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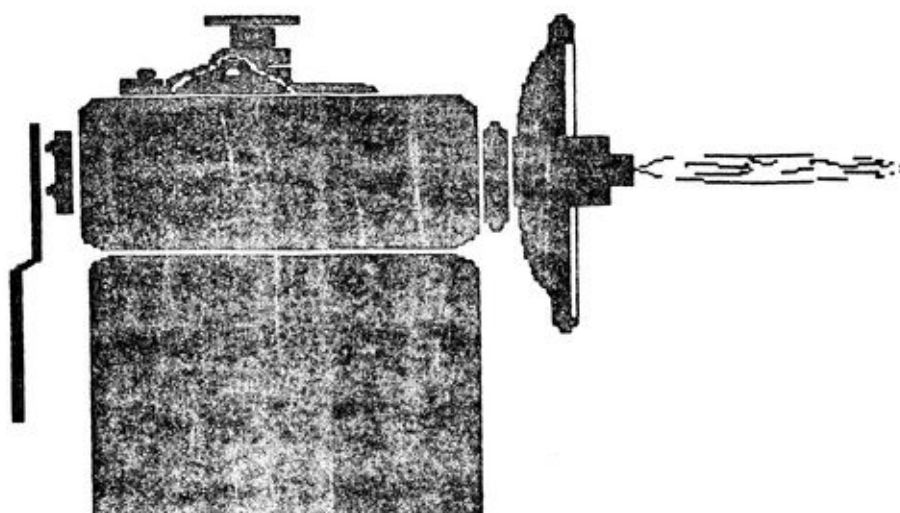
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Editorial.....

This is the first time I have been the editor of anything, let alone the SUSS Bull. There may be a few changes with the Bull this year, I suppose there is a change with every new editor. For a start I hope to get the Bull out on time, all six issues. This is because we will be getting a paid professional typist to type up the articles and so there will not be any waiting around for volunteers to finish up the typing, as was often the case in the past. This means that if you have an article and were afraid to put it in the Bull because it would never come out, you can now bring along as many articles, trip reports, photographs or whatever you like without any of the previous hassles.

In this issue there will be the first of what will be a series of short articles on cave fauna, the usual and not so usual trip reports including New Zealand, Wynabene and Cooleman Plain. There is of course the next instalment of the gripping tale of "The adventures of Jamison Valley" by the well known writer Perry Patetic.

This year help make the Bull even better by sending more interesting articles and especially photographs, maps, drawings or any other artwork.

MICHAEL GIBIAN.



President's Report

Being President of SUSS during 1984-85 has been a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. The members of the club have continued to be active of their own accord, so my duties were mainly restricted to chairing Committee and General Meetings. (Thanks to all those who have kindly shown us their slides during the year). Due to much support from an industrious committee, I have had very little administrative work to do, making my job fairly easy. The introduction of agendas into committee meetings has helped them to run in a more organised fashion - a necessary move considering the number of complicated issues that were raised during the year (notably the Jenolan management and camping problems). Despite a few heated arguments, the Committee has been very co-operative and I thank them for their support.

Although there have been complaints that politics are becoming more important to SUSS than caving, the club has continued to be as active as ever, with caving and canyoning trips as well as Field days and skiing taking place on most week-ends of the year. It is good to see so many of the younger members remaining enthusiastic, and I hope that a number will work towards becoming Trip Leaders - especially since some of the present trip leaders seem to be caving less often or disappearing overseas.

I would like to wish the new Committee under the competent leadership of Ian Mann all the best for the next twelve months, and I am sure that SUSS will continue to remain the best caving club around.

Good caving!

JUDY CLARKE.



Thirlmere Railway Cutting

The railway cutting some miles south of Thirlmere has been a favourite place for years for people to abseil off into. The new concrete and steel bridge provides a firm anchor for a free-hanging abseil of some seventy feet (22m). Previously there was a wooden and brick-edged bridge spanning this cutting. The original bridge was a timber truss structure.

The cutting has been reported as the deepest in the southern hemisphere - it is not. Nor is it the deepest in Australia. The Glenbrook cutting being deeper. However the Thirlmere cutting is the most impressive.

It was cut by hand-placed shot in 1867 for a single line railway through to Picton. The Picton line is now only used for trips by the locomotives of the Thirlmere Railway Museum.

GUY McKANNA.



Ramblings From Your President

It has come to my notice in recent times that numerous new members are not aware of the levels of club membership. So I am writing this article in order to clarify this and a few other points members are not aware of.

1. Membership: There are three grades of membership.

- (i) Full: open to all graduates, undergraduates, members of the university staff and graduates of other universities.
- (ii) Associate: open to all other persons who subscribe to the aims of the society.
- (iii) Life: open to persons whom the society wishes to honour and shall require the approval of 90% of members present and voting.

In addition to these levels there are the following:-

Corresponding: This is the same as either Full or associate but pay their ASF (Inc.) levy through another club.

Family: This is a method of subscription only (i.e., only one "Bull" sent). Full and associate members exist by the committee vote and only these members have voting rights.

Prospective: Prior to becoming a member of the society and upon payment of a levy people may become prospective for either one term or one year. This entitles them to receive club publications and use of club equipment on club trips but not voting rights. A prospective may be admitted to full or associate grades of membership on completion of thirty hours caving in non-tourist caves on at least two Official Club Trips and on approval of their caving proficiency by the Committee.

2. Club Trips and Trip Leaders:

- (i) Official society trips must be led by trip leaders who are appointed by the Committee. An official trip shall be one for which approval of at least two members of the Committee has been gained. Only on these trips may members use the Society's name to gain any privileges.
- (ii) Trip leaders must fulfil the requirements as set out in the Club by-laws. Although these appear extensive they are basically commonsense and any competent person should be able to fulfil them.

If anyone wishes a copy of the Constitution and by-laws please feel free to contact me and this will be arranged.

IAN MANN.



Trip Report Coolaman Plain Easter 1985

Present: Ian and Rose Mann, Ellie McFaden, Terry O'Leary, Guy McKanna, Danuska Kucharska, Margaret Brooker, Robert Crowe, Tony Merriot, Chris Dunn, Bob Kershaw (ISS), Peter Northfield, Ian Lutherborough (HCG), Graeme Galloway, Mike Gibian, Greg and Mick.

Friday 5th: Following the drive down a slippery muddy road the previous night, the consensus was to introduce those who had not been to the Coolaman ever before, to a relative easy and exemplary cave - Barbers. On the walk to Barber's Cave, through the main Gorge, numerous small holes were investigated. One untagged cave was noted to continue, and would be accessible if it was dug out a little.

The lower entrance to Barber's Cave required a crawl through water, so we entered through the middle entrance, exiting through the upper doline. The double or twin doline upper entrances and amalgamated passage forms of this cave are most interesting. Water from one doline has cut a vadose passage through the limestone, whilst the adjoining doline leads into a wide, semi-phreatic passage which intersects and joins the apparently older vadose passage.

For those who have not been to the Cooleman area, and for those who have but did not notice Cooleman Karst is classic textbook Karst, not because Joe Jennings wrote about Cooleman Karst, but because the development of caves there is uncomplicated and typical of cave development.

