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Editorial

Welcome to another interest-packed issue of the SUSS Bull. This one has been brought to you by the hard work of Grant and Kristin (typing), Guy Cox and Bruce Welch (printing) and a cast of thousands in collating and wrapping. I would also like to thank our VAX11/780 for the effort it has put into executing the many millions of instructions needed in the process of typing, editing and formatting this bulletin. The timetable for bulletin production is now :-

Typing Articles	-- any time before the printing week
Editing and Paste-up	-- Monday of the meeting week
Printing	-- Tuesday
Collating	-- Wednesday

Any offers of assistance will be accepted (except when I am trying to prepare a lecture!). Even more importantly, we need a constant stream of good quality articles if we are to maintain a high-quality bulletin. So, why not write a trip report or even a serious article on some matter of speleological interest. All contributions are subject to editing but we print almost everything we can get our hands on. We even print contributions from Mike and Guy.

I am planning another Spider Cave 'special issue' to document the large sections of the cave discovered in the last year. As a run-up to this there should be even more Spider work than usual, so pester a trip-leader into running a Jenolan trip so that you can participate.

The important news in Australian caving just now is the bottoming of Ice Tube, which now becomes Australia's deepest cave. This is a severe blow to all those who have 'done' Khazad-Dum but the TCC people involved should be congratulated on their work. A trip report of the first descent, together with a survey can be found later in this issue. More information can be found in (future?) TCC and ASF bulletins.

Also coming up is the 14th Biennial ASF Conference which will be held in Adelaide at the end of this year. Start thinking about attending now. More details will be published in the next bulletin (assuming that we have space). For those who have never been to an ASF conference, they tend to be good social occasions, followed by well-run field trips. So if you want to visit the Nullarbor, this would be an ideal opportunity.





A Tasmanian Trip
or
How to Fit a Medical Course in with Your Caving
Commitments

Malcolm Handel

I recently had the good fortune to arrange an elective term at the Mersey General Hospital, near Devonport, for a period of 8 weeks. During this time I went on four superb caving trips with T.C.C. which climaxed in the exploration of a new deep cave, in which we ran out of rope nearly 300m down. Another trip was planned for two weeks later, my last weekend in Tassie, but heavy snow made access along the Florentine Road impossible. The spectre of an undescended 35m waterfall pitch at the limit of exploration was more than a little tantalizing, so, not to be outdone by bad weather, I flew from Sydney to Hobart for the weekend of 5th & 6th of June to join the next T.C.C. trip to the cave. In a 12 1/2 hour trip the cave was bottomed and at -345m Ice Tube is now the deepest cave in Australia.

My thanks to the members of T.C.C. who made me welcome to participate in their discovery

EXIT CAVE - A beginners' trip
28th March

This trip of 6 people involved 3 beginners. No one knew their way in the cave which made it all rather fun. The water is waist deep in places where it is usually knee deep which made it all rather silly. We never did find our way to the Grand Fissure but we did have a good splash around.

GROWLING SWALLET - Some exploration
3rd April

Present: Trevor Wailes, Nick Hume, Peter Shaw, Roland Eberhard, Rik and Janine Tunney, Malcolm Handel.

Growling Swallet is the biggest stream sink in the Juneeflorentine area and has been known for many years. It has a classic stream passage which can easily be followed from the entrance down to the sump without the use of any tackle. Just before the sump is a passage off to the left which leads gradually upwards and through a particularly awkward rift. This passage has been known for a long time, however recent exploration by Trevor Wailes and Andrew Briggs (I think) involved finding a way onwards up a precarious climb leading to the discovery of a lot more passage. In this new part of the cave is

a sizeable stream apparently independent of the main Growling Swallet stream. The new section is a complex series of passages which has been progressively explored over several trips.

On our trip to this area we struggled to bring a scaling pole from the entrance and left it in a good spot for use on another trip. We then went exploring. Some leads didn't go, and we left a pitch undescended for want of tackle. This trip's main addition to the cave's exploration was 100m of passage leading upwards and possibly getting close to the surface.

Trevor Wailes of T.C.C. is co-ordinating the exploration of Growling Swallet and he wisely intends to have the known passage surveyed before pushing exploration further. Growling Swallet is now considered to be the longest cave in the J-F area and it certainly makes a great caving trip.

EASTER AT MOLE CREEK

Present: Most of the active members of T.C.C. plus numerous mainland cavers from enough clubs to hold an A.S.F. conference. Even Henry Shannon was there!

WESTMOORLAND FALLS CAVE - A cave dive 9th April

This is one of the lesser known caves of Mole Creek. It once took a stream in the entrance but a pipe now diverts the water away from the cave to be used for farming purposes. At the bottom of this gently descending cave is a deep sump which Stefan had previously noted was a good diving prospect. Stuart, Trevor, myself and one other helped to carry the equipment for Stefan and Nick to do the dive. Nick dived first and penetrated an underwater rift to reach a chamber that had no airspace. His swimming stirred up mud, so, despite having reeled out a safety line, he was concerned about losing his orientation in this water-filled cavity. He duly returned. When Stefan dived he had trouble equalising his ears since he had a bit of a cold, so he restricted his dive to the shallow water visible from the surface.

