

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 9

January 1981

# BULLETIN *of the*

# Sydney

HAPPY

NEW

YEAR

# University

# Speleological



# Society

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## EDITORIAL

With this issue volume 20 reaches nine issues - the first volume to do this for some years. I hope that members have appreciated getting their Bulletin regularly for the past twelve months (10 issues appeared in 1980, which is our "official" number), and I would like to take the opportunity of a new year to thank all those who have made this possible. Thanks, then, to Mark Twigg, who has done most of the typing, to Ian Mann who has done the wrapping and posting, to Paul Greenfield who prints the address labels, to Bruce Welch, as well as all those already mentioned and many more, for helping at the Monday evening printing sessions, and to all those who have contributed during the year. Remember - it doesn't stop here - we still need more articles (and if they are typed on A4 paper so much the better) and more hands are always welcome at the printing works - that is, the E:M: Unit duplicator on the Monday before the SUSS meeting.

Last year SUSS held a rescue practice - our first for quite a while. The turnout was pathetically small. The chance that you will need to be rescued from a cave is, fortunately, small. The likelihood that you will be on, or near, the scene when someone else needs to be rescued, or assisted, from a cave is very much larger - it has certainly happened to me several times. When this happens, you will wish you knew what to do. In March the Cave Rescue Organization is holding its annual practice weekend at Bungonia, and later in the year SUSS will hold another practice of its own. For your own sake, and for the sake of those you cave with, please make every possible effort to get to BOTH of these.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and GOOD CAVING !

Guy Cox

## 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

\* \* \* \* \*

### SUUNTO COMPASSES KB20/360R

The plastic-bodied version of the well-known Suunto sighting compass. Ideal for both cave surveying and bushwalking - can be read to half a degree or better. Current Sydney price is \$23.00. From me they are only

\$15.00

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAVING - EPISODES OF UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION

2nd edition, 1935. One of the great caving classics, E.A. Baker's caving autobiography tells of early caving in England, Ireland and France, draining in London, pre-war cavers' eating habits, and much more. One copy only, in very good condition.

\$25.00

\* \* \* \* \*

All these are available from Guy Cox -

- 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).



## ALL IN A DAYS CAVING - IN ENGLAND

Hard-core Australian tourists that take their summer holidays to Europe, Asia or America are disillusioned by the fact that it is always winter in these parts. Even more so in England which is colder because of the higher latitude. We expected the worst and were pleasantly surprised, the weather was settled but cold, even though the masochistic tendency to go caving in near 0 degree water was part of the itinerary. British caves are supposed to be the best in the world, so Pommies tell us; so is their economy and their beer, both of which we found to be flat.

We emerged from our sleeping bags just as the sun came up at 9am, as was the custom after a good session in the pub the previous evening. However, last evening we hadn't made it to the pub and a couple of bottles of duty free scotch were consumed instead. Whisky and Water was okay until the tap water froze and the dilution factor became negligible - indeed almost non-existent.

Ian and I were feeling pretty seedy in the head and stomach. Neither of us could move quickly or decisively. The others by contrast were keen to go on their mission of mercy.

The previous caving trip into Peny-Ghent Pot had dwindled the numbers of enthusiastic participants. Most were off to the nearest hospital to rip-off the National Health. Two people needed antibiotics for the flu, one had a suspected broken finger, another with a possibly dislocated knee and a third with severely lacerated knees. The latter three were all X-Rayed ( how thorough! ) and one of them posted home the film: "Dear Mummy, here is a picture of me in Settle ...". This didn't leave too many starters for today's trip down Tatham Wife Cave. With the five pikers, it only left four of us Aussies and our local "guide" Richard Bartrop who was almost perpetually reluctant to go caving due mostly to his lack of a wet-suit and the fact he'd seen it all before. He caved in a woolly suit and a pair of waterproof overall seams; most of the panels were missing giving about three negotiable entrances and the possibility of a through trip.

Rucko was the next to bite the dust - he felt sick in the guts. "Oh dear! How sad! Never mind!" The excuse was wearing thin, but having caved with Rucko on previous occasions, we felt we'd prefer him on his death bed.

