, a US Department of Energy Study said today. — AAP-Reuters.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1980 - 81

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Mike Lake, 31 Crescent Rd., Caringbah. 524 5229 (h);  
692 3145 (w)

Vice President

Geoff Innes, 4 Warburton St., Gympie. 5254871

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Ian Mann, 48 Gwydir St. Greystanes. 631 4321

Minutes Secretary

Bryan Cleaver, 9a Endeavour St., Sylvania Waters. 522 7190

Librarian

Paul Greenfield, 32 Leopold St. Croydon. 797 6975 (h)  
692 3215 (w)

Treasurer

Bruce Welch, 21 Thomson St, Marrickville. 569 9928

Editor

Guy Cox, 180 Short St., Balmain. 818 1896 (h) 692 2351 (w)

Assistant Editor

Mark Twigg, 46 Norfolk St., Killara. 498 2996

Safety Officer and ASF Correspondent

Richard Mackay, 16 Northcote Rd., Lindfield. 46 1760

Jim Seabrook Memorial Committee Member

Peter Winglee, 25 Nowranie St., Summer Hill. 799 6403 (h)  
230 0277 x373 (w)

Committee Members

Ross Newbery, 10 Asquith St., Oatley. 57 3434  
Ivan Desailly, 7 Eddie Ave., Panania. 773 3861  
Judi Strickland, 37 Naroma Rd., Northbridge. 95 3236  
Graeme Smith, 7/21 Sproule St., Lakemba. 750 4072 (h)  
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Chris Dunne 114 Woodlands Rd., Taren Point 525 8469  
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439 2566 x35 (w)

## S.U.S.S. FIELD DAY

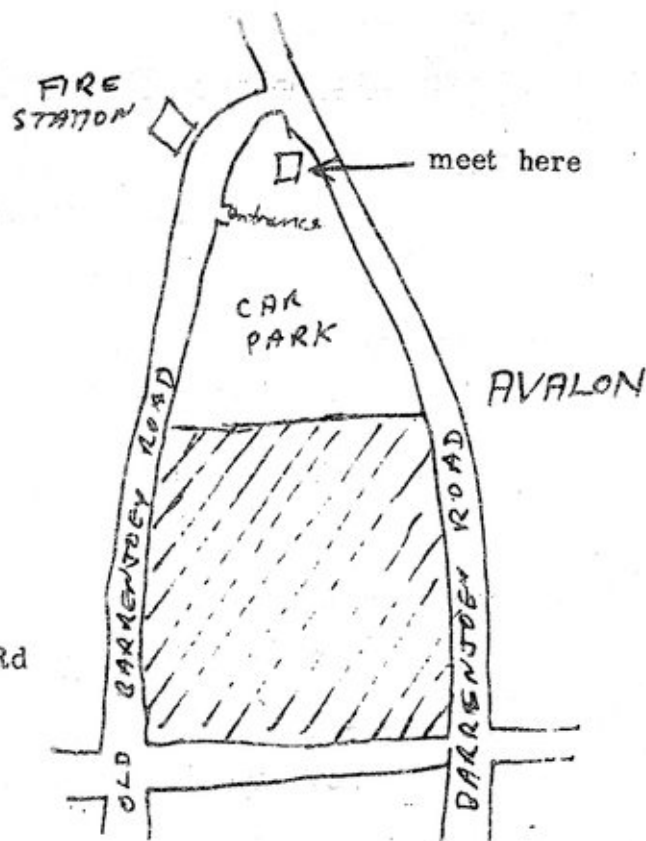
Sunday FEB 22nd

Sea Caving & Abseiling Instruction.  
Bring your swimmers. Meet in car park opposite Avalon Fire Station at 10 am, OR at the York St entrance to Wynyard Station ( opposite Wynward Park ) at 9 am. Those requiring transport contact Richard Mackay, 46 1760.

The actual location of the abseiling practice is at the cliff-edge near the eastern end of North Avalon Road, Avalon.

DON'T FORGET The Barbeque afterwards at Richard Mackays place : 16 Northcote Rd Lindfield. BYOG & meat - some surplus available for those who forget !

ALL WELCOME !!!