HERBERT'S POT - A wet one that's no dream 10th April

This is one of Australia's best wet caves and is not to be missed by any spelunker. Our trip intended going to the downstream section as far as the sump. We then climbed up to a higher level nearby where we tried to push a rockpile beyond the well known as "Breeze Hole". At one stage, after much squeezing and gardening of boulders, Stuart and I thought we'd cracked it, only to have our hopes dashed by finding footprints in the mud. After this we judiciously retreated to the bar of the Mole Creek Hotel from which we were the last to leave in an alcoholic haze.

KUBLA KHAN - You won't walk on better flowstone than this
11th April

Another classic cave which lives up to its reputation for outstanding beauty. We went in the top entrance and promptly got tangled up with a bunch of Victorians (our own Helen Turton was masquerading as one of them). One can hardly miss The Khan, but the Pleasure Dome with its one acre of terraced flowstone is easily missed if you don't know the way. Fortunately one of the Victorians knew the way. For us the way out was through the streamway and up a ladder which we'd previously hung at the lower entrance. It was dark when we emerged and lurking in the bushes was Graeme Smith et al (yes, you know him, silly!) who claimed he was on his way to do Ghengis Khan. Now who'd want to go caving in the middle of the night?

ICE TUBE - Deep, cold, wet, and still going...
15th May

Present: Stefan Eberhard, Nick Hume, Trevor Wailes, Malcolm Handel.

This was the sort of experience vertical cavers dream about. Ice Tube had had four previous trips to it and a depth of over 200m had been reached. We entered the cave at about midday after a 1 1/2 hour walk through the rainforest with what we thought was heaps of rope. We quickly descended the first 5 pitches and reached the top of the long 6th pitch which Stefan had been down before on a rope that wasn't long enough. A 50m rope just touched the bottom and we descended the new pitch. As there were no anchor points available we had to tie another rope on the end of the 50m rope to do the next pitch of 12m.

A climb down a rift passage carrying a fast-flowing stream led to another big pitch which required bolting. Up until now the cave could be rigged almost dry but this new pitch changed all that. It was well and truly wet. Moreover it required another 50m rope and we now had no tackle left. This was most unfortunate, because only 15m from the bottom of this drop was yet another shaft with its bottom only just visible through the spray of water. By considering pitch lengths, Stefan estimated our depth to be 280m to 290m. (Survey later showed this point to be 290m, so who needs a survey?) Knowing that Khazad-dum is 323m deep and that the bottom of this new, undescended wet pitch was about the same provided as much encouragement to return as is likely in any caving situation.

It is derigging that makes vertical caving hard work and Ice Tube is no exception. Getting a thorough drenching on a very wet pitch doesn't help either. Even the 2nd pitch, which is no problem while abseiling, gives you a good dose of water while prussiking out. After 9 1/2 hours underground, we emerged to the cold, night air and it was a tired, wet and rather mesmerized foursome that bumbled back through the rainforest by the light of the headlamps.

The Australian depth record was sitting there waiting to be grasped.





Ice Tube - Australia's Deepest Cave Malcom Handel

This is a trip report of the first descent to the bottom of Ice Tube on the 5th June 1982. At a depth of 345m it has now become Australia's deepest cave, replacing Khazad-Dum which is 323m deep. This was a Tasmanian Caverneering Club trip.

Present: Stefan Eberhard, Roland Eberhard, Nick Hume, Trevor Wailles, Stuart Nicholas, Mike Martyn, Malcolm Handel.

The entrance to Ice Tube was found by Stefan Eberhard in December 1980. It is located in the Junee-Florentine area to the east of Growling Swallet and is reached by walking to the head of the dry valley which contains Pendant Pot, Trapdoor and Slaughterhouse Pot. There is a permanent stream which flows down the steeply sided doline and straight into the cave's entrance. Many cavers feel that Ice Tube will prove to be the last major swallet to be found in the area.

Having reached a depth of 290m four weeks previously we were naturally excited about our prospects. With more rope and a stronger party of 7 our chances of bottoming the cave looked good but as we drove up from Hobart to Haydena I didn't hear many confident statements. Self doubt and memories of aborted trips can play on the mind.

It was almost midday when we left the cars at the end of the Nine Road and with packs of rope and tackle ascended through rainforest to the cave. The walk took less than the usual 1 1/2 hours and at 1.30 Nick, Roland and I entered the cave with enough gear to rig the first 7 pitches. Stuart, Trevor and Mike followed, surveying as they went and Stefan brought up the rear doing the all important job of protecting the ropes.

From the entrance we walked down the active streamway to the first pitch. A ledge extends out from the top of the waterfall making it easy to hang the rope clear of the water, but 7m down the pitch, gymnastics are required to avoid the torrent down below. We swung on the rope, pendulum style, to grab hold of a knifeblade of limestone separating the wet shaft from the neighbouring dry one. The next move involved clambering over the knifeblade to a small, airy stance on the other side. Here it was necessary to have a tie-off point to avoid putting the rope on the sharp-edged limestone and a novel solution was to slide the rope into a 4cm wide slot in the knifeblade and stop it from slipping through with a large knot. The remaining 18m of the pitch was an uncomplicated abseil to a point where the stream flows down a gravel slope to the top of the next pitch.