After a breakfast of porridge and greasy bacon and eggs ( the English staple ) we set about the onerous task of actually finding our caving gear and removing that same frozen mess from where it had cemented itself to the car mats. This was then taken to the local Ingleton Laundromat and spun dry on the "HOT" setting until we could almost smell burning neoprene from our wetsuits and our harnesses and karabiners were buffeted so much as to almost declare them unsafe. By this stage we had visited the local toilet and used their supply of hot water to thaw our boots and melt the carbon residue out of our lamps. We answered nature's call here because the pan at Typhoid Towers had filled, a condition it had only been in once before - until it was kicked over, and no-one knew how it should be emptied. Typhoid Towers was the name other clubs gave to the renovated chicken coop



which now served as the Northern Caving Club tackle shed, partyroom, brothel and headquarters.

I had received confirmation my metabolism wasn't the best this day.

The thawing ceremony completed, we dined outside the local bakery on semi-cold pork pies and sausage rolls and whatever pints of milk we could track down. We could not procure anything useful for our condition such as coffee because the local cafe, Greasy Bernie's, was closed for lunch. With this development Peter, who was crook also, had to throw in the towel. This only left Ian, Richard and myself, and since two is too small for a safe caving party no-one else could possibly pike without cancelling the day's activities for the others. Thus with pride at stake none were willing to be the first to opt out though two were sorely tempted. Ian wasn't, at \$150 a cave he wanted his money's worth, and being 6'4" and 16 stone, a fact which prevented his enjoying some other caves, I wasn't going to argue with him.

Just one more chore. I no longer had knees in my wetsuit and went forth to the caving shop in town to get some flexible knee pads. The shop was, of course, closed for lunch, and yet another excuse to abandon had presented itself.

We parked the car beside the road beneath the 1000' scarp of Ingleborough upon which the cave is located. It was a bright still day, blue sky over the brilliant white fields of the Yorkshire dales. We stripped in the sub-zero air and donned our now cool damp wetsuits, harnesses, lights, gloves and carried our prussik rigs and descenders in the packs containing rope and rigging gear for the six 20m pitches. At this point I realized I'd lost my footloops and was given another chance to chicken out. I managed to fashion some from the ski straps on Ian's pack. Ian was running up and down the road to warm his toes and threatening to tear my head off if he had to remove his wetsuit without achieving anything for the day. Most Pommies believe getting changed to be the worst part of winter caving. Richard was in the process of tearing the frozen inner sole out of his boots so that the ice didn't blister his feet, when the weather report came over the radio... " ... last night's minimum -17 degrees at Stoke-on-Trent .... today's maximum -2 degrees and some afternoon snowstorms."

We locked the car and plodded off through knee deep snow for two hours. We wished we had crampons for the iced up rocky portions of the route. It was a mindless slog as we made our own track to the cave which would possibly be obliterated by the evening snowstorms before our return.

I felt crook in the guts still, then a bit dizzy; it wasn't long before I broke out into a cold sweat which froze in my wetsuit. 30m short of the entrance I was sick. I then waddled to where the snow melt dribbled into an icicle encrusted entrance. I took a mouthful of water for my carbide light and another for myself.....and went caving for hours.

S. Bunton



## JENOLAN 24-28TH NOVEMBER TRIP REPORT

PRESENT : Judy Clarke (T.L.) ; Guy McKenna ;  
Phillip Cole ; Richard McNeill ; Mark Hunter ;  
Mac Monks ; Charlie Morussich ; Paul McNamara

We decided to start the week off on an interesting note, so armed with a sketch map and remembered verbal directions we set off on a magical mystery tour to Ice Pick Lake since none of us had been there. We actually found it and it appeared to be slightly low. We then proceeded to Naked Lady Chamber, where we did some futile exploring in the Upper Northern section. We then proceeded to the Railway Tunnel via Hell Hole.

The southern section rockpile then amused us for one and a half hours and after becoming apathetic (and finding a dead skink who also couldn't find the way on) as well as losing some of the party to the surface, Judy, Phillip and Richard went to the bottom of the 40' via Mammoth Squeeze, where they connected vocally with Guy and Mark, who put a ladder down, then proceeded to Lower River (which was also a little low) and Oolite Cavern. Judy and Guy proceeded up the rift to Pisa Chamber where they detrossed and inspected the cavern (which was free of water). They slid back down the rift to find that the others were bored with playing 'I Spy' in the dark for one and a quarter hours. So we proceeded out, visiting Grinning Monster Lake.