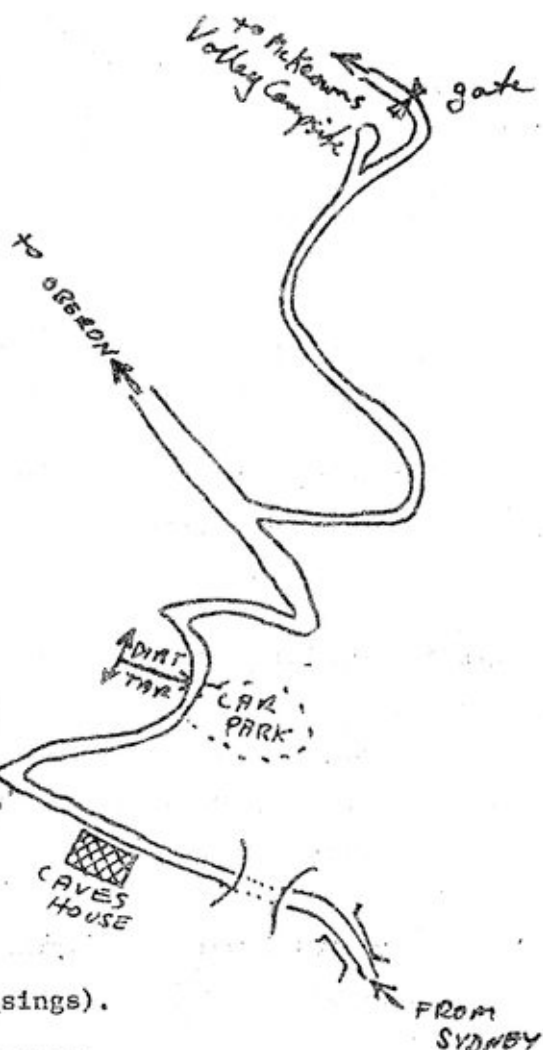
## JENOLAN CAVES

WEEKEND 28-1st MARCH 1981

Contact Paul Greenfield, 797 6975, if you wish to go on this trip.....

The trip is to Jenolan Caves (not the Tourist Caves). Travel to Jenolan Caves from Sydney; after passing through the Grand Arch keep on towards Oberon. After a short time the road will become dirt (see map). About 0.5km up the hill there will be a road leading off to the RIGHT (marked "Private Road") - turn right here (the other road continues on up the hill to Oberon). This "Private Road" climbs steeply & passes several houses - take care not to drive up one of these houses driveways. Continue on through a gate and down a steep hill, then continue to the end of the road (through 4 dry creek crossings).

REMEMBER - ENTRY TO THIS AREA IS BY SPECIAL PERMIT -  
YOU MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE TRIP LEADER IF YOU WISH TO GO TO JENOLAN.



## FUTURE EVENTS

### February

Sunday 22nd. Field Day, Northern Beaches sea caves and cliffs.

See details on facing page. Contact: Richard Mackay 46 1760

28th - 1st March. Jenolan - see facing page. Numbers are limited -  
contact Paul Greenfield, 797 6975

Monday 23rd SUSS Committee Meeting. Bruce Welch's place:  
21 Thomson Street, Marrickville.

### March

Thursday 5th. SUSS General Meeting, Holme Building, 7.30 pm.

7th - 8th. CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND, Bungonia. Contact Mike  
Lake, 524 5229.

14th -15th. Jenolan. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321

21st - 22nd. Buchan, Victoria. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321.

21st 22nd. Bungonia. Contact Guy Cox, 818 1896

28th- 29th Wyanbene. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321.

28th - 29th Jenolan. Spider, Mammoth & Block Cave.

Contact: Mike Lake, 524 5229

Monday 23rd. SUSS Committee Meeting. Place to be announced.

### April

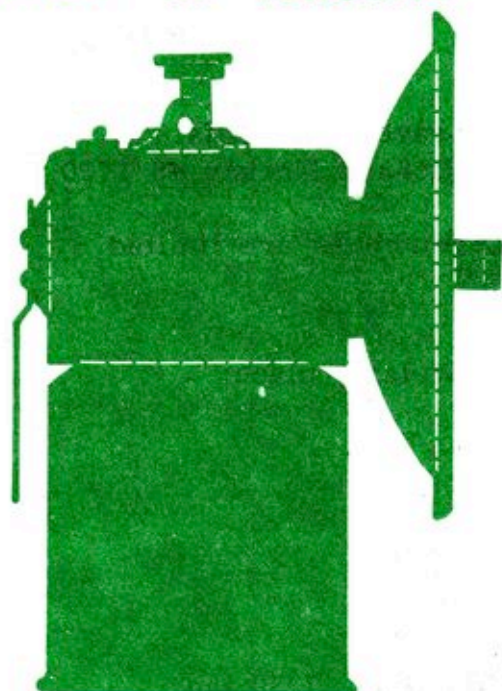
Thursday 2nd. SUSS Annual General Meeting, Common Room, Holme  
Building, 7.30 pm. Come and vote for your friends !

4th - 5th. Tuglow. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321

11th-12th. Colong. Your chance to see and help survey the new SUSS  
discoveries. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321

17th-20th EASTER, Coolleman Plain. Contact: Paul Greenfield, 797 6975

Tuesday 21st. SUSS Committee Meeting.



# SUSS

BULLETIN  
of the  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOX 35, HOLME BUILDING,  
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY,  
N.S.W. 2006

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