

**BULLETIN** *of the*

**Sydney**

**University**

**Speleological**



**Society**

SUSS BULLETIN 27(2)  
May-June 1987.

## SUSS MEETINGS

SUSS meetings are held on the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 pm, in the Common Room of the Holme Building. Enter from the front of the Footbridge Theatre.

- |      |         |  |
|------|---------|--|
| Thur | 4 June  | GAPING GILL, U.K: Two classic films by Sid Perou on 100 years of Yorkshire caving. This is the story of the attempt to link Gaping Gill, "England's grand-daddy of all potholes", to its resurgence at Ingleborough Cave.  |
| Wed  | 17 June | AL WARILD presents a slide show and talk on the latest trends in SRT. Come along and learn from one of Australia's leading cavers -A TALK NOT TO BE MISSED!!   |
| Thur | 2 July  | What have SUSS people been up to? Come and hear about three recent adventures:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Our very own Anne Gray was in the first Australian party to do the Southern Hemisphere's deepest through trip, <u>Blizzard Pot/Nettlebed Cave</u>, -835m. Hear all about this and the summer expedition to NZ's second-deepest cave, <u>Bulmar Cavern</u>, -720m.</li><li>2. Back at home, a number of SUSS people have been diving in the <u>Imperial Cave Streamway</u> at Jenolan in an effort to reach Spider Cave from the downstream side. The Imperial stream is one of the finest stream passages in NSW.</li><li>3. Yet another SUSS team whizzed off on the June long weekend to <u>Mole Creek, Tasmania</u>, for a look at, among others, Australia's most highly decorated cave, <u>Kubla Khan</u>.</li></ol> |
| Wed  | 22 July | ARMSTRONG OSBORNE recently completed his PhD thesis on paleokarst in certain karst areas in New South Wales. A significant part of Armstrong's work was on <u>The Geology of the Jenolan Show Caves</u> , the topic of Armstrong's talk for this meeting. Last year's talk on the geology of Bungonia was highly entertaining and informative, so don't miss this one.   |
| Thur | 6 Aug   | To be Announced.   |
| Wed  | 19 Aug  | Hopefully this will be a slide night on Cave Diving at Cocklebidy and in the UK. Details to be confirmed.  |

## FUTURE TRIPS

Long Weekend 6-8 June	Mole Creek, Tas. or Coolleman Plains	Phil Cole  Terry O'Leary 319.1930 -H 231.8168 -W
	or Ettrema Gorge	Martin Scott 449.4092
13/14 June	Jenolan	Greg Wilkins 86.6135 -H 807.0024 -W
20/21 June	Obscure Caving Area (Jaunter?- plenty of new cave be found, dug and surveyed)	Martin Scott 449.4092
June 27/28	Winter, New Moon, Night Canyoning Photo Trip	Ross Bannerman 750.9320-H 666.9541 x2541 -W
July 4/5	Cliefden (permit pending)	Rob Crōwe 969.1362
July 11/12	Jenolan (permit pending)	Mark Staraj 519.7295

## SUSS and SPELEOLOGY Editorial

Many of you may ask what is speleology considering you belong to a speleological society. It is the study of caves, which presumably was the motive for starting the society in 1948 and should be the aim of continuing it today. To study caves you do not need to be a scientist, as the basic skills can be learnt in no time.

Probably the most important piece of information about a cave is a map. A map is not only the way in which a discovery is shown, but may be used by others in further study of the cave. Maps of caves can be drawn from rough sketches or to be truly valuable, compiled from an accurate survey. The skill in mapping is representing the cave on 2-dimensional paper, using as many of the survey symbols to show its 3D form, and can only be acquired from practising. To those cavers that have not learnt cave surveying, it is well worth the effort being rewarded with a map.

Apart from mapping, other useful speleological activities include digging, exploration and cave descriptions but are only of any use if the results are published so that others can know about it too. Previous SUSS publications on Jenolan and the Nullabor set a high standard, which should be aimed for in the future.