All 8 of us started into Spider on Tuesday, but before Pirate's Delight Mac and Charlie returned to the surface because it was too tight for Charlie. As it was Dingo Dis had to be dug out for Charlie.

We managed to find our way through the rockpile and down to the Tomb of the Unknown Cavemann who now has an accompanying stray dog. We then toured Khan Passage before going down to J.U.R., where we found some white fungi growing. Then we all went up to the Whales Throat and then Judy, Phil and Guy went over Terror Traverse which is in a bad state and shouldn't be crossed too often. The others went back to cut steps on the mud slope to J.U.R., whilst we went up to the Eyrie, looked into the unstable rockpile and peered into Caverna Alba from the Eyrie where a permanent ladder or pulley should be installed, since the fractured shawls are in a bad state of preservation.

We then all met back at Glophole Gallery, from where Judy, Phil and Richard explored Tomb Chamber. A voice connection was unsuccessfully attempted with the Tomb Chamber even which Phil partly climbed, but it seemed to peter out into a rockpile. We then made a dig in a small hole at the bottom of Tomb Chamber and named it Breakfast Delight. It led into a muddy hole - the Mud Bath, whence there are a number of leads which may go on. We climbed up into a very unstable aven - Shakey Aven - which looked as though it may go somewhere, but was too unstable to climb right up. We then left Tomb Chamber (Phil free climbed out, and all proceeded out of the cave with ease, after a nine hour trip.



On Wednesday we all went into Mammoth again. Phil and I went up to Upper Dolite, while the rest of us waited below, wrote trip reports and played 'I Spy' again. When they returned, we all went down to Lower River and crossed over - either climbing or by lielow. None of the 5 climbers fell in. We then went on to Slug Lake which we found without much trouble, and didn't attempt to cross. We then returned and found our way out of the cave after a five hour trip.

Three of us - Judy, Guy and Phil - then went on up to Wiburds, looking in at McKeowns Hole on the way. We had a good time round Wiburds running round and enjoying the mud slide. We left the cave after 2 fun hours and walked on up the valley to where the river sinks underground, to have a wash. Then we walked all the way back to camp in the dark.

Thursday we all went to J41 (Dyers) down which 6 of us went and 4 reached the end. We found our way down the Perculator, and then down (and up) all the pitches. It was a very sticky and muddy trip, but we managed to reach the bottom by recycling ladders. The last 2 pitches were pretty hard and mainly overhanging, and need belaying. At the bottom we had a look at the dig and then proceeded to get ourselves and all the muddy gear all the way out of the cave. We finally emerged after a very dirty 9 hour trip. (This cave was compared to a T.O.P. trip and at one stage was called a farce.) We then went down to the river for a wash before dark.

#### Equipment needed :

- 1st Pitch - through squeeze stalagmite - 50' belay + trace + belay
- 2nd Pitch - bolt belay - 30'
- 3rd Pitch - leader climbs up laundry chute + chimney and belays at the top ( doing this saves time and energy for others in the party) -
- 4th Pitch - down other side, same belay point - 30'
- 5th Pitch - pulley system - 30' + Crab
- 6th Pitch - stalagmite belay - 50' + trace + belay
- 7th Pitch - boulder belay - 30' + trace + belay

**N.B.** by pulling up the 3rd and 5th pitch ladders these can be recycled for the 6th and 7th pitches saving time and the gear required.

On Friday we did a quick trip to the Southern Limestone to look into Richard McNeill's Volvo cave, but couldn't find it, so we sent him down another hole he found, it went for a tight 30' but ended in a dirt blockade. Yet even this must surely have other delights that need looking into.

After numerous flies (sic), we gave Block Cave a miss, and went and washed all the gear and ourselves, putting an end to an enjoyable and rewarding week of caving. Though some of us still had some energy and light left and headed off on a 'Church Crawl' to Wyanbene.