The next cave we viewed, Black Range (CP12) also exhibited exemplary features of cave development. An aven in the roof appears to join (CP14) but was not pushed due to lack of equipment. CP14 appears to be an older entrance prior to the development of the CP 12 entrance. Uncle Ian said that the cave had ended in a sump on a previous trip, however it was now dry and only very squeezey. Tony pushed through to find tagged passage continuing. Terry, Robert and myself became apprehensive after noting Ian's comments, flood debris high upon the roof and the inclement weather. Terry followed Tony and informed him of our situation and we exited to a shower of rain. The untagged cave that we had noted before was re-investigated and considered worth a dig at a later date to join it to CP12 which is not far off. A small outlet is below the cave and is also untagged. Mike caught a delicious trout that afternoon with some line he found, a borrowed hook, a stick and inland fishing licence and a cockroach - showing up the other fishermen with their fancy lines and rods.

Saturday 6th: We went to look at the limestone on the norther end of Cooleman Plain via Coolamine Homestead. Some old "experiments" were located (and later reported to Andy Spate). An inflow was located CP26 and an inflow-outflow system located further downstream CP27. The outflow is not numbered and is fitted with sediment not permitting a through trip. The inflow contains a wombat and the outflow has a pool with two trout. It is assumed that the trout swam up Cave Creek, which is reported to flow in Spring when the snow melts, rather than through a cave system.

Following Cave Creek downstream other small untagged holes were located and investigated.

CP49 was located, as was CP5 & 72 - Devil's Bridge. For the amount of water that these caves take it is a wonder that they are not larger. This could be because they are relatively young caves. CP5 and 72 are caves in adjoining dolines, joining to form the one cave, which is rather wet and requires hand-lines and ladders.

Harris Hut was inspected as was CP48-85 and Cliff Cave CP4. Cliff Cave does not appear to convey water into the CP5-72,49 to Blue Water Holes resurgence system as River and Murray Caves do. Cliff Cave is a bit of an oddity and quite interesting as such. One bat (type unknown) was spotted high in the roof of this vadose passaged cave.

Sunday 7th: Clown Cave (CP11) was the first cave for the day, after accidentally locating CP59 - a 20m deep steep boulder fitted vadose passage heading towards Frustration Cave (CP10). Clown Cave requires two ladders and has some of the longest caverns at Cooleman. Frustration was inspected and the entrance to New Year scalled at. Numerous untagged holes were looked at, with the conclusion that tagging and surveying would be worthwhile at Cooleman. Now to find out who is tagging Cooleman and if they want SUSS assistance.

So if anyone wants to do some useful work like tagging caves Cooleman is the place to go, but you will probably have to wait until next Easter, unless of course you can organise a trip.

[illegible]

Trip Report Wyanbene , Big Hole :

23rd - 24th March 1985

Present: Judy Clarke (trip leader), Richard McNeall, Francis Chee, Suzy Oran, Nick Melluish, Andrew Vilder, Rolf Adams, David Osloington, Pat Larkin and friends.

Also: Ivan Desailly, Guy McKanna, Graeme Galloway, Judi Strickland, Ellie McFadden.

After arriving at the Big Hole campsite late on Friday night we managed to rouse ourselves in reasonable time on Saturday morning, and headed off to Wyanbene cave. Despite much mud on the road in, we succeeded in driving all the way to the cave entrance without getting bogged (some were not so lucky on the way out). On reading the logbook outside the main cave, we were rather dismayed to find that a party of twenty or so schoolboys was preceding us. We decided to wait a little while for Pat and his friends to arrive before braving the crowds.

Our group of twelve entered the cave at 10.30a.m. and made quick progress to the bottom of the ladder pitch - we had a choice of three ladders to climb down once we had added ours. We enjoyed splashing and grovelling up the streamway and eventually reached the turnoff to the Gunbarrel Aven (passing a marvellous mud sculpture of a boar's head on the way). After a short search we located the Aven, finding it full of schoolboys (many of whom were dressed only in shorts and T-shirts).

From then on it was slow progress behind this large group to Caesar's cavern, and thence to the mudslide. Once we were all thoroughly bruised and exhausted we stopped to argue as to whether we should continue on to Frustration Lake or not. Most people agreed that it would take ages to get all twelve of us there and back, so finally only a small group of four made the muddy journey to the end - travelling fairly quickly. The rest headed out, meeting Graeme, Guy, Judi, Ivan and Elli on the way.

Eventually everyone exited the cave to discover that it was beginning to rain - threatening to make the muddy road even muddier. Although one car required a bit of pushing through some of the boggy bits, we all successfully returned to our campsite for the usual campfire, dinner and port.

The next morning dawned fine, and we prepared to set off for Big Hole with prussiking gear and many hundreds of meters of rope. We put two ropes down the hole (one hung completely free); using one to abseil down and the other to prussik up. Several of us made the descent, and Rolf was not satisfied until he had been down and up three times. We all enjoyed the pitch, and some of the newer members also enjoyed learning to prussik up a rope hanging from a tree under Richard's expert tuition. Others took a stroll to Marble Arch with Guy.

By mid-afternoon we all returned to camp, packed and set off on the long drive home after an enjoyable weekend.

JUDY CLARKE.



Trip Report NewZealand :

Dec 1984 - Jan 1985

Present: Rolf Adams, James Blyde, Phillip Cole, Mark Hunter.

Not charged for a total of thirty kilos of excess baggage. We met Jim (a prospective member of SUSS) at Auckland airport, he having been flown in that morning by Qantas. We arrived late that night at Waitomo and crashed at the Hamilton-Tomo Group (H.T.G.) Hut which was to be our home base for the next six nights. The next day was slack since we knew the whereabouts of none of the non-tourist caves. We did however manage a tourist trip into the Gloworm Cave. That evening Kevin Wilde, the local ranger, gave us directions for several caves including a permit for Hollow Hill cave. The 28th was spent exploring this cave. Being a short cave we did a double through trip and spent considerable time photographing the streamway and the richly decorated Castle Grotto.