The growth of SUSS recently is unprecedented and probably has a lot to do with the enthusiasm of the members as a result of the expedition to Mt. Anne. The club should continue to organise expeditions, not only because it is the most exciting aspect of caving, but the members become more competent speleologists. If you want to go expedition caving, start practising surveying and of course SRT.

Martin Scott

Pssst. Rolf - all of the cave surveys you have done should be compiled before you go to the U.S.

## NEW SUSS COMMITTEE 1987-88

President	Keir Vaughan-Taylor	692.3516 -uni 519.9769 -H
Vice President	Ross Bannerman	750.9320 -H 666.9541 x2541 -W
Secretary	Pat Larkin	699.6892
Treasurer	Judy McNeal	698.7818 -H 886.4977 -W
Co-Ordinating Editor	Greg Wilkins	86.6135 -H 807.0024 -W
ASF Councillor	Ellie McFadyen	818.1846 -H 217.0268 -W
Minutes Secretary	Louise Devine	44.1647
Equipment Officer	Mark Pollinger	519.6046 -H 227.5159 -W
Safety Officer	Rob Crowe	969.1362
Librarian	Martin Scott	449.4092
General Committee:	Mark Staraj	519.7295
	Danielle Gemenis	33.3295 -H 264.2685 -W
	Chris Young	949.7973

## Mt. Anne Update

Keir Vaughan-Taylor is tirelessly slogging away, interpreting heirogliphics, keying in survey data and producing cave plots. A number of others (eg. Martin, Pat, Leonie) are busily writing reports and descriptions. Unfortunately the sheer volume of information is such that it will be some time before the final expedition report is complete. However, Graeme Smith and Stefan Eberhard win the prize for the first finished report - on entomology.

Over the past few weeks, Pat and Keir have been drafting the Australian Geographic article. It will appear in the first issue of next year, as part of a bumper issue on caving. Other articles are being prepared by Al Warild, Ron Allum and Ben Nurse. In the meantime look out for a few photos that will appear in the next issue of A-G, as a preview.

Using the work of Bob Davis from the University of Tasmania Department of Surveying, TCC members including Nick Hume and Leigh Douglas, discovered a new cave on the end of the right-hand branch of the northeast ridge, "Gemorra". Apparently the entrance looks towards Lots Wife, so it has been named the "Devils Eye".

A group of Czech cavers also recently visited Mt. Anne, and found a number of new predominantly horizontal caves in the "Sodom" region. We look forward to hearing more details of these caves. Finally, look out for an extensive Mt. Anne report in a coming issue of Australian Caver.

Pat Larkin

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Presented to the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Society  
Thursday 7 May, 1987

The last year has been one of unprecedented prosperity for the Society. Membership has increased dramatically, and is still growing. SUSS members have scored high achievements in many aspects of caving and speleology. The Society itself has moved out of a period of relative turbulence into a period of unity and growth. Therefore, it is with some pride that the Committee presents this Report to the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Society.

1. Academic Achievements of SUSS Members

The Committee congratulates Armstrong Osborne on the completion of his Ph.D thesis on paleokarst in certain karst regions in NSW, and awaits with interest the verdict of the examiners. We also congratulate Tony Allan on the award of an Honours BSc for the study of rocks bordering the Northern Limestone at Jenolan.

We note with interest the work of Martin Scott in structural geology in a region near Tuglow, Graeme Smith's work on certain cave-dwelling silverfish, and the work of one of our new members, Jane Gross, on the Nettle and Arch Caves of Jenolan.

The Committee congratulates Keir Vaughan-Taylor for his work in computing and cave surveying. Maps of caves produced with the aid of Keir's programmes have been published in, among other places, NSS News (October 1986) and Australian Caver (No. 110). More recently, Keir has developed a programme which produces 3-dimensional computer-images of caves.

