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Speleological



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DANAE BROOK CANYON - FRIDAY 26th NOV, 1981

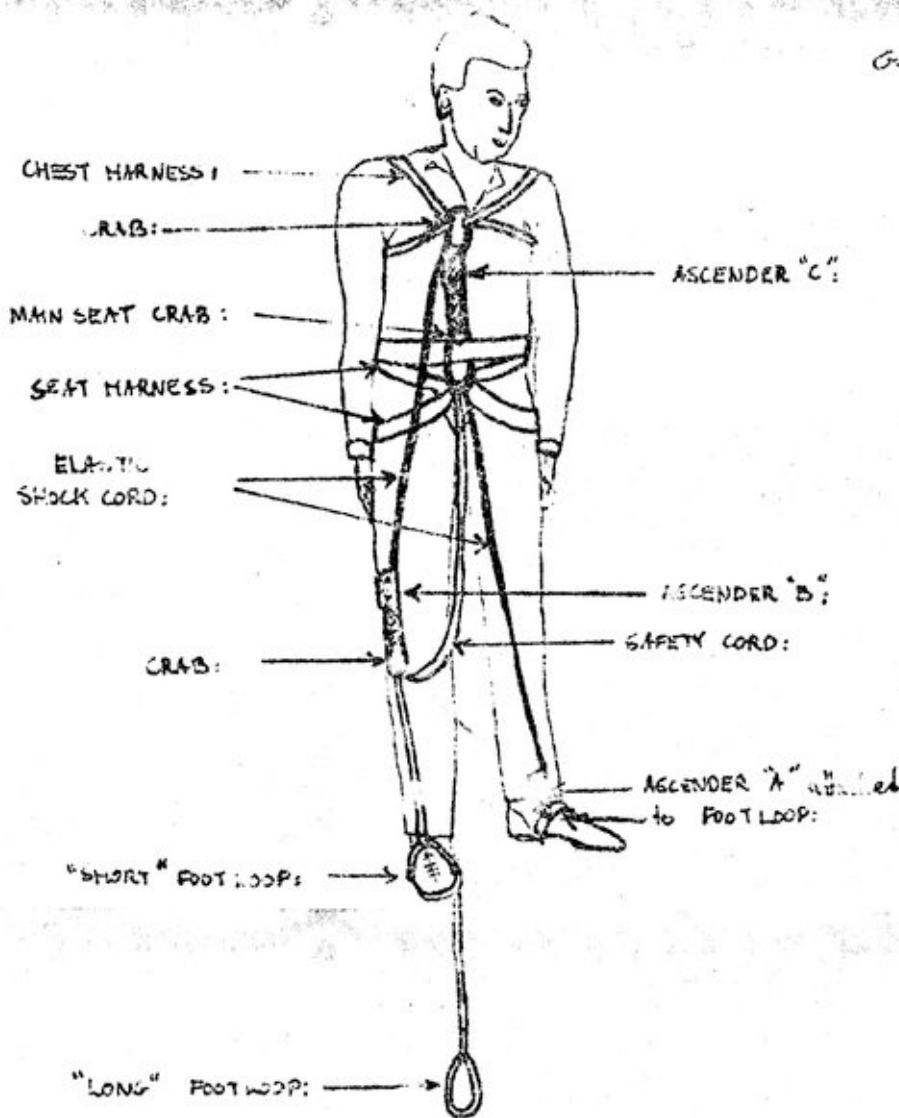
PRESENT: GUY McKANNA
MARK HUNTER

We arrived at the Kanangra campsite on Thursday night, having successfully negotiated both Hampton and a 'roc that attempted to assault the V.W. Friday morning was overcast but the rain of the previous night had stopped so we decided to do Danae Brook (since Kalang didn't have enough water). Besides, neither of us knew exactly where Danae was.