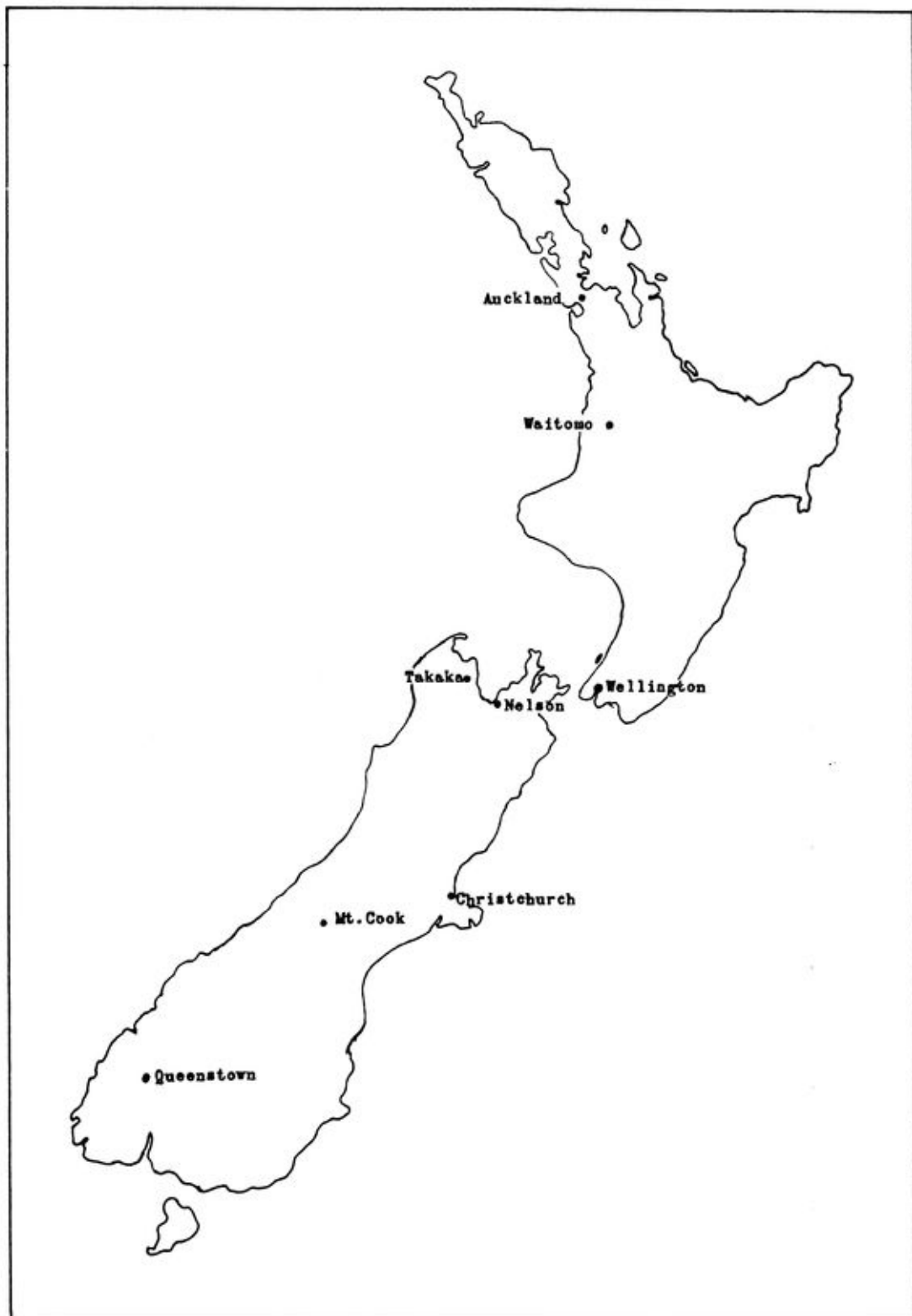
That evening we met Craig Whisker from Waitomo. He was keen to go caving and so joined us for a cave called 'Fred' on Saturday. We had been told to look for a "line of poplars" about twenty minutes walk from where we parked the car on a local farm. After spending a couple of hours exploring hills bare of almost any row of poplars we finally found the cave entrance.

Back at the H.T.G. Huts we met Bruce Mutton and Lance Stewart, both club members keen to go underground. As a result all seven of us headed off to do the Mangawhitikau-Long Tomo through trip. This turned out to be one of the highlights of our holiday. The "Deodoriser" pitch entrance was found easily thanks to Bruce's navigation but unfortunately we were forced to place a new bolt for the abseil and so there was some delay. The streamway was reached soon afterwards. The stream was very fast flowing and quite wide in parts. Equally impressive was the volume of water. Progress upstream involved climbing waterfalls up to about thirty feet in height, swimming against a strong current and generally getting quite soaked. The water here was cold: the water on the South Island would be freezing. Daylight was reached at Long Tomo, three kilometres from the entrance. A greasy climb of about eighty feet returned us to the fields above and concluded a day's caving long to be remembered. New Year's Eve was spent visiting the Mangapu system. This was entered via a cave called Lost World. The entrance was a ninety metre daylight hole about twice the size of the Big Hole near Braidwood. This was a beautiful but quite fast abseil on the new 9mm Bluewater rope. From the bottom we ventured upstream for about one kilometer, the streamway was not as exciting as that of the previous day but just as cold. At the stream sink we enjoyed lunch in the sun before most of us returned to ascend the pitch. That night Phil, Jim and Rolf did the Ruakuri tourist cave (float through trip). Car tyre tubes were blown up, but Jim's soon went flat. So a hurried exit was made. I chose a shower and a shave before we all went to the Waitomo pub to celebrate the new year. Not exactly a rage but sufficiently alcoholic in character! The New Year's day celebration continued at the hut playing cards. Rolf and Phil versus Jim and myself. The New Year saw Phil out of luck: ("Rolf, when will you learn not to deal shit cards"). Next morning Phil's luck had not improved, Jim and I allowed him behind the wheel of the car. It soon fell off the driveway on a corner. Phil said the road collapsed. About ten of us put the nearly upturned car back on the road.

That day we planned a 'Gardener's Gut' exchange trip. Rolf, Phil, myself and Trevor Brill (a local caver) came via the downstream entrance and intended to meet Jim, Bruce and a Swedish couple who entered via Exit 7. A mix up occurred and all concerned came out the downstream side. I guess we were all out of luck that day. On Wednesday the second of January we left Waitomo and drove to Wellington to catch the evening ferry to the South Island, after spending the night beside the road. We arrived in Nelson on Thursday morning. We called in Brian and Anne Miller, two members of the Nelson Speleo Group (N.S.G.) whom Phil and Jim had met the previous year. Don Fraser called in during the day, having come from four days underground in Nettlebed cave. The news was that HH, another cave in the Mt. Arthur region had been bottomed at -610M, and that Nettlebed looked promising. Mt. Arthur caving was the main topic of conversation that night at Chez Eelcos restaurant. Evidently there had been about fifty people at Nettlebed between Christmas and New Year, some of whom were still there. Next day we left for Nettlebed after spending the night at the Miller's place. This cave is both the longest and deepest in the Southern hemisphere with a depth of +687 metres and surveyed passage greater than 20 kilometres. It starts near the resurgence of the Pierce River which is followed for an hour and half from the car park. The cave goes up inside a hill towards the ridge leading to Mount Arthur. HH comes down from near the ridge - hence the hoped for connection. The Nettlebed campsite (the outside one !!!!) was reached by lunch-time. The Auckland Speleo Group (A.S.G.) and the Manawatu Speleo Group (M.S.G.) had both been well represented in the area over the past week. It appeared, however, as though only a small group had actually explored to the upper reaches of the cave. We met about half a dozen cavers and saw enough food to feed an army. Thank God for choppers! They were heading out soon - the cave would be all ours (and the food perhaps?). Jim had been to the streamway before so that afternoon we re-navigated the route to the fifty metre streamway pitch at Jacob's well. Along the way we passed such famous spots as the Hinkle Horn Honking Holes. These are a series of three squeezes. Their special surprise is an icy thirty mile per hour wind which chills the body very quickly. It also serves as a reminder of the serious nature of the cave. The fierce wind also hinted at the dimensions of what lay beyond. That night was spent outside. Next day Phil felt crook, another group was going to the camp at Salvation Hall via the "overland route" which bypasses the streamway. Jim and Rolf tagged along so we could all go into the underground camp the next day. Phil spent most of that day on the bog.