Finally, we congratulate John Dunkley on the publication of his recent book on the history of Jenolan.

2. Exploration Speleology and Caving

It would be a lengthy task to spell out all the caving achievements of Society members in the last year. Accordingly, we content ourselves to review the highlights, and offer our congratulations to:

- \* Phil Cole and Mark Hunter for their descent of the classic Gouffre Berger, Grenoble, France. Phil and Mark are the first (and to date, only) SUSS members to achieve the milestone of a descent of a 1000 metre deep cave.
- \* Phil Cole, Guy McKanna and Anne Gray for their participation in Allan Warild's highly successful expedition to Chilchotla, Mexico.
- \* Phil Cole, for the receipt of a Special Achievement Award from the Sydney University Sports Union.
- \* Rolf Adams and Anne Gray for their participation in the Expedition to Bulmar Cavern, New Zealand; and Richard and Judy McNeill and Rolf and Anne for their other caving activities in New Zealand.



- \* John Dunkley, for the organisation of his Expeditions to Northern Thailand.
- \* The 23 members of the SUSS Expedition to Mt. Anne, Tasmania for the discovery and surveying of many new caves, and work on Geology, Botany, Entymology and Hydrology.

The Committee is grateful for the tremendous support given to the Mt. Anne Expedition by its sponsors - Dick Smith and Australian Geographic, Australian Airlines, Wildsports (formerly Caving Equipment) and the University of Sydney Union. We also acknowledge with thanks the contributions of Bob Davis of the University of Tasmania (for his work preparing topographic maps), Vicki Bonwick (for her tireless work on the surface surveys), Julia James (for her advice and work on the water samples), Bruce Stewart (for his considerable efforts in packing the expedition equipment for shipment) and his family (for the use of their home), Rick Tunny and Janine McKinnon (for putting up with us and the tea chests of equipment), Keir Vaughan-Taylor and his family (for storing and arranging the distribution of the equipment after its return to Sydney), and finally and most importantly, the members of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club.

We look forward to the publication of the Expedition Report with great interest.

On the NSW caving scene, the Society continues to be active. SUSS members made a number of minor discoveries, for example at Jenolan.

Patrick Larkin and Armstrong Osborne were invited to be founding members of the Jenolan Scientific & Advisory Committee, a body devised to advise and assist the Tourism Commission.

In the last year there has been a substantial improvement in relations between the Society and the Tourism Commission. The Tourism Commission donated a cottage for the use of speleo groups - and this has proved to be a great asset for our Society. The Cottage is managed by a Committee of seven, including Derek Hobbs, Pat Larkin, Mike Lake, Ellie McFadyen and Martin Scott.

### 3. Caving and Safety Standards

Over the last 2 or 3 years, some SUSS members have participated in major expeditions and accumulated knowledge of new and sophisticated caving techniques, especially from overseas experience. It is pleasing to see these techniques filtering through to the general membership. This committee believes it is a prime function of the Society to cater for all levels of cavers - from complete novices to experts. In this regard we encourage the work of those members who have made expedition standard techniques accessible to any member with sufficient enthusiasm and dedication to learn.

The Committee has approached the Sports Union for permission to establish an SRT training facility on the University Campus. Should these steps bear fruit, the Society will have a readily available means to train its members in SRT caving techniques.

Congratulations to Rob Crowe, Ross Bannerman, Terry O'Leary, Jacob Michelson, Peter Northfield and Robert Brand, who have been appointed SUSS trip leaders in the last year.

The Committee stresses the importance of safe caving techniques and the continuing relevance of our trip leader requirements. We note the use of some of those techniques to avoid what otherwise could have been unpleasant incidents at Glenrock and in J41 at Jenolan. We confirm our commitment to the maintenance of these trip leader standards.