With map and (without) compass we followed a 4WD track located about 1.25 miles from the end of the Kanangra road (which seemed to lack any decent sized potholes). After a while we left the track and bush bashed down to one of the many creeks that leads to the canyon. For much of its length the canyon is very narrow, and where it does open up, is surrounded by high, vertical and spectacular rock faces which compensate for the absence of views of the whole valley.

The canyon appeared to be in flood and nearly every rappel was considerably "wet". The narrow width of many of the abseils and the large volume of water made the ropes susceptible to getting stuck under rocks where the water sometimes travelled, and this slowed down the proceedings a little. After about two rappels (we lost count), we reached the Flocken Hole, the boulder slope that marks the last (but one) of the abseils. The gully then led down to the junction with Kanangra Creek. The car was reached after a candle-lit frog up Murdering Gully, completing a twelve hour round trip. An easier exit is by the less steep spur leading up to Kilpatrick's Causeway; and along the Kanangra Plateau.

"Injuries sustained" prevented us doing the Wollahra Creek canyon that ends at the now famous Margaret Falls... I was so dissatisfied, (Guy). Instead we spent Saturday re-negotiating Hampton via the River Cave.



RIGGING:

ASCENDER "A" IS ATTACHED DIRECTLY TO A FOOT LOOP, THIS ASCENDER IS THEN ATTACHED TO THE MAIN SEAT CARABINER BY SHOCK CORD. ASCENDER "B" IS POSITIONED JUST ABOVE THE KNEE AND ATTACHED TO THE OTHER FOOT BY 2 LENGTHS OF CORD ATTACHED TO A CARABINER, ONE OF THESE GOES TO THE MAIN SEAT CRAB AND IS A SAFETY CORD, WHILST THE OTHER FORMS A FOOT LOOP - AS ABOVE - (THE "LONG" FOOT LOOP SHOULD ENABLE ASCENDER "B" TO REACH THE SHOULDER WHEN IT IS USED). ASCENDER "B" IS ATTACHED TO THE CHEST HARNESS CRAB BY A LENGTH OF ELASTIC SHOCK CORD. ASCENDER "C" IS ATTACHED DIRECTLY TO THE CHEST HARNESS CARABINER.

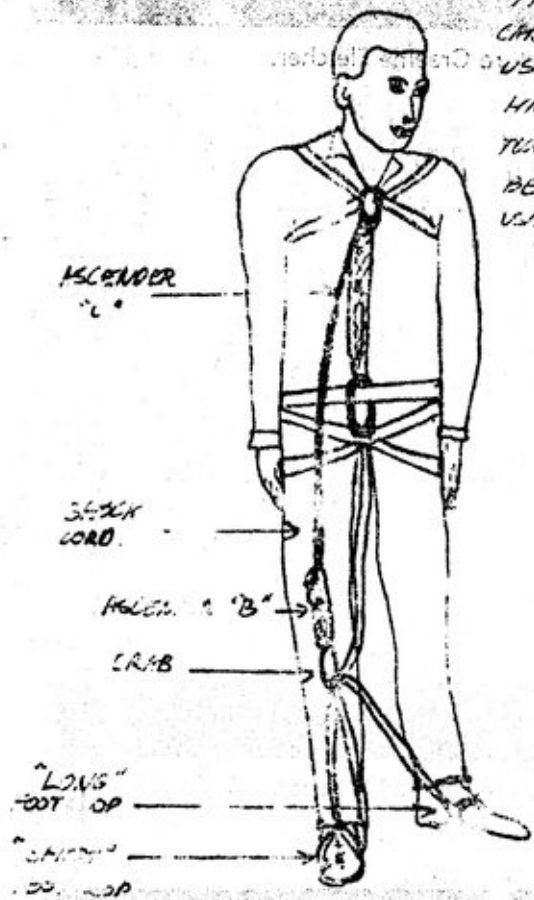
THIS ASCENDING RIG - AS SHOWN ABOVE - IS OF A CABLE WALK TYPE AND LEAVES BOTH HANDS FREE. BESIDES BEING AN EXTREMELY FAST METHOD OF ASCENDING, IT IS COMFORTABLE AND EASY TO USE AND PUT ON. IT IS ALSO VERY VERSATILE AND EASILY MODIFIED INTO 3 OTHER RIGS - AS LATER.