On Sunday 6th January we all entered the cave - Phil plugged up with Diastrop, but very determined. We met the other group at Salvation Hall. They had just returned from a survey trip and were about to exit. We continued upwards. Our destination was the top of Hammer Heights (+570m) which is a forty degree boulder pile with a vertical dimension of one hundred metres. Preceding this feature was a smaller but perhaps looser boulder pile called the Knee Trembler. Between the two is the streamway, some tricky navigation and the Antlion Pitch (35m). At +570m we took a photograph of ourselves and stood in awe of the surroundings. However, prudence dictated that we turn around since we were in an unfamiliar cave and the navigation to this point had been tricky. On the way back we spent a considerable time at one spot looking for the way on. Blue tapes, presumably from exploratory trips tended to lead us away from the correct route. Salvation Hall became a much more welcome sight than I had imagined possible. We ate some food and crashed in the sleeping bags provided. Next morning (or so the watch said!!) we exited to find some of the others still there. They offered a lot of food and our mouths obliged. We arrived in Nelson that afternoon. Monday night was spent at the Miller's place again, after another meal at Chez with some of the A.S.G. cavers. Tuesday the 8th turned into a slack day. Phil was still suffering from gastric trouble and saw the doctor. On Wednesday we drove back to Mount Arthur but this time for HH. We found the Bivvy Cave with considerable difficulty.

NEWZEALAND



Jim and I had begun to look for "a row of poplars" (the standing joke). The Bivvy Cave was like a leaking submarine, being made of the same stuff as the rest of the mountain. On Wednesday night it rained and the recipe for Thursday was drizzle in the morning and heavy rain in the afternoon. We knew that these conditions made it likely that the cave would flush since the catchment area is huge. Rolf, Jim and I entered the cave in drizzling rain. After three relatively uninspiring pitches there was a squeeze. This precedes the fifth pitch which prevents an exit in flood conditions. I decided to exit. Rolf and Jim did the fourth pitch and then exited. We walked out to spend the night at the Mount Arthur hut. This new hut provides welcome refuge from the driving rain which accompanied us all the way from the Bivvy Cave. We could have been caught down the cave for up to a couple of days. Nelson experienced severe flooding on Thursday night.

We returned to the Mount Arthur car park on Friday to find a rock had been thrown through the window of the car. I lost a small mount of N.Z. money. Rolf lost all the money he brought with him. We were given a new car the same day in Nelson and dried our gear at the Miller's place. We spent that night at the home of Keith Dekkers. He is another local caver but more closely associated with Nullabor cave diving over the years. On Saturday 12th we drove up Takaka Hill, the road having been re-opened after landslides associated with the recent downpour. We spent the next three nights at the Batch - a farmer's hut along the Harwood's Hole road. Next day we intended to do the Harwood Hole-Starlight Cave through trip. The unanswered question was the water level in the cave and whether the low blasted squeeze which allows a through trip would be passable. Phil rigged the famous 176m pitch using a bolt placed by Warild at the main lip. Descent time was about forty minutes each. However, the cave below was flushing and although we saw the best parts of it, we had to prussik back up Harwoods. We noticed a memorial to Peter Lambert, a SUSS member who died in 1962 while being winched up the pitch, (A large rock dislodged itself from the wall of the hole). The 9mm rope was great to prussik on now that we were used to its thinness. We all had plenty of time to admire the pitch on the way up.

We got back to the Batch at dark. Next day we planned to have a look in Greenlink. We knew that despite three days of settled weather it would be impassable. Rolf, Jim and Phil did a few pitches to see the blue marble which decorates the walls. The next morning we returned to Nelson and posted most of the caving gear back to Sydney by ship. We met Bruce and Carey Barlow as well as Christian Young and Ed Garnet. Most of them were in N.Z. on route to Warrild's Mexico trip. We dined together that night at La Gondola restaurant. Keith Dekkers came along with some good caving stories and our group crashed at his place that night. On Wednesday 16th we drove down the east coast to Christchurch where Phil and Jim stayed until their flight back to Oz from Wellington the following Sunday. Rolf and I drove the same day to the Mount Cook area and spent Thursday walking. We dropped the car off in Queenstown the following day and spent the next three days on the Routeburn track. We returned to Christchurch the following Tuesday and departed for Sydney on the morning of Thursday the 24th January, concluding a memorable and safe holiday. We would like to thank the N.Z. cavers we met along the way for their advice and patience in answering our queries. In particular we would thank Ian and Anne Miller for their hospitality in allowing us to stay at their home on several occasions (especially when it was raining). Also Bruce Mutton and Keith Dekkers. We hope to return for Greenlink some day.

MARK HUNTER.



Trip Report Jenolan (A week of rockpiles)

26th - 30th November 1984

Sunday 25th: Rolf Adams, Graham Atkins, Danusia Kucharska arriving half a day early spent a few hours climbing over Dwyer's Bluff visiting the 5 metre gravel holes in T-shirt and shorts.

Monday 26th: Together with Paul Grenfield and Marni Holmes the business of today was to look in the stream filled rockpile in Mammoth Cave at the last sighting of Central River on the way to the Dry Siphon. Just for fun the Skull and Crossbones was bypassed by means of the unsurveyed connection. The fun element was not appreciated by Danusia who became stuck half way through. Paul then turned into a movable foothold, shortly joined by Rolf with Graham's feet also being used intermittently as handholes. An hour later the route was once again clear.

The cave was substantially wetter and slipperier than usual, Central Lake especially giving a good show of water. Careful climbing allowed Rolf, Graham and Marni to remain dry, avoiding wetness of the feet and shins. The required Central River rockpile provided first a crawl through the water and then a wet stomach gravel. A squeeze through a continually changing rockpile led back down to the river, this time 1 metre deep water in 1.1 metre high passage. This very wet crawlway turned a corner travelling 5m in total before both roof and floor took 45° dives downwards, the rockpile no longer present. Within the sump, the roof could be seen to remain 1.5m above floor level, 0.5m below water level. Rolf did not attempt a duckunder especially as he was alone in this area of Central Puddle.

Four trogs of differing degrees of wetness together with one dry Marni started to head back. A successful climb around the sides of Central Lake would ensure Marni of a completely dry Mammoth trip. A tricky traverse around a corner outsmarted the caver giving her a flight 1 metre through the air, 1.5m through water. A big splash but luckily no pain or injury. Such wetness is rapidly followed by coldness; thus Paul and Marni exited quickly.

No more unsurveyed connection, but more troubles for an exhausted Danusia. With the help of two movable footholds and 10m of tape the remaining three returned safely. That night a bit more T-shirt and shorts grovelling on Dwyer's Bluff including a 20m untagged cave (later to be tagged J286).

Tuesday 27th: Upset that Mammoth Squeeze had been bypassed the day before Paul, Marni and Rolf did a quick squeeze - Rockpile Loop before joining the other two on the walk up to Wilburd's. The lake chamber was the first stop where attempts were made to enter the higher level chamber visible from above the mud slope. This is a lot higher than the level from which the manilla rope hangs and would not have been enterable even when the lake was present. (If lake was sufficiently high passages to Lake Chamber from both J58 and J92 entrances would have been flooded). By throwing tapes into the air a ladder was eventually levitated to the bottom of this upper level. Graham ascended but did not leave the ladder. Graham down, Rolf up. From the top of the ladder a simple bridge leads to a steeply sloping stream flute. This would be an easy, but muddy chimney which looks quite rewarding. The virginal mud is still intact, the 25 metre drop overpowering Rolf's courage.

Without Danusia Neddy's Knot was next. This pretty but unstable rockpile received a survey even though surveying complete rockpiles is very silly. Coming out two vagabonds searching for rock were encountered. Under the guise of Armstrong Osborne and Martin Scott they joined the other five in the walk back to Mammoth Flat.