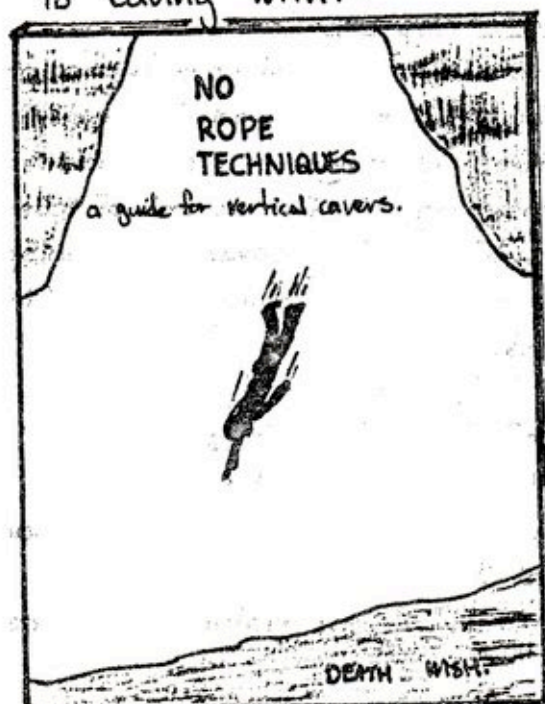


# FOR ALL YOU VERTICAL CAVING ENTHUSIASTS-

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\* \* \*

## CONGRATULATIONS

A full report on Cave Convict will appear in the next issue. SUSS was well represented, and SUSS teams came 1st and 2nd in Speleosports. SUSS also won the prize for the best cave survey published in the past 2 years (Spider), and Graeme Smith (SUSS) won prizes in the photo competition. Congratulations !



# Australian Speleological Federation

## 14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference

3-7 January 1983

Flinders University - Adelaide

The fourteenth conference proposes to have two aims as basis of discussion. These will be

### 1 Visual aspects of cave recording.

- i) This theme will cover all aspects of cave recording. Topics will include photography, both in 2D and 3D and their application in mapping, scientific and navigational activities in caves.
- ii) Trends in cave mapping with the advent of computer plotting, alternative methods of depicting caves and holograms.
- iii) Use of information retrieval systems eg. microfiche, aperture cards and word processors.

### 2 Forecasting the future of Australian Speleology.

- i) How advances in technology affect speleology
- ii) Cave access and management in the next decade. How past trends may affect the future.
- iii) Population pressures on our natural cave resource.



Forecast of cave density - Australia January 1983



# THE N.S.W. CAVE RESCUE GROUP

MEMBER OF N.S.W. VOLUNTEER RESCUE ASSOCIATION

## RESCUE '81

P.O. BOX 122, BANKSTOWN 2200

( Sixth Annual Cave Rescue Training Weekend )

\*\* \*\*

You are invited to attend this Year's rescue practice at Bungonia Caves on 7th - 8th March, 1981.

The aims of the weekend are to highlight the difficulties of cave rescue (so don't have an accident in a cave), to teach basic rescue techniques and procedures and finally to outline and demonstrate the back up services available in a rescue situation. As part of the weekend's activities we will have Police Rescue, Ambulance, Volunteer Rescue and S. E. S. vehicles and personnel on hand, together with doctors and first aiders to give demonstrations.

To cater for varying levels of cave rescue experience (years of caving experience also considered) separate programmes have been organised: RED (beginners) having lectures and workshops on Saturday followed by exercises underground on Sunday, GREEN (some experience) exercises commence on Saturday and continue on Sunday, YELLOW (experienced) exercises commence Saturday morning (similar format to Rescue '80). Maximum team size - 8 persons. Clubs / Groups may work together in teams if desired - the more capable and experienced the team, the more challenging will be the exercises. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL TEAMS AND PARTICIPANTS BRING THEIR OWN CAVING EQUIPMENT: ladders, SRT gear, ropes, etc., as the emphasis will be on getting the rescue going and improvisation.

This year the whole exercise will be held in the area known as "Beck's Gully" so participants are advised to be fully self-contained including water.

For safety reasons ALL persons entering the area will register on arrival and de-register when leaving.

A canteen will provide refreshments on both days. In addition, the following meals will be provided:

lunch and dinner Saturday and lunch on Sunday.

You will need to provide your own breakfasts both days and eating utensils for meals. Cost for the weekend - inclusive of camping fees - will be \$10 per head.

No matter what the weather conditions, the weekend will go ahead as planned. All are welcome to attend, so get your club together or come by yourself. The past practices have been great successes and we want this one to prove to be of value to cavers also.