N.B. THE RIG ABOVE CANNOT BE USED TO CROSS RIGS - MUST BE USED ALONE BUT IS EASILY MODIFIED TO DO SO - SEE OPPOSITE.

N.B. ALL ASCENDERS CAN BE CHEAPER "SPORTING" TYPES; THESE ARE ALSO OF "C" TYPE - AS THE RIG.

DISCONNECT ASCENDER A
 THREAD "LONG" FOOT LOOP THROUGH
 CARABINER AND INTO OTHER FOOT.
 USE AS "PRO" SYSTEM, LEAVES
 HANDS FREE. DOES NOT REQUIRE
 TWO ASCENDERS: (U/B ANTS CANNOT
 BE CROSSED WHILE DESCENDING
 USING THIS OPTION)

FEET STAND OPTION:



N.B. ALL OPTIONS CAN
 BE INTERCHANGED WHILST
 UPON THE ROPE:

ROPE WITH OPTION:



DISCONNECT THE SHOCK CORD
 FROM ASCENDER "A" TO LATEST
 HARNESSES. PUT ONE FOOT INTO
 "LONG" FOOT LOOP. USE AS
 AN AVERINE ROPE WITH RIG,
 CAN BE USED TO CROSS KNOTS
 WHILE DESCENDING.

U/B. ASCENDER "B" SHOULD BE
 USED. SHOULD BE USED WHEN
 THE "LONG" FOOT LOOP AND THE
 CORD AT FULL LENGTH. THE SAFETY
 CORD SHOULD ALWAYS BE TAUGHT WHEN
 THE ROPES IS HELD AT THIS POSITION.



DISCONNECT ELASTIC SHOCK
 CORD LENGTHS. PUT ONE FOOT
 INTO "LONG" FOOT LOOP, LET
 "SHORT" FOOT LOOP HANG FREE,
 ATTACH ASCENDER "A" TO THIS
 LENGTH OF CORD - THIS HARNES
 CAN BE DISCARDED IF ONLY ONE
 FOOT IS TO BE USED. IT IS
 CAN BE CROSSED WHILE
 DESCENDING USING THIS OPTION.

Climber Falls 25m

MR LUCKY



SAFETY A LITTLE 24-HOUR

CLIMBER-Malcolm Handel grinned with relief after being rescued today from a cliff ledge where he was trapped for nearly 24 hours.

CLIFF ORDEAL

He was lifted from the ledge in Grose Valley by a police helicopter after his mate had trekked 10 hours through the Blue Mountains to get help.

"He's a pretty good mate," said Malcolm.

Handel, 26, of Concord, was lifted out just before 9 am. He had been trapped on the ledge, without food or warm clothing, since 11 am yesterday.

But the injured abseiler, his face badly bruised, managed a smile and brief chat with reporters before he was taken away in an ambulance.

"I feel all right," he said.

Handel and his friend Michael Hoar, also of Concord, had been abseiling in the Grose Valley near a point known as Hanging Rock.

Because of an injured facecap, Handel had been unable to walk, police said. His ordeal was made worse by poor weather conditions this morning.

Handel said he "felt about 65 ft." and "injured his left leg."