A few delicate steps along a sloping ledge allowed us to hang the 2nd pitch away from the top of the waterfall. The drawbacks of this were a particularly awkward take-off point and a good spray of water for the lower half of the 22m pitch. Beyond here the cave continued as a narrow, serpentine canyon. Unlike the first few trips to the cave which followed the stream we traversed horizontally and entered a high level dry passage which involved several climbs and a lot of bridging and chimneying until a 6m pitch was reached. This was closely followed by a 19m pitch which had a passage entering it half way down. A short section of climbing brought us to the 5th pitch which was a very pleasant 29m shaft with smooth walls and straightforward rigging from a large chockstone in the roof.

Just a little further on the cave takes a sharp turn to the left and almost goes back underneath itself. Right on the very corner the stream is met again cascading down out of the roof, before it shoots off down a deeply incised rift. We, on the other hand, stayed on the same level and worked our way along the narrow rift until the floor was no longer visible between our feet. This was because the floor was now nearly 50 metre below us. To make progress in this narrow rift we placed feet and arms firmly against the opposing walls and relied mainly on friction to prevent ourselves from sliding down. Had one of us slipped it would have been most calamitous because only a metre below the walls of the rift separated abruptly to form the roof of a big black chasm. To make things worse a tight corner had to be negotiated which necessitated a little teamwork to pass the gear through to a ledge at the end of the rift.

From 2 bolts placed above the ledge a short descent was made to a large horn of rock around which a long wire trace was placed for a tie-off. Doing the mid-air crossing from the top section of rope to the rope below the tie-off was made a little difficult by the fact that the top rope came from one side at an angle; but it had the advantage of producing a beautiful free-hanging drop to the floor of this 46 metre pitch.

[Aside: The pitch lengths quoted were measured with a tape measure from ledge to floor. In almost all cases the rope required is longer. The 46 metre 6th pitch was done with a 50m rope which was found to be a metre too short after being tied to 2 bolts and the wire trace. Fun and games were had by all when they found they couldn't quite reach the floor.]

At the bottom of the long drop one can walk off to the side where a small tributary stream falls from a high aven. Further around and over some boulders is a dry shaft which extends both upwards and downwards from the observer's stance. Whether it comes from a point higher in the cave or not shall only be known when a way into this shaft is found from the top. Whether it connects to a point lower down in the cave is a question we left unanswered due to the distinct lack of anchor points in the soft, muddy walls.

Back in the main streamway there was also a lack of anchor points so we tied the rope for the 7th pitch directly onto the bottom of the

previous rope. The resulting 12m abseil was subject to enough water spray to wash a caver semi-clean on the outside without penetrating to those dry undergarments. By following the water down yet another canyon we came to a 3m drop over which the fast flowing stream shot in an arc which cleared the walls. A handline of 2 inch tape enabled us to climb down on one side of the frigid jet of water, bringing us to the top of the 8th pitch.

It was now time for Nick, Roland and I to take a pause as we had run out of rope. Stefan had entered the cave last to protect the first 2 pitches which are a bit tricky, but we had expected him to overtake the survey party and catch up to us with more rope. While we were waiting we put a 2nd bolt at the top of the 8th pitch to make it a little safer.

Finally Stefan, Trevor and Mike arrived, surveying as they came. Stuart had taken sick at the 3rd pitch and had stayed behind. After lying down for an hour he would slowly work his way back to the entrance to build a fire for our return. Stefan had taken over Stuart's job on the survey team and it was impressive that they had surveyed so far in such a short time.

The 8th pitch added a lot to the difficulty of the cave because it is 44m long and very wet. Its descent brought us to the limit of exploration of our trip four weeks previously. The 9th pitch proved to be even wetter. It descends for 36m as a free hanging drop right in the full force of the waterfall. Only Mike had a full wetsuit, although some had wetsuit trousers. The rest of us were now soaked to the skin in our woollens by the water which was 5 degrees Celsius according to Stuart's thermometer.

We walked across the open level floor at the bottom and stared in wonder as the stream tumbled down yet another chasm. This 13m drop was rigged clear of the water to produce the 10th and final pitch. A stream flowed from the plunge pool for several metres across the gravel floor and down a low crawlway where it sumped. The sump was not a deep pool, but a fast flowing stream where the roof sloped down to meet the water.

A narrow rift passage above the sump was pushed for several metres but did not go. Any further exploration should concentrate on a rift which continues on from the top of the 10th pitch and may bypass the sump. This is more easily said than done because it means traversing along the vertical walls above the final pitch on rock which has no obvious holds.

The trip out was hard work. Prussiking up the 9th pitch was more akin to swimming than climbing and the cold water running down through our clothes sapped away body heat. The 8th pitch was the same and the 47 metre 6th pitch seemed to go forever. I remember hanging on the rope thinking that the top can only be a few metres away only to look up and see the rope continue beyond the range of my light. Hauling gear up this pitch was no joke either.