To assist us to organise the weekend efficiently please complete the form below and return to us before the end of February, 1981, or contact one of the following:

Bob Taylor 02-6323932 (H) or 02-6000777 (W)

Grace Matts 02-700374 (H) or 02-6442252 (W)

Ron Dalzell 02-6077778 (H)

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### RESCUE '81

I / We will be attending RESCUE '81 on March 7-8, 1981. Please find enclosed cheque/ money order for cost of weekend - \$10 per head.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIETY / GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

RESCUE '81

BUNGONIA 7TH/8TH MARCH, 1981

GENERAL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 6TH

12.00 noon	Commence Set Up tents, signs, delineate areas (CRG)
	Commence Registration (CRG)
	Commence Team Selections (CRG)
	All persons register on arrival

SATURDAY, 7TH

0630	Wake up siren
	CRG Briefing
0745	Study notice board re: teams already formed & exercises
0800	General Briefing
0830	Lectures Start
1030	Morning Tea
1045	Lectures Re-commence - Yellow teams commence exercises
1245	Lectures Finish
1300	Lunch starts
1345	Lunch finishes
1400	Workshops Commence - Green teams commence exercises
	Afternoon Tea
1800	Exercise Finishes
1830	Tea
1945	Camp fire/Films

SUNDAY, 8TH

0630	Wake up siren
	CRG Briefing
0745	Study notice board re: teams and exercises
0800	Briefing
0830	Exercises Commence - All teams
	Morning Tea delivered to exercises
1200-1230	Exercises Finish
1300	Lunch Commences
1400	Debrief
1430	Debrief finished - Weekend officially ended
	CRG Debrief
1500	Break camp



## FUTURE EVENTS

### January

Tuesday 27th. SUSS Committee Meeting - Peter Winglee's place, 25 Nowranie St., Summer Hill, 7.30 pm. Draining trip to follow !

### February

TASMANIA. Contact Ian Mann - except that by the time you read this he will have left !

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

Wednesday-Friday 18-21. Orientation Week - help man the SUSS stand. There will be film shows, etc. Contact Guy McKanna 997 3758 if you can help.

21st-22nd. Abercrombie. Restricted numbers - it is an MSS trip and they have reserved 4 places for us. Contact Mike Lake, 524 5229.

Sunday 22nd. Field Day, Northern Beaches sea caves and cliffs, followed by barbeque. Details next Bull. or at the Orientation Week stand.

28th - 1st March. Jenolan. Contact Mike Lake, 524 5229

### March

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

7th - 8th. CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND, Bungonia. See details in this issue.

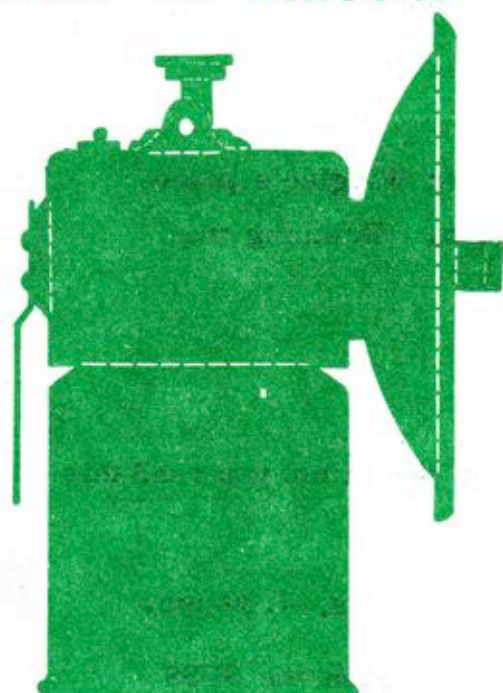
14th -15th. Jenolan. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321

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.

JANUARY 1981



# SUSS

BULLETIN  
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

## CONTENTS

Page

105	Editorial	Guy Cox
106	Adverts.	
107	All in a day's caving - in England	Steve Bunton
109	Trip Report - Jenolan, 24-28 Nov., 1980	
111	Cartoon	"Death Wish"
111	Congratulations	
112	14th ASF Biennial Conference - Adelaide 1983	
113	Rescue '81 - Information and form.	
115	Future Events	

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from: THE SUN,

13/8/80

CAVE conversations:  
Kid 1: Hey, I wonder what  
kind of lights they have in the  
River Cave?  
Kid 2: Flood lights, of course.  
Aaagghh.  
Kid 3: What powers the lights  
in the Lucas Cave?  
Kid 4: Batteries!  
Aaagghhh, again.