His mate walked for 10 hours through dense bush to raise the alarm. Blackheath police at the SOS just before



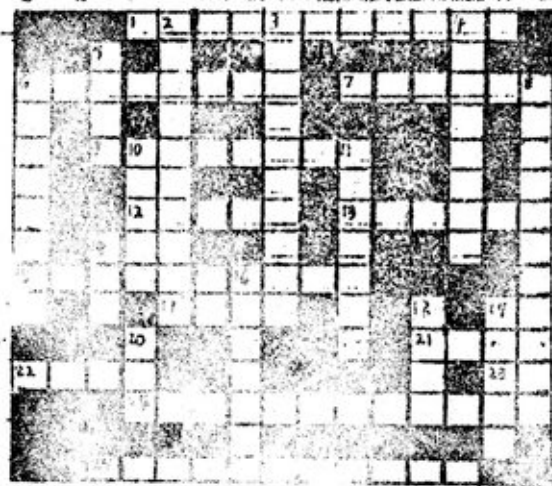
MALCOLM HANDEL

him to an air strip in Blackheath. He was taken to hospital. One winched him out of the Grose Valley and took

Mal Handel malhandles himself again! (but he's all right now. All that just to get a ride in a helicopter!)

ACROSS

1. In P-NG, a teak Ananda Marga idol would seem out of place in this cave (4,7)
6. A broken gour over there might trip up
8. this 8th gov. of N.S.W. (8,6)
9. This desert area is so flat, you could roll a bun along it for miles. (8)
12. An alcove nearby serves as meeting place for this group of witches (5)
13. The soft part of a weeping willow where I rest my head (6)
14. Lately unusual vehicles have been sighted, 'me darlin'. (3)
15. 'E wish other people were here, the reincarnated 6 ac. (5,5)
17. Try meat from these - millions of Americans can't be wrong, or so they say (4)



21. The 40 'aves' Ali was hit mixed up when he heard of this pop group, 'er, oi vay! (4)
22. We take no chances when we come upon these crickets (4)
23. Ayday! Ayday! I need help! (2)
24. Create vast Church of England cathedrals in this warm Jenolan cave (8,4)
25. In the Temple of Baal, ... explores a white chamber (7,4)

DOWN

2. When you are in a position to command a people, you shouldn't reveal our simple pleasures (2,4)
3. Cross these when climbing, e.g. a tree, but don't damage the bark - a resin might flow from it. (10)
4. Sounds like The Princess of Wales ruined the famous confederate general, and went to jail as you always do in monopoly (8)
5. The cook put a ... capitulated 12 ac. in this. (4)
6. Go Wednesday. ... to hear pleasant things without delay! (4,4)
8. Anyone below agrees that you need this lubricant to do good work (5,6)
10. Uncle utters something about rough diamonds needing to be cleaved (5)
11. We heard "Bark, sil vous plait", believe it or not (7)
14. Look in part of your mouth for the answer to this one (3)
16. Someone or something looking for cave pearls - either it or Leo. (7)
19. Not 7 ac. Don't cross crab over ravines! (5)
18. Try and listen carefully. Johnson's Baby powder isn't made out of babies! (4)
20. Amniotic fluids accumulate here. (3)

Solution to last month's crossword

ACROSS : 1. Esmeralda; 6. Grass; 8. Footloops; 10. Big Hole; 11. Loo
12. Keel over; 14. Underneath; 16. Agog; 17. To; 18. Untonic;
19. Snowhut; 20. Yell; 21. Greenfield

DOWN : 1. Efficacious; 2. Moonilk; 3&9. Look before you leap;
4. Assignment; 5. Eschatological; (!) 6. Colong (a concealed word);
7. Abseiling; 13. Evermore; 15. Hunted; 16. Agony; 17. Thee (Sorry
about the slight miscalculation here. Also sorry about the quality
generally of the printing of the crossword)

Hope you had fun!

(PS If anyone wants easier clues as well as these, just tell me)

NULLARBOR EXPEDITION

by Ross Newbury

present: Ivan Desailly, Judi Strickland, Roy Winstanley,
Cheryl Aldritch, Ross Newbury, Ellie McFadyen.

Day One: Left Sydney only 1 hour late. Drove.

(A few things did happen: Ellie's pack took a dive off the trailer at Orange. We had lunch at Dubbo pub, and camped just short of Wilcannia - but mostly we just drove.)

Day Two: Drove.

Camped at Wudinna S.A.

Day Three: Drove. (Sound familiar?)