Wednesday 28th: Goodbye Paul, Marni, Danusia, let's play rockpiles. This particular one belonged to Rho Hole. After taking a wrong turn initially a squeeze was encountered. No success for Graham, no attempt by Armstrong, the party split in two. Through the squeeze (which is the limit of the survey in the Northern Limestone book) is a lot of nice formation holding together a rockpile. Deeper into the cave the formation gives way, the rockpile looking like it is about to as well. Fortunately no such major cave shift took place. Martin and Rolf spent two hours in here, most but not all of which had been pretrogged (prevandalised). On emerging into daylight the news that the main section of the cave had yet to be visited explained much.

A brief bask in the sun preceded the grovelling and climbing necessary to view the formations of Rho Hole proper. Only Martin and Rolf were able to take a stroll down the Mulberry tunnel, the other two having turned back, in Graham's case due to pain acquired from an ungraceful roll. Down in the tunnel Martin found a shampoo bottle of purple juice (drinks were not taken). In attempting to transport it to the entrance Martin threw it up a limb to Rolf. It was caught between the knees. Bottle broke. Purple juice escaped. Overalls now smelt very nice. Soon after that Martin's light died, cutting short the search for the Ian Carpenter Cave connection.

A swap was made with the guides, Rho Hole key for Alladin. Alladin cave being an old tourist cave is filled with steel bars, cable and chickenwire. It is not a cave for modern tourists though, at one section there is a chickenwire tunnel made for a stomach grovel, almost a cave within a cave. Leaving the tourist track Martin and Rolf slid down a rift and through a Z-like squeeze to get to another rockpile. This collection of boulders provided little room for manoeuvring and indeed no more than 10 metre progress could be made.

Daylight saving time made possible the surveying of the untagged cave on Dwyer's Bluff (the climb down from it would be quite dangerous in the dark). This cave sits 10 metres above J32 in a 5 metre high alcove visible from the track. Still in the daylight region there are two holes, the main one being 1.5m above the lower. This opening measures 1.5m by 1.5m, the other being 1m high, 0.5m wide. Of a phreatic origin the cave has a total length of 26m, and a depth (height) of 4m ending in cavefill with no prospects. Just inside the entrance are a large number of small crushed bones. The bone pieces being mostly 1cm long being 4cm long uncrushed. An unoccupied bird's nest 2.5m above the floor may explain their presence. (This cave has since been tagged J286).

After dinner the four cavers pretended to be tourists crawling through the grovel holes on the east side of the Devil's Coach House. Ernie Holland had asked for a rough survey of these passages many of which were well polished by the multitude of illegal cavers. None of these passages would have passed the 70 metre mark. Cravings for sleep left the task half done (half undone).

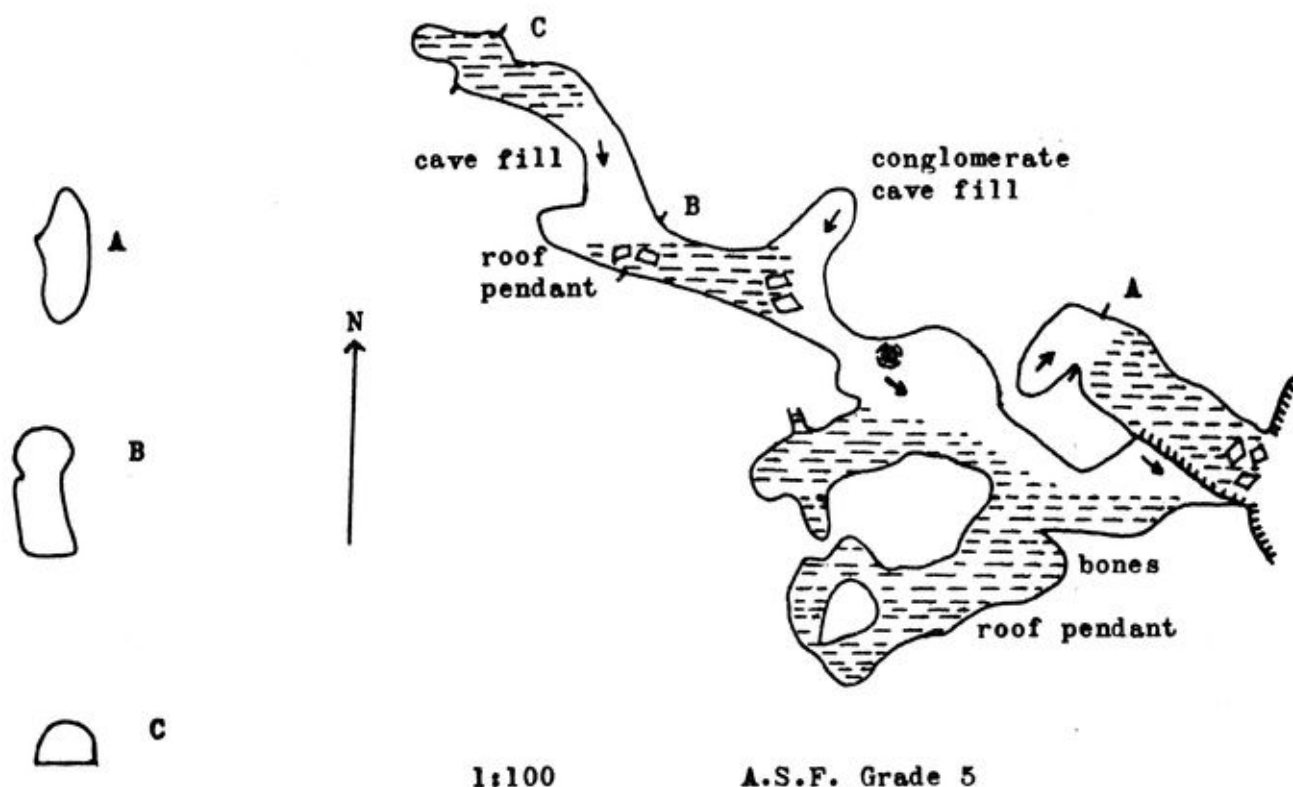
Thursday 29th: Armstrong deciding to be constructive spent the day attempting to fix the Mammoth Flat water supply while the other three played with Suunto compasses in Wiburd's. Only having a few hours all that was done was surveying the J92-J101 loop, a small hole near the Lake Chamber and retrieving Tuesday's ladder. Armstrong, Martin and Graham then disappeared to Colong Caves.

Friday 30th: Being alone was no problem (although it did seem to kill the conversation), Rolf merely continued his search in the Southern Limestone. Most of the day was spent going over an area thoroughly, that had previously been searched but not very carefully. Some new ground was also covered. The only finds were a 3m long but 3m high formation filled hole and a 3m long, 0.5m high hole which is not tagworthy (and thus will not get a tag). The region so far covered in the Southern Limestone surface searched (after a total of seven days looking) is everything south of the boiler house (southern end No. 3 carpark) to the big doline south of J46. The bluffs around Paradox cave have also been well searched. Quite a few small holes and total rockpile caves have remained untagged. Descriptions, locations and maps will be published when the search is completed (if ever).

ROLF ADAMS.



J287



Surveyed by R.Adams, M.Scott; 28/11/1984

CAVE FAUNA

The Common Wombat - Wombatus ursinus.

Every caver knows what to do when in a cave and some one calls "WOMBAT",- run or crawl as fast as you can! Why does everyone run? A very good question.

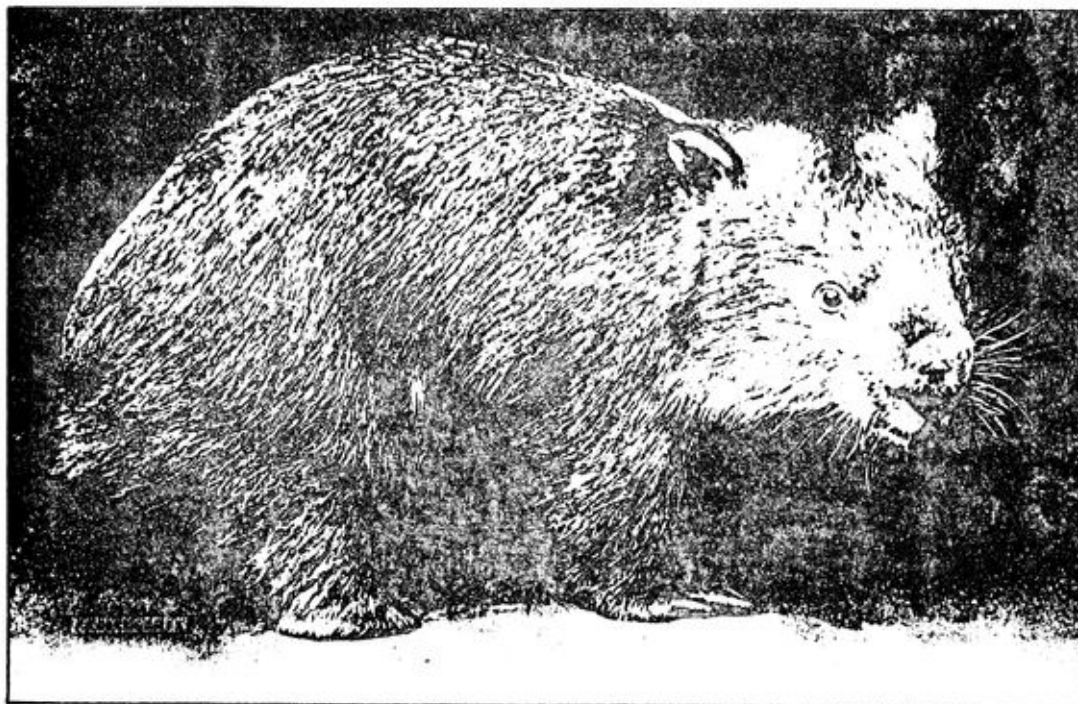
The wombat is a strong, stocky animals that weighs between 23kg and 38kg with a body length of around 850 to 1140mm. They have yellowish buff, light grey, dark brown, or black fur which is coarse and harsh. The head is large with a large hairless nose, the legs are short. The claws of the fore feet are long and very strong. The hind feet have five toes with only four claws which are long and well developed. The skull is massive with a single pair of incisors on the upper and lower jaws also with pre molars and sets of four molars.

Wombats are powerful burrowers, making large burrows, or sheltering in hollow logs or caves during the day. Burrows range from 3 metres long up to 12 metres long and 2 metres deep.

As the wombat is a marsupial it has a pouch containing two teats. The normal litter size is one. Wombats feed alone and take little interest in others of their species. They feed mainly on grass and roots, apparently preferring grass stems; they use their fore feet to tear pieces of stem. They are nocturnal and so feed at night.

Wombats are quick in their movements and can run rapidly for short distances. When touched, especially near the hindquarters, they kick backward with both clawed hind feet. When annoyed they may also emit a hissing growl.

MICHAEL GIBIAN.



J.E.P.C.

These newspaper cuttings concerning the J.E.P.C. have been noticed in a number of Sydney newspapers over the last few weeks.

The Sydney Morning Herald, Saturday, April 27, 1985

Destruction of Jenolan Caves

SIR: Recently two executive officers of the Jenolan Environment Protection Committee (JEPC) inspected various sites within the Jenolan Caves Reserve in the Blue Mountains.

The JEPC is a public-interest group which has been formed to inquire into, and attempt to halt, the disarray attaching to the administration and development of the reserve.

During their inspection the JEPC officers documented many instances of how the government departments vested with the administration of the reserve are systematically destroying the area.

Specifically, building developments have taken place and are continuing within the reserve which detract from the natural charm of the area and which have already done irreparable damage to it.

Instances of this include the construction within Carlotta Arch, the hewing out of an "exercise track" starting beside the Blue Lake, the construction of a workshop which obscures the view in a valley in the Southern Limestone, the presence of toilet facilities in the Grand Arch, and the development of Nettle and Arch Caves by building a concrete wall across the entrance to those caves which has created a wind-tunnel effect, thus endangering a rare species of native flora present in the cave.

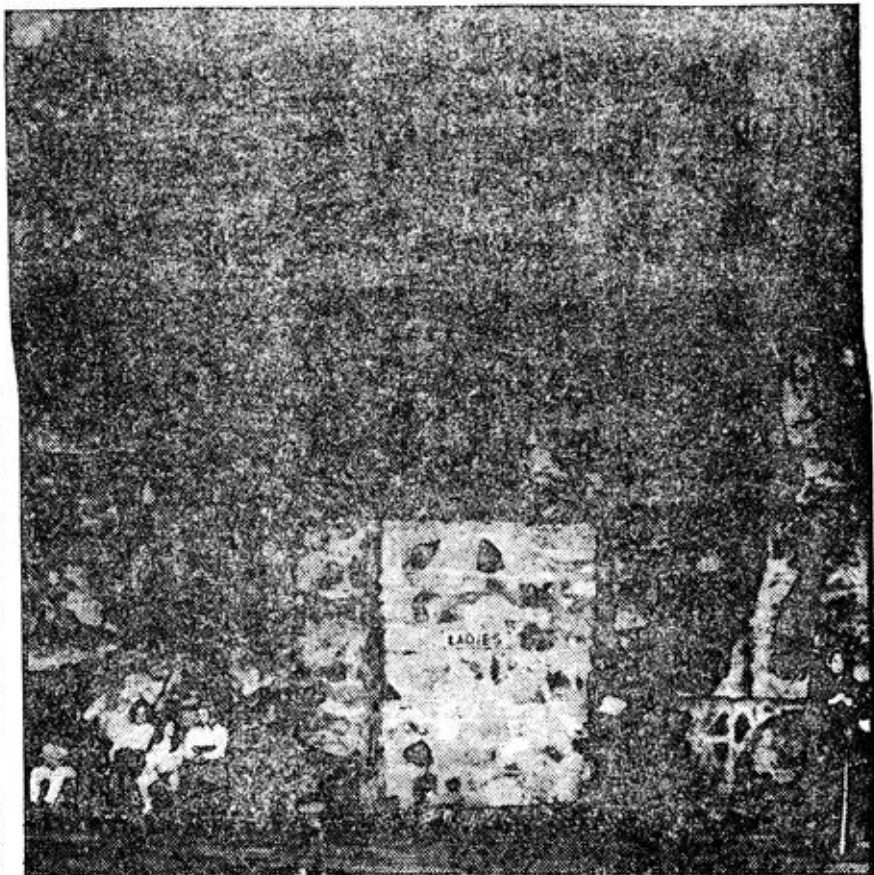
In addition, the Blue Lake and the Jenolan River are now severely polluted, and the caves are threatened by rats which breed in the nearby rubbish tip.

These and other facts clearly indicate that there is no well-thought-out plan of management upon which the "responsible" authorities are acting at Jenolan Caves.

Without a proper plan of management, ill-conceived developments will continue to be carried out within the reserve, and rather than the Jenolan Caves being a majestic wonder of nature for many visitors, they will ultimately stand as a monument to the crass negligence of those entrusted with the area's care.

Bruce R. Welch,
Chairman,
Jenolan Environment
Protection Committee,
University of Sydney.

April 19



women's toilet inside the Grand Arch.

Cave plan to stop pollution

By BRUCE McDOUGALL

ENVIRONMENTAL groups have had a breakthrough in their efforts to stop pollution destroying the Jenolan Caves.

The State's Tourism Commission has agreed to consider preparing a management plan for the tourist spot, which attracts more than 200,000 visitors a year.

It is claimed a women's toilet inside the Grand Arch at the Blue Mountains scenic wonder is polluting unique limestone formations.

A spokesman for the Jenolan Environment Protection Committee, Mr Bruce Welch, said the Blue Lake was severely polluted and the toilet should be removed.

Mr Welch said the commission had agreed to consider his committee's submissions and make recommendations to the Sport, Recreation and Tourism Minister, Mr Cleary.

The committee has called for a public inquiry, environmental impact studies and a plan of management.

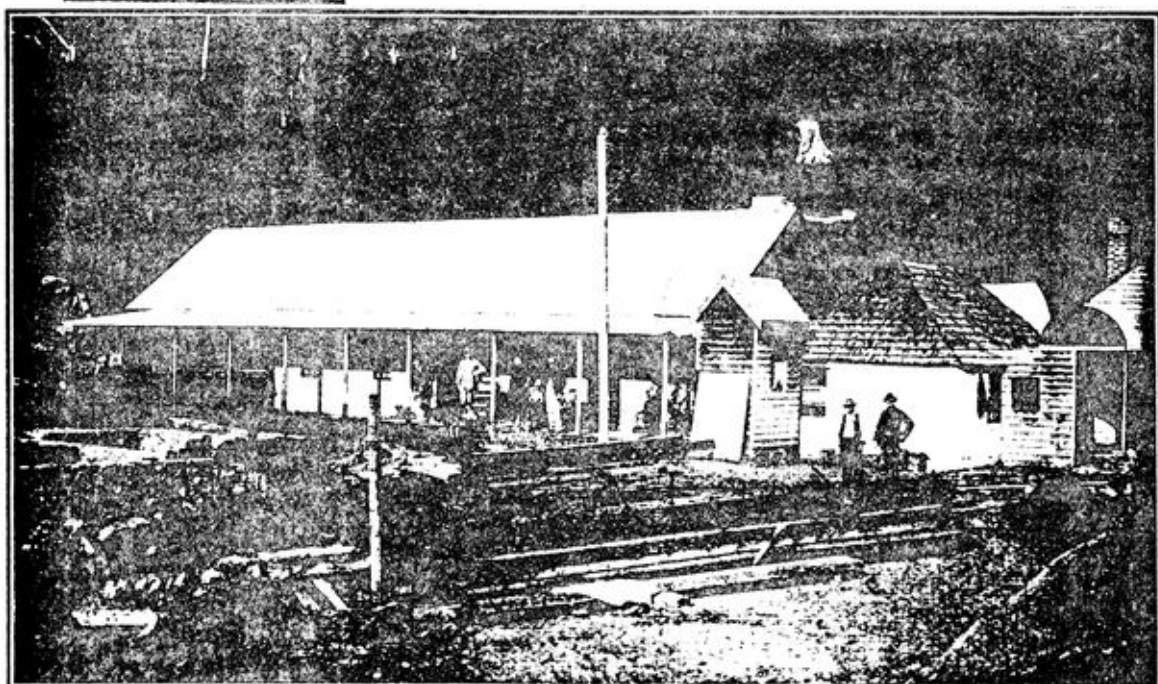
DAILY TELEGRAPH, Wednesday, May 15, 1985

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Loo puts Jenolan Caves in peril

Plan to look at Jenolan Caves

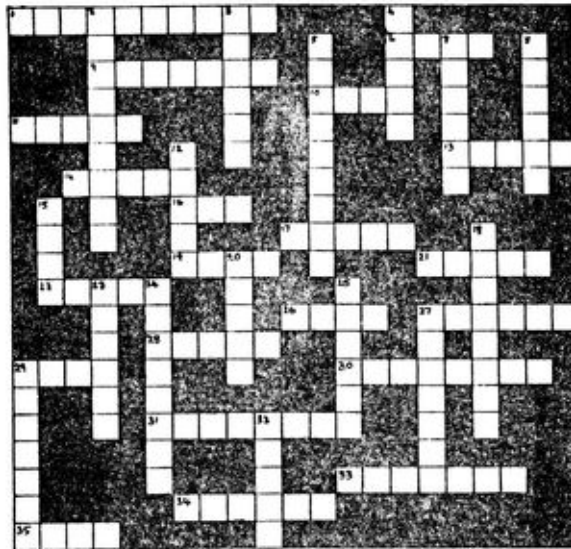
The NSW Tourist Commission has agreed to have a management plan prepared for the Jenolan Caves following a tour of the important tourist attraction by NSW MPs and public servants on Saturday.



First Accommodation House at Jenolan Caves, 1880-95.

CAVING AT JENOLAN

SENIOR CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Cave formation hanging from roof.
6. The Grand _ _ _ _
9. Calcite is the main _ _ _ _ in limestone.
10. The Blue _ _ _ _ was formed from the daming of the Jenolan River.
11. Landforms of Limestone Areas.
13. Trapped sections of underground rivers.
14. Water finds its way into this to form a cave.
16. +17 walls built where pools overflow.
19. Shawl in the "Temple of Baal" is called Angel's _ _ _ _
21. Flowstone formation looking like a potato chip. _ _ _ _
22. Cave with a broken column.
26. Dripstones form from a _ _ _ _ of water.
27. Formed when a stalactite and stalagmite join.
28. Exploring caves would be impossible without _ _ _ _
29. Hole or space in a rock.
30. Cave with many bones.
31. Royal Cave.
33. Bushranger arrested near Jenolan.
34. Cave with an Asian name.
35. Surface water seeps underground through this.

DOWN

2. Main rock type at Jenolan.
3. There are many bushwalking _ _ _ _ at Jenolan.
4. _ _ _ _ helps create caves.
5. Strange formation that defies gravity.
7. Large overhanging formation.
8. A cave is named after this weed.
12. Thin hollow formation.
15. Temple for a God.
18. Arch above the Grand Arch.
20. Without light caves are as black as _ _ _ _
23. Another name for 29 Across.
24. Cave formations grow from a Carbonate _ _ _ _
25. Remains often found in Limestone.
27. Mineral in Limestone.
29. Caves were originally lit by _ _ _ _
32. Flows through the Caves.

| |
|---------------|
| Name |
| Address |
| Tel. No. |



SPIDER CAVE

-10th ANNIVERSARY

On the 11th May, 1975, Bruce Welch discovered Spider Cave when he looked into "a hole under the boulders". As everyone knows the cave was named "Spider" because of the large number of spiders found in the entrance crawlway.

As it was a member of SUSS that discovered the cave, and as SUSS has done most of the work in Spider the SUSS Bull will be 'celebrating' the first ten years of Spider Cave by publishing original extracts from the log book that has been at the entrance of the cave for the last ten years.

"Trip No.1A 19/10/1975.

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|------|
| Bruce Welch | Digging | SUSS |
| Malcom Handel | Digging and climbing | SUSS |
| Paul Greenfield | Digging and climbing | SUSS |

N.W. Aven is blind, climbed M. Handel 19/10/1975.
Dig extended - strong draught" (Dingo dig. Ed.).

Many of the early entries in the log book are accompanied by "caving" poems, obviously in those early days our SUSS members thought of themselves as poets as well as speleologists.

A Conservation Quote from Richard Schmidt 1971.

"A speleo maiden called Rose,
Said, as she crawled twixt the floes,
That little formation
Gave me such a sensation
That I think I'll wait 'till it grows".

"21-12-75.

D. Creed

Henry Shannon

Rosemary Murphy

Owen Divon

Bruce Welch

Malcolm Handel.

Digging pushed - we are through!!!, into a chamber
15'x10'x25' with crystal flowstone and calcified
wombat bones - very pretty. Ends in waterfilled
sump, but breeze continues thru: Hairy Diprotodon
here we come!!!" (Frustration Chamber. Ed.)

NOTICES

Armstrong Osborne, a member of SUSS and a tutor in the Department of Geology and Geophysics at Sydney University has been awarded the Archibald D. Ollie Prize for 1984.

Armstrong won the award for excellence in an original scientific paper contributed by a member of the Royal Society of New South Wales to its 'Journal and Proceedings'. The title of his paper was 'Multiple Karstification in the Lachlan Fold Belt in New South Wales : Reconnaissance Evidence'. SUSS would like to congratulate Armstrong on receiving the award.

See our treasurer, Rolf for the following:-

Full membership \$11

Prospective membership . . \$6

Books- Caves of the Nullabor . . \$5

Caves of Jenolan: The Northern Limestone. \$5

The Speleogeography of Mammoth Cave. . \$5

Car stickers now only \$1 !

The society would like to apologise for the obsenity that appeared in the last copy of the Bulletin (Volume 24, Number 4).

AMUSEMENTS



A Photographic Exhibition - past and present.
10th May - 5th August.
GEOLOGICAL & MINING MUSEUM
36 George Street, The Rocks, Sydney.
Admission Free Phone 241 3662



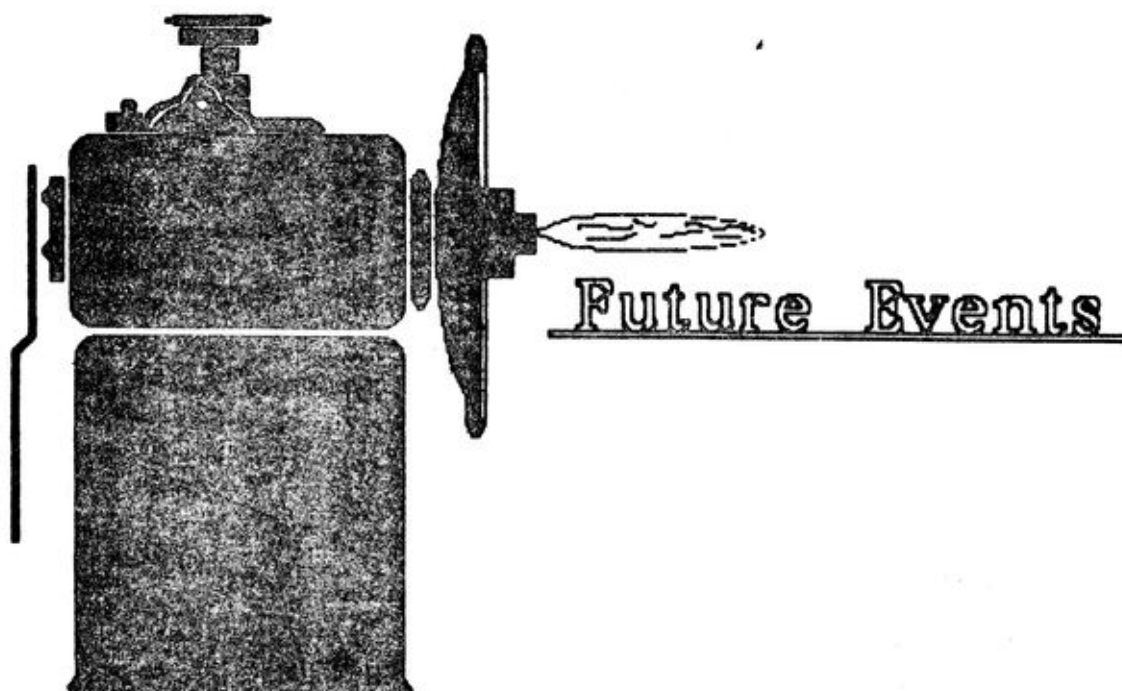
The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the Sydney University Speleological Society.

Committee Members 1985

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <u>PRESIDENT:</u> | Ian Mann, 1 Somerville Avenue, Ashfield. 2131. 799-8097 (H), 692-2525 (W). |
| <u>VICE PRESIDENT:</u> | Keir Vaughan-Taylor, 362 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale. 2008. 699-3578 (H). |
| <u>SECRETARY:</u> | Graeme Galloway, Psychology Department, University of Sydney. 2006. 692-3571 (W). |
| <u>MINUTES SECRETARY:</u> | Danusia Kucharska, 303/54 High Street, North Sydney. 2060. 928-3518 (H). |
| <u>EDITOR:</u> | Michael Gibian, 22 Yarrabung Road, St. Ives. 2075. 44-3578 (H). |
| <u>LIBRARIAN:</u> | Paul Chatterton, 362 Abercrombie St. Chippendale. 2008. 699-3578 (H). |
| <u>TREASURER:</u> | Rolf Adams, 18 Sirius Road, Mosman. 2088. 969-6655 (H). |
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| <u>ASF COUNCILLOR:</u> | Guy McKanna, 48 Vineyard Street, Mona Vale. 2103. 997-3758 (H). |
| <u>SAFETY OFFICER:</u> | Ivan Desailly, 10 Second Avenue, Ashbury. 2193. 799-7264 (H), 692-2525 (W). |
| <u>GENERAL COMMITTEE:</u> | Margaret Brooker, 4/157 Norton Street, Ashfield. 2131. 798-4984 (H). Greg Wilkins, 11 Pine Street, Macdonaldtown. 519-2871 (H). Bruce Welch, 21 Thompson Street, Marrickville. 2204. 569-9928 (H), 469-2380 (W). |



Lumen in Tenebris



| | | |
|-------|--|---|
| JUNE. | 1st-2nd | |
| | Thursday 6th | General Meeting 7.30 p.m. Common Room, Holme Building |
| | 8th-10th | Yarrangobilly - Ivan Desailly. 799-7264 (H). 692-2525 (W). |
| | 15th-16th | |
| | 22nd-23rd | Bungonia - Rolf Adams. 969-6655 (H). |
| | Tuesday, 25th | Committee Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Grandstand Bar. |
| | 29th-30th | Canyoning - Rolf Adams. 969-6655 (H). |
| JULY. | Thursday, 4th | General Meeting. 7.30 p.m. Common Room, Holme Building |
| | 6th-7th | |
| | 13th-14th | |
| | 20th-21st | |
| | Tuesday, 23rd | Committee Meeting 7.30 p.m. Grandstand Bar. |
| | Tasmania in December, see Rolf or Mike Lake. | |