We gathered at the base of the 5th pitch to organise ourselves and the rope. Mike, Trevor, Stefan and Roland divided up the rope between them and headed for the surface. Nick and I were then left to de-rig the top 5 pitches. This ran smoothly although everyone became progressively more tired from the prussiking and hauling of gear. It was a cold, wet and exhausted group that gathered around Stuart's fire at the cave's entrance waiting for the last person to emerge at 2 am.

A pot of soup was cooked, a few oaths were made and it was 3am before we set off through the rainforest to the cars. At 4.30 am we arrived to the welcome sight of a huge roaring fire made by a friend of Trev's who had driven up to meet us. Over fruit cake we tallied up the survey data on Stuart's calculator. Some people were pessimistic and we generally agreed that it would be touch and go whether Ice Tube had beaten K-D. It had, and the depth figure was met with much jubilation as a bottle of beer went around.

Dawn came as we drove down the Florentine Road and headed for a well-earned rest in Hobart.

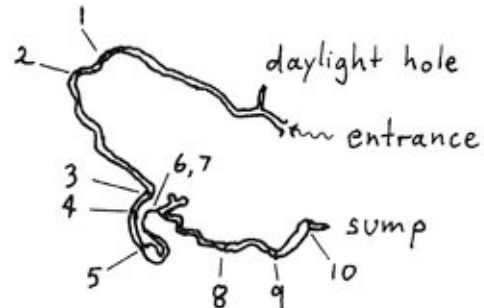
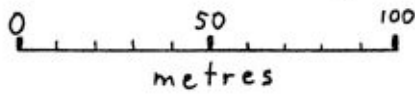
Is this a record?

An Australian team of explorers claims to have discovered the world's deepest cave — the 345-metre Ice Tube, in Mount Field, west of Hobart. They took more than five hours to reach the bottom of the cave, descending through three waterfalls. The team was from the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. You'll be surprised to learn that this newly discovered cave is not in the area to be flooded by the Tasmanian Government, which in itself is something of a record.

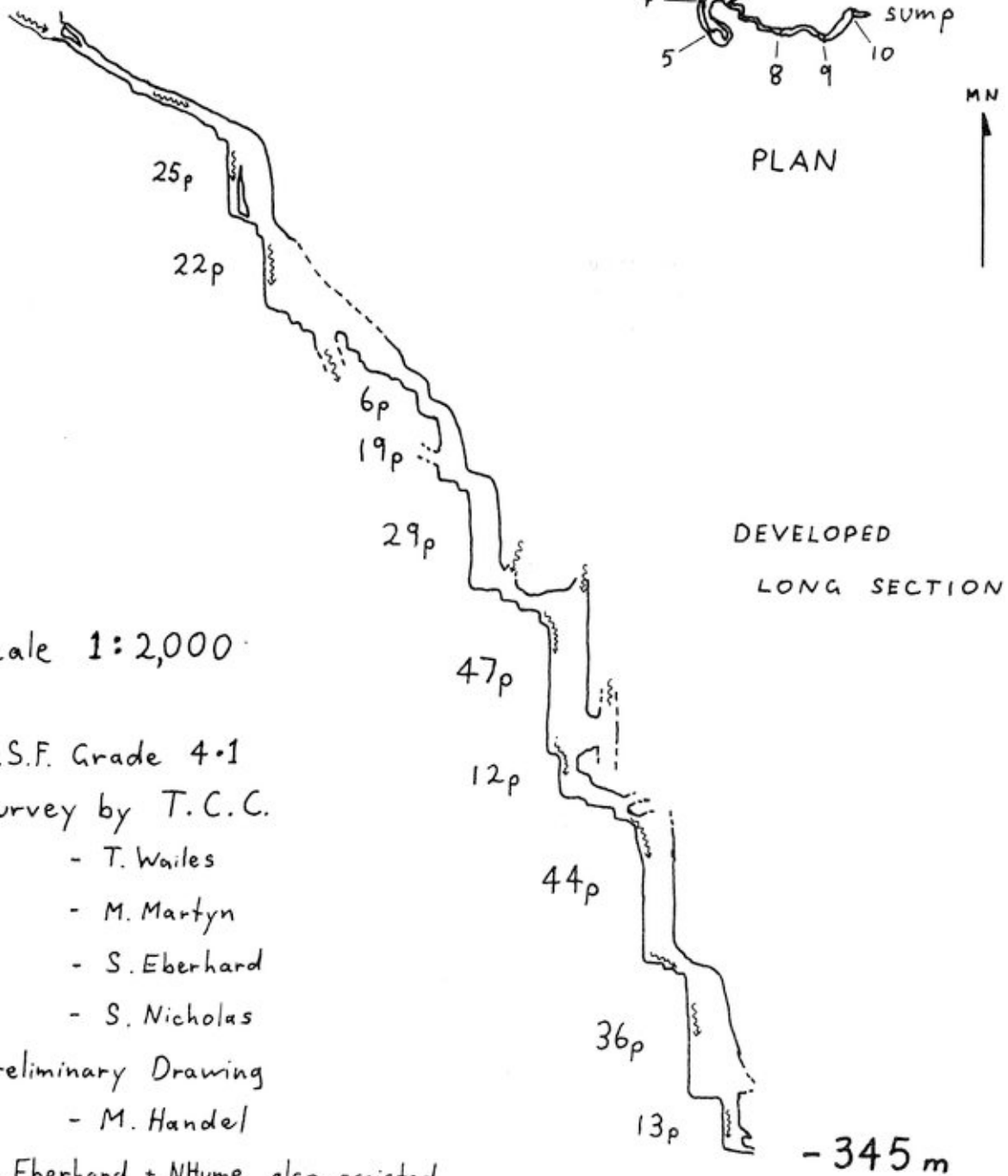


ICE TUBE

a preliminary map - 6/6/82



PLAN



Scale 1:2,000

A.S.F. Grade 4.1

Survey by T.C.C.