We got onto the Nullarbor proper and saw the first of the seacliffs.

Arrived at Cocklebidy late, after some unexpected thunderstorms near Madura. We then lead some poor W.A. strangers in V.W. Passat on a wild goose chase through the Mulga, trying to find Murra-El-Melvyn cave. They eventually made camp in a claypan beside their over-heated car, while we went back to the highway and easily found the obvious road leading to Murra. There we met the party W.A.S.G.A. we had arranged to meet. Mike Hunter, however, had not yet arrived.

Day Four: After a windy night it was a clear calm morning to Murra. It's a lovely little cave. A circular collapse doline with a 20' pitch leads down a long boulder slope to a lake and a second chamber. Plenty of bats (*Chalanolobus morio*) and nice sharp, tight boulder piles to crawl through. In the afternoon we did Cocklebidy cave. This is a much larger cave. The doline, entrance, chamber, and lake are all enormous. Pictures were taken and most people enjoyed a swim in the lake. It is 200m long, without handholds or resting places, and made a tiring swim for three silly fools.

Day Five: We had intended to join forces with the W.A. group to do Mullamalang cave, but during the night they had contracted several burnt hands from a juggling act with a gas lamp. This caused them to opt for more relaxed activities for the next few days. We broke camp and went our separate ways. Lubricated by numerous neck oils, our trip to Mullamalang went smoothly. We picked up directions from Madura Homestead and drove almost straight to the cave. Not wanting to waste time we mounted a photography trip to the Easter Extension,

... time late at night. (Excellent salt formations.)

Day Six: This was the day for our dome trip i.e. to the end of the cave. Down the entrance, through the Southerly Buster, and over the 21 giant economy size rockpiles that make up most of the 4-1/2 mile main passage. Then we did it all again in reverse order. Great fun. We emerged to find it 10pm and bloody hot. Total time: about 12 hrs.

Day Seven: At Madura Homestead we found it had been a good time to be underground all day. The previous day's temperature had been 103°F at 6pm. Moving on towards Munirabilia, we picked up some extra fresh water from one of the roadside collection tanks. Most of these have been efficiently vandalized but the ones which remain are quite handy on long Nullarbor trips. After getting instructions from Munirabilia Homestead we headed north to Webb's cave which is entered from a shallow collapse doline. This cave displayed some nice calcite formation (something we had not expected on the Nullarbor) as well as thick bulldust (this made crawling unpleasant) and good examples of anastomosing phreatic half-tubes. The most striking feature of the cave, however, was the fact that the place stunk - very badly! There must have been something large and extremely dead hiding up a hole for the few visible animal carcasses did not begin to account for the smell. When we tired of breathing the stench we moved to Snake Pit, a nearby cave with a shallow doline and a 10' diam. vertical solution tube entrance. No anchors were handy for the 20' pitch so the Land Cruiser was driven down to the edge and the ladder was anchored to the bullbar. It's quite a small cave in which a dam has been built under the entrance to act as a reservoir in the past. The lower levels are floored with a mixture of fir dust and shallow bones (very painful to crawl over with bare elbows and knees - by this time we were caving in shorts and tee-shirts).

Unfortunately we had left the car fridge running to keep the beer cold so we waited to find the battery had less bounce than Volcom Fraser's speeches. The car was at the bottom of the doline so push starting was impossible, and cranking Land Cruisers is easy only for well developed male gorillas. So it was out with generator and battery charger and we contemplated the setting sun for twenty minutes before heading for Thampana Rockhole.

Due a surprisingly accurate mud map we arrived at dusk and set up camp on a piece of ground as rocky as our Federal treasurer's heart.

Day Eight: Thampana Rockhole is an amazing piece of work.

A very large shallow doline drains into a rocky stepped depression. At the bottom of this is a large bedrock saucer with an 8' diameter solution tube at the centre. The cave breathes strongly - a 40 knot wind blowing out during the day, which reverses to blow in at night. A 30' pitch drops to a chamber (containing a selection of mummified kangaroos), off which leads a walk-through stream passage. This continues down to a large breakdown chamber with calcite formation. The rockpile at the chamber's edges was pushed in the hope of an extension but no possibilities were found, and the breeze could not be followed past the chamber entrance. Back at the entrance pitch we amused ourselves by flying dead bushes up the pitch on a piece of Blue Water. The afternoon was spent eating.

Day Nine: Eucla was our next stop where we refuelled and looked over the old Eucla township. This is now being buried by coastal sand dunes.

look at the Chowilla landscape, a large collapse hole without any cave.

Aburakurtie Cave is one enormous chamber 1,100' long and 200' wide. It has a flat dirt floor which is the bed of a lake after heavy rain. It also takes a long time to photograph.

Afterwards it was back to Weebublie Cave where we set up camp. On the way we stopped at another rockhole, another unnamed body-sized solution tube which was a little too tight to make us wildly enthusiastic.

Day Ten: Weebublie Cave starts in a deep collapse decline and goes down a boulder pile to a clear blue lake in a white limestone chamber. The exceptional beauty of the place has been largely spoilt by one of the worst pieces of organized vandalism I've ever seen. To supply the Eucla township with water a bore hole has been drilled through the roof of the cave and a pipe extends from this down to the lake. This operation has left the cave littered with junk, rusty drums, plastic pipe and other rubbish. Very depressing. The cave is still spectacular despite this and the noise of the bore pump. The swim along the lake is another long one, with clusters of bats squeaking on the ceiling overhead.

Camp had already been broken before caving and we headed back to Ceduna.

Day Eleven: From Ceduna we started on the second aim of the trip, to see a bit of the Eyre Peninsula. Time seemed to be running short for exploring the Eyre peninsula, so we hurried down south from Ceduna, through Spiky Bay, to Streaky Bay.

Here we found that the caving activities had not quite finished. The very soft crumbly sandstone of the Streaky Bay area forms spectacular honeycombed sea cliffs. In these cliffs are also formed large chimneys, apparently by wind and weathering. They may be up to 3' wide, 40' high, and open at both top and bottom.

From here, it was only a short distance down the coast to Cape Labatt, where we tried to deafen the local sea lion colony with the sound of camera shutters.

Camp was made on the edge of the bay inland of Point Labatt.

Day Twelve: Another day of general tourism.

First stop was Venus Bay. This is a lovely little place, which only needs a close population centre to become a major tourist trap. Fortunately there aren't any close population centres.

Next was Tella sea caves where the surf has cut a number of caves into the soft sandstone (which here has layers of partial calcification). The main cave is quite large and has a strongly flowing freshwater spring at its end.

We stopped for the night further down the coast at Sheringa Beach.

END OF PART ONE

FUN AT WISBARD... OR HAVE LEWIS M.S.T. (MAY HAVE TECHNIQUE).



S U B S C R I P T I O N S . .

1982

ARE NOW DUE (FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS)

O'ERDUE (FOR FULL MEMBERS)

<u>FEES:</u>	PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS	\$4.50
	FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	\$8.00
	CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	\$4.50
	FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$10.00

NOTE FEES FOR FULL MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ARE DUE
IN SEPTEMBER EACH YEAR, NOT MARCH.

IF THERE IS A RED STICKER ON THE FRONT OF YOUR "BULL"
THEN YOU PROBABLY OWE US MONEY. IF THIS IS NOT REMEDIED
BY THE AGM IN APRIL YOU WILL BE STRUCK FROM OUR LISTS.

REMEMBER THIS IS YOUR F I N A L N O T I C E

N O M O N E Y N O M E M B E R S H I P

PRESIDENT Paul Greenfield, 89 Macauley St., Stanmore.
560 4952 (h); 692 3524 (w).

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

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531 4321 (h).

MINUTES SECRETARY Richard Mackay, 16 Northcote Rd., Lindfield.
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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Judy Clarke, 10 Holden St., Epping.
869 1276 (h).

TREASURER Bruce Welch, 21 Thompson St., Marrickville.
569 9928 (h); 660 2222 (w).

EDITOR Guy Cox, Somewhere in Great Britain (with his missus)

ACTING EDITOR Mark Twigg, 46 Norfolk St., Killara.
498 2996 (h).

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799 7244 (h).

SAFETY AND MORALE OFFICER & ASF CORRESP. Guy McKenna, 48 Vineyard St., Mona Vale.
997 3758 (h).

JIM SEABROOK MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Winglee, 25 Nowranie St., Summer Hill.
799 4403 (h); 230 0277 x 335 (w)
Peter Campbell, 6/45 Albert St. Strathfield.
764 1027 (h)
Randall King, 89 Marian St., Ewmore.
519 5296 (h)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Phillip Cole, 12 Meldrum Ave. Miranda.
525 2496 (h)
Richard McNeill, 49 Stanhope Rd, Killara.
46 1847 (h)
Ross Newbury, 10 Asquith St., Oatley.
573434 (h)
Ivan Desailly, 7 Eddie Ave., Panania.
773 3861 (h)

NEW ELECTIONS TO THE REMOTE & INACCESSIBLE PLACES SUBCOMMITTEE
Bryan Cleaver, Helen Turton, Geoff Innes.

Thurs 4th GENERAL MEETING. Common Room, Holme Building, at 7.30pm
Ivan will show his Nullarbor slides if he remembers to
bring them.

6th-7th JENOLAN. Contact Paul Greenfield, 560 4952 (h)

13th-14th CAVE RESCUE WEEKEND. At the customary place of Bungonia,
Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321(h).

20th-21st Wyanbene. Contact Mike Lake, 524 5229 (h). And help
Mike try and find my lead acid which I lost somewhere
between Sydney and Wyanbene.

26th, 27th, 28th JENOLAN. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321 (h).

Mon 22nd Committee Meeting at Randall King's (!!!!!)

April:

3rd-17th Tasmania. Contact Roy Winstanley, 646 4339 (h).

Sun 4th Field day.

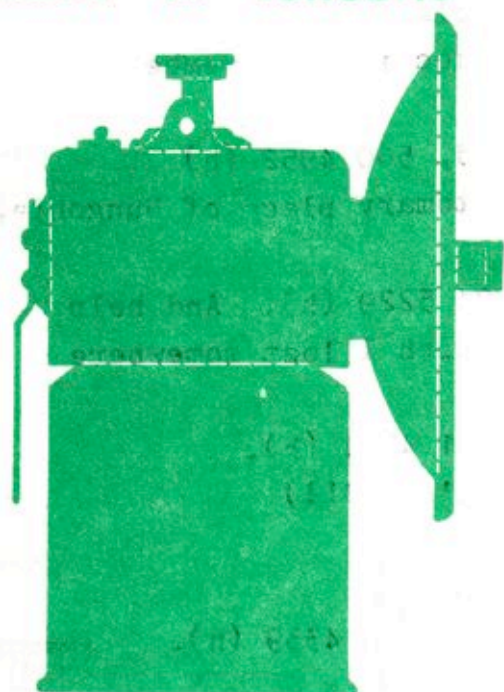
Thurs 1st General meeting (AGM). Common Room, Holme Building, 7.30
Come and vote for a new committee, and vote that Mike
Lake be kicked out of SUSS (as usually happens)

9th-12th (EASTER) COOLEMAN. Contact Ian Mann, 631 4321 (h)

23rd-25th YAGBY. Contact Ian Mann (busy little fellow isn't he)

There once was a caver called Pike
who was squeezing with all his might...
When down fell a stone
which caused him to moan
that he had finally seen the light.
COME SEE LEIGHTON FORDS' ASSOCIATE
MIKE (the light has dawned) LAKE,
at the Holme Common room, first thursday
of each month, free admission.

Lumen in Tenebris



SUSS

BULLETIN
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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