We congratulate Mike Lake and Terry O'Leary on their appointments as Vice-Captains of the NSW Cave Rescue Group and we support those SUSS members who have become involved in the Cave Rescue Group. Finally, we congratulate Terry O'Leary on his appointment as convenor of the ASF Safety Commission.

#### 4. Speleo-Sports

SUSS organised and ran Speleo-Sports at the University on 14 September, 1986. The totally new obstacle courses were a refreshing change for the many participants.

Congratulations to the SUSS team (Rolf Adams, Greg Wilkins, Steve Keenlyside and Graig Buckle) who successfully defended the Spelan Trophy: and to the many organisers, helpers and competitors who made the day a success.

#### 5. Public Relations

In the last year the Society has received a good deal of publicity, especially relating to the Mt. Anne Expedition. Apart from the publications of the caving societies, the Expedition was reported in The University of Sydney News, The Gazette, The Sun, The Australian, the Tasmanian Mercury, on the Sydney Radio Stations 2GB and 2BL and on ABC television in Hobart.

Our photographers have fared well: photos by Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Ross Bannerman, Phil Cole and John Woodard are to be published in Australian Geographic, and some have already appeared in various University publications. Two particularly spectacular photos by Phil Cole adorned the covers of the Sports Union Handbook and The University Gazette.

The publicity generated, especially by the Gazette article has significantly contributed to the growth in our membership over the last few months. Against this background we eagerly await the publication of the Australian Geographic article on our expedition to Mt. Anne.

Finally, we have been approached by Channel 9 to film a 10-15 minute segment on Caving, which will be shown on the programme Wide World of Sports.

#### 6. Conservation Issues

The Society viewed with grave concern the issue of a mining licence over cavernous limestone at Yessabah, near Kempsey in northern NSW. After a backlash by the speleological community, an inquiry is to be held into the future of the mining by the Heritage Council. We await the outcome with interest.

Mining of the walls of Bungonia Gorge continues unabated. It is distressing to witness the defacing of the deepest gorge in the nation.

On the NSW scene, the conservation issue of most concern to SUSS was the threat by Forestry Commission of NSW to log the native forest in the northern catchment area of Jenolan Caves. Logging operations commenced suddenly in June 1986. Only concerted efforts and co-operation between the Tourism

Commission, ASF (through the NSW Speleo-Council Jenolan Committee), National Parks & Wildlife Service (especially Mr Andrew Spate) and the Soil Conservation Service have brought a halt to the logging.

On the national scene, the most alarming conversation problem is the wanton destruction of Mt. Etna, near Rockhampton, Queensland. (Refer to SUSS Bulletins 26(2) and 27(1)). The mining company is threatening to destroy Queensland's largest population of small bent wing bats. The Committee wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the Central Queensland Speleological Society (CQSS) and ASF to stop the mining.

We congratulate Patrick Larkin on his appointment (with Rauleigh Webb of WASG) as a convenor of the ASF Conservation Commission.

#### 7. Australian Speleological Federation

Former SUSS President Ian Mann was re-elected Vice-President of ASF. Congratulations to Ian, who also manages the production of Australian Caver and organised the "Speleotech" conference of ASF, held in January 1987 at Macquarie University.

ASF has been faced with greatly increased expenditure, mainly in newsletter costs. As a result, the ASF Council has foreshadowed an increase in capitation fees to \$11 per member next year. As an alternative, SUSS is proposing a scale of differential capitation fees to provide incentive for clubs to increase their ASF memberships.

#### 8. SUSS Membership

At present there are 63 full and associate members, 64 prospective members and 42 subscribers - a total of 169.

#### 9. 1986-87 Financial Statement

(Unfortunately, the statement is not back from the auditor. It will be published in the Bulletin as soon as it is available.)

#### 10. 1987-88 DRAFT Financial Projection

##### Expenditure:

Bulletin	\$1080
Postage	\$ 250
Equipment	\$ 800
Food	\$ 200
ASF Fees	\$ 540
Library	\$