- T. Wailes
- M. Martyn
- S. Eberhard
- S. Nicholas

Preliminary Drawing

- M. Handel

R. Eberhard + N. Hume also assisted

MLH



Speculations on Jenolan Guy McKenna



The Jenolan Caves System is a complex and mystifying system. It still holds many secrets, especially the Woolly Rhinoceros and Hirsute Hippopotamus. "In an attempt to develop theories on the system, speleos have spent many hours simply wandering through the caves, with a watchful eye, committing certain features to memory. It takes a long time to get the "feel" of Jenolan. Once one gets this feel, one knows where to look for new leads and certain entrances that will ultimately lead to new theories or perhaps the answer to one or many of the numerous problems of the cave system".*

However what will become of Jenolan once the Woolly Rhinoceros and Hirsute Hippopotamus are found? The intrepid speleo who finds them will no doubt also find glory but some of the "romance" of Jenolan will also be lost. Will this be the "end" of Jenolan as a speleological paradise? [!] I think not. The Jenolan and Mammoth Books have been written - but they are in no manner exhaustive in their information. No one has of yet been able to explain the nature of Mammoth Cave.

I have been into Mammoth numerous times, but it has not until a recent solo trip into this cave (could this be a justification for experienced speleos' solo trips?)* that everything fell into place. With any luck and a few more trips a preliminary report might be forthcoming on its geomorphology and hydrology to commemorate its centenary of discovery, along with an historical paper on the cave and its human history.

So as you can see there is still much scope for work at Jenolan, not just for discoveries but also for answers to long-asked questions. Some of the great past discoveries were made by new members (such as in Spider). So get out and develop yourself [use an E6 process] and local (as well as world) knowledge. Take on a project or a dig. Numerous of the more likely "to go" projects are listed below (mainly because I do not have hands or time to undertake them all) [this last comment is exactly as Guy wrote it, so don't blame the typists].

References

- * Bruce Welch. "On trips to Mammoth Cave, Jenolan". S.U.S.S. Bull, 16 (4) 47
- ** Kevin Kiernan. "Solo Caving?". Southern Caver, 8 (2) Oct. '76.

JENOLAN - OUTSTANDING PROJECTS

Spider Cave - Rockpile Main **	Blowing Hole (J73) ****
- Rockpile Downstream *****	Serpentine - Dig in pit **
- Rockpile Upstream *****	J50 - refind ***
- New Extension ****	J175 - dig **
- Climb the Bell-Shaped Chamber ***	J170 - dig *
Mammoth Cave - Smirnoff's *****	J168 - dig ****
- Southern Rockpile and holes ***	J56 - dig **
- G.N.C. Aven and Rockpile *****	Bonwick's Dig **
- The overflow **	Rho Hole - Rockpiles ****
- Naked Lady Chamber *	Aladdin - River squeeze and dig ***
- Infinite Crawl ***	Peter Lambert - rockpiles ***
- Denzdig ****	Block - dig ***
Warbo Cave *	Guinness' Digs - dig **
Wiburd's - Hennings dig **	
J94 ***	
Century Cave - rifts ****	
Glass Cave - Lower levels, search for river ****	
Heffalump - dig *****	

So pick a project and a cave
and get into it...!

Guy McKanna

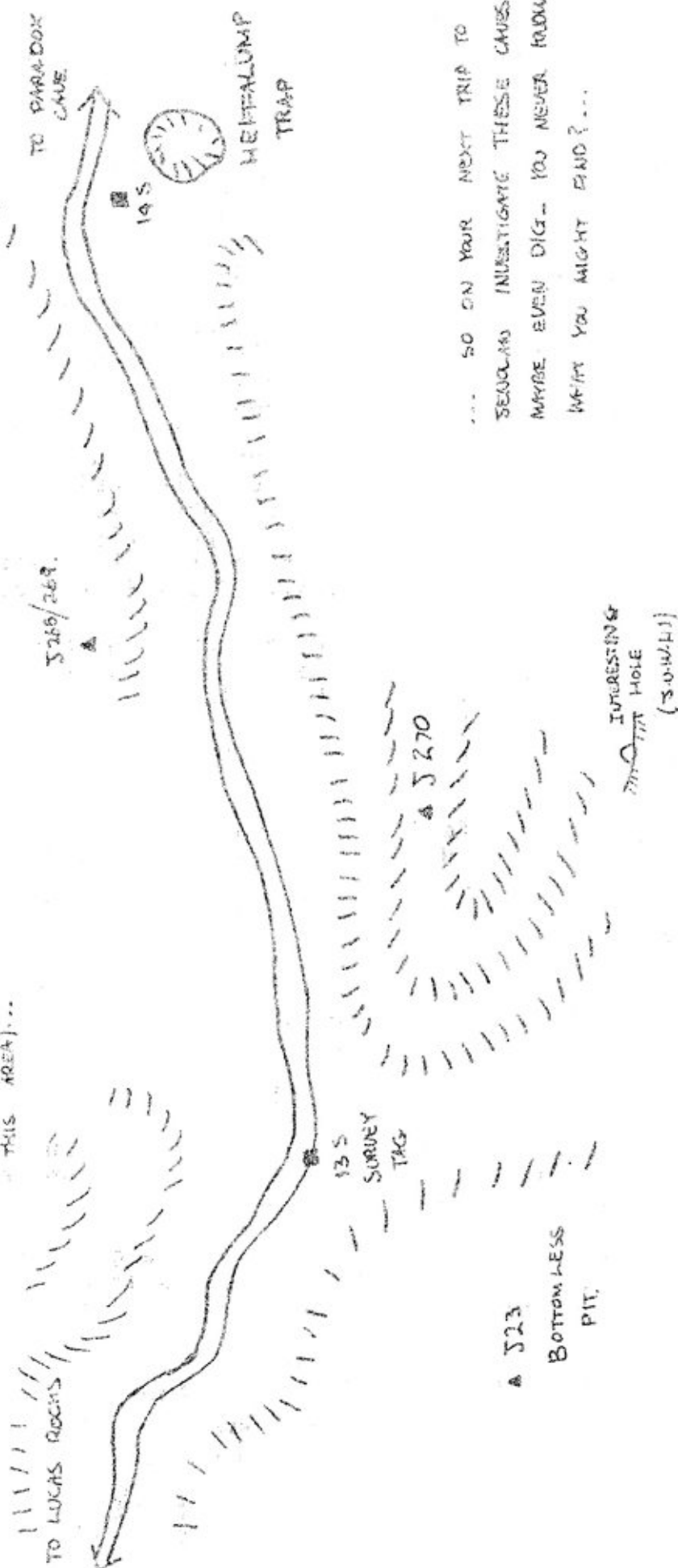


SOUTHERN LIMESTONE:-

JENOLAN

SOUTHERN LIMESTONE BELT - CENTRAL SECTION:

SHOWS POSITIONS OF CAVE ENTRANCES TO CAVE THAT HAVE POTENTIAL TO REACH THE SOUTHERN LIMESTONE WASTED CAVE. (IS ALL THE CAVES THAT ARE KNOWN IN THIS AREA)...



... SO ON YOUR NEXT TRIP TO SOUTHERN LIMESTONE THESE CAVES, MAYBE EVEN DIG - YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT FIND?...

Some Biota in the Big Hole - Wyanbene



During my last visit to the bottom of the Big Hole - near Wyanbene - I noticed something unusual. It wasn't the rock that missed me by 6" that some tourist above had decided to stone me with but a "danger" from within the hole itself. As the bottom of the Big Hole is the last place one expects to see a snake. "How did it get there", was my first thought; it sure didn't come down the rope. Surely it did not come from some vast void beneath the Hole. The only other explanation is that it fell in, though I would have thought that its impact velocity due to gravity when it reached the bottom would have left it rather dead. A decaying carcass of what looks to be a fox on the NW slope of the talus heap would tend to verify this. However the snake was apparently only a baby; it might have been brought into the Hole by its "mother's falling tummy" or possibly a flying predator. Well whatever method of transport it used, here was this baby Brown Snake (*Demonia Textilis*) rearing all of its 6" at me.

Maybe its size had allowed it to survive such a fall - as it was, it did not look at all well. (So we sent for the vet, but Judy did not know much about snakes, so we left it alone). It was found under a rock at the bottom of yet another cairn (why do people insist on building these on top of Nature's own bigger and better rockpile?) [For you to destroy - ed.]

The snake probably feeds on the smaller biota of insects that also inhabit the hole. However, not enough knowledge or interest was available to warrant such detailing of these creatures here.

The birds that inhabit the two birds' nests at the rim of the bottom of the hole probably also feed on the insects in the moist environment there. The smaller bird's nest could not be identified, whilst the larger is most probably that of a lyrebird. It has a side entrance, but is not lined with feathers, not an egg - we were too early for the "maternity" season, which is from June to September. On a previous trip to the hole, a superb Lyrebird (*Menura Superba*) was seen to ascend the hole up the Southern faultline (in less than two minutes - try and beat that with SRT). This was interesting because I had not known that these birds could sustain upward movement (i.e. flying and jumping) for such a distance.

The Big Hole is not only a haven for the geologist with all its faults and folding but also for the nature lover - as well as those intrepid speleologists of course...



Guy McKenna



The Night Owls Forget What Winter Is
(Galah Canyon Trip Report)
20/6/82

Being real "bushies", Phil Hill and I decided to go away rather than spend an apathetic weekend in the city. After much deliberation we decided to go canyoning - to get acclimatised for Tasmania.

Phil decided to invite two friends of his along, Jenny and Liz. He said they were experienced canyoners - little did I know what I was letting myself in for....

We left on Saturday night and finally made our way through the maze of roads on the Newnes plateau. We did not end up exactly where I wanted us to be, as the road I was looking for was slightly obscured - some small trees (up to 3m high) had grown upon it since I had last been there. So we stopped at the next best place. On Sunday morning we made our way to the canyon, donned wetsuits and waded through the first pools, then through a rockfall cave and scenic gorge to a pitch (15m) on the creek, then along the gorge some more to the main canyon. There is a nice slippery slide (Yeah -ed.) here and Liz went for a slide and nearly off the edge, much to my horror.

We proceeded down the ensuing seven or so pitches (max. 20m, mostly 5m) and wade pools. During this time the fine weather turned to bad; it started to hail. The girls soon learned to abseil quickly, as I made the possible threat of a wall of white water aware to them (remember Claustrol -ed.). We were soon out of the canyon, in the early afternoon; even though we were a bit slow we were still on schedule. The normal walk in and canyon only takes about four hours.

We decided to take the "normal" way out as I had been told by a few people that it was easy. However it turned out to be harder than the way I went out last time, "Galah Pass", 50m north of the canyon. (You actually have to go through a dark cave on this pass -ed.)

I climbed up the chimney pass and hauled the packs up, one of which knocked a rock down that broke on Phil's back. Thankfully, he was unhurt. He said it pushed some of his slipped discs back in. The next problem occurred when it became evident that the girls did not know how to climb. So we eventually had to haul them up physically at another point of the Rocky Creek cliff.

By the time everyone was up the cliff, it was dark. Phil had brought his caving light along for just such a situation. We walked along the ridge as the drizzle stopped, only to fall as snow. No wonder it was cold! After much plodding we finally reached the car just after eleven, as Phil's light was fading, to complete another epic trip.

Guy (I'm getting tired of epics) McKenna



For All You "Experienced" S.R.T.ers

- Did you know that a double fisherman's knot has only 50% of the rope's U.T.S. (Ultimate Tensile Strength)? Even less when wet.
- A bowline knot has 70% of the rope's U.T.S.
- A figure eight knot has only 70% of the rope's U.T.S.
- The end of the rope wrapped 5 or 6 times around a tree and secured to itself has almost 90% of the rope's U.T.S. This is the strongest method of anchoring.

Adapted from SUSS Bull 10(8) p117 by Guy McKanna. [For pictures of these knots, see Neil Montgomery's book on SRT - ed.]

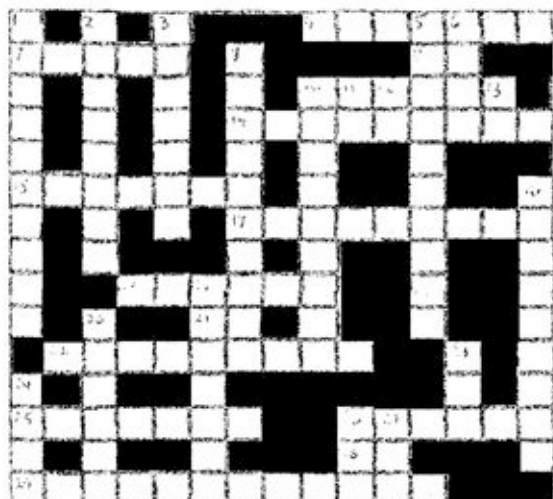
Spirit of Adventure - or just an Enzyme? By Richard Eckersley, Science Reporter for the Herald

If they had known more about chemistry, Marco Polo might never have gone to China, Henry Stanley might never have uttered those immortal words, "Dr Livingstone, I presume," and Edmund Hillary might never have climbed Everest.

The spirit of adventure, recent research suggests, may be nothing more than a neurochemical state marked by low levels of an enzyme, monoamine oxidase. "It has been associated with a thrill-seeking, or sensation-seeking, personality type," a University of NSW researcher, Mr Philip Ward, said on Thursday. "The condition has also been implicated in a number of psychiatric diseases including schizophrenia."

Mr Ward said Swedish researchers had reported in 1980 that a group of mountaineers, who scored highly on a "sensation-seeking scale", had low levels of the enzyme. The scale had been devised to measure the sense of taking pleasure in situations where there is some physical risk. Schizophrenics had also been found to have low levels of the enzyme, while people with some other psychiatric disorders had elevated levels.

Mr Ward, a master of science student in the School of Psychiatry, is carrying out a project under the supervision of Professor Neil McConaghy, to learn more about the association between monoamine oxidase levels and brain function, personality type and psychological characteristics. The enzyme played an important part in the metabolism of neurotransmitters - chemical messengers - in the brain, said Mr Ward. Researchers were not suggesting that the level of the enzyme directly affected behaviour, but looked on it as a marker of other biochemical processes which might.



ACROSS

4. This cave waiting area sounds like a masectomy. (3,4)
7. Lags behind on a path to the cave (5)
9. HRRH's speech falters (2)
10. Volvo rust helps you see in the dark? (6)
14. No map that a SUSS speleo has will tell you where Jenolan caverns are often found above ground. (2,7)
15. Sounds like E.G. Whitlam is like Vincent van? (7)
17. "Blimey I'm drunk", the German said - but how it was so is a cave mystery (9)
18. The hero unlamented, or clean songs round a SUSS campfire (6)
21. Drunk without a postscript, he be. (2)
22. A NZ cave tenet bled dry? (9)
25. A bee sting badly affects a squeeze description (4,3)
26. Depression employment queues? (6)
28. Mother backed me when Spider trips sometimes finish, and always start (1,1)
29. Can a long Yank stretch far enough to do this place near Jenolan? (6,6)

DOWN

1. German POW camp in powerful formation? (10)
2. Halycon days no more are here in this place doubly related to 29ac. (8)
3. The boy in this cave was a lamp rubber, we hear, or the noise of a muslim meeting (7)
5. A user pent in every Draconian study of this cave. (10)
6. Run to this bathroom because of this. (4)
8. Tutor a home in this arch. (5,5)
10. Order meat to be frozen here in this Q'land area. (9)
11. See 12dn.
- 12,21,13,11. As NT is to WW (weight watchers), Richard McNeall etc. (1,1,2,2,1,1)
13. See 12dn.
16. A fresh coin to our north has lots of caves (3,6)
19. Rivers don't do this in Islington - it isn't on (7)
20. A new dog house made with natural log - we must go on one knee (6)
23. French climbing aids are amiss without the Schutzstaffel (3)
24. All but the kitchen disappears down this. (4)
26. What the sun, moon, and various Nordic deities have in common (3)
27. The laundry is the room or place where you wash muddy overalls with this, perhaps (3)

SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S

ACROSS: 1) Atea Kananda; 6) Governor Bourke; 9) Nullabor (sorry)
 12) Coven; 13) Pillow; 14) Luv; 15) White Horse; 17) Roos; 21) Abba;
 22) Weta; 23) OS; 24) Casteret; 25) Cave^{na} Alba
 DOWN: 2) To rule over; 3) Karabiners; 4) Directly; 5) Oven; 6) Good News;
 8) Elbow Grease; 10) uncut; 11) Ripleys; 14) Lip; 16) Coliter;
 19) Above; 18) Talc; 20) Sac



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=====

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REMOTE AND INACCESSIBLE PLACE SUBCOMMITTEE

Bryan Cleaver, Helen Turton, Geoff Innes.

Future Events



July

- Thursday 1st General Meeting, Common Room, Holme Building 7:30pm
- Sunday 4th Vertical Techniques Field day -- Royal National Park
Contact Mike Lake on 524-5229 (h), 692-3145 (w)
All welcome, come along and practise your SRT
- 10th-11th Vertical Caving Trip -- Bungonia
Contact Phil Cole on 525-2496
- 17th-18th Introductory Cross-Country Skiing Weekend
Contact Ian Mann on 631-4321 (h), 692-2525 (w)
- 17th-18th Wyanbene (caving)
Contact Phil Hill on 799-3899
- 24th-25th Wombeyan (if we ever manage to get a permit!)
Contact Guy McKenna on 997-3758
- Monday 26th Committee Meeting
Hosted by Mark Twigg

Later

There is some talk of organising a 'car rally' later in the year and, of course, there will be the Tasmania trip in December but this is already fairly full. If you want to go somewhere that isn't listed here go and ask a trip leader or committee member about organising a trip.

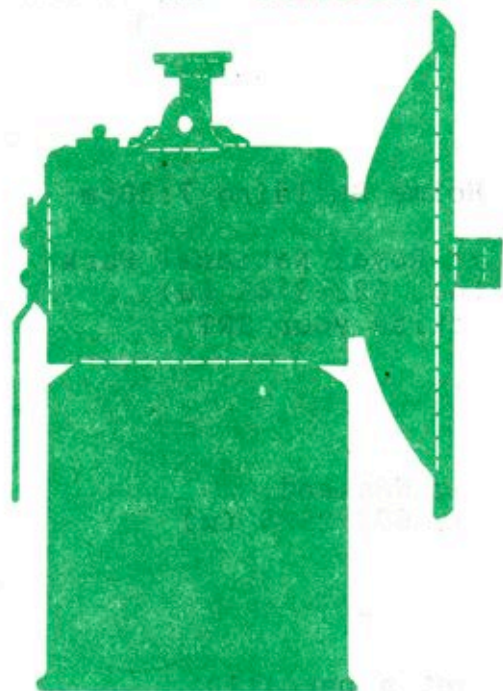
SUSS Library



The assistant librarian is pleased to announce that the SUSS Library is organized and open to all members. So please make use of it. We house SUSS archival material, Australian and overseas bulletins (come practice your foreign languages), cave maps and other general interest material. So whilst researching an article or planning a future trip come and see us - at the registered SUSS office, L.G. 21 in the Madsen Building.

Guy McKenna

P.S. Other material of interest would be appreciated.



SUSS

BULLETIN
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOX 35, HOLME BUILDING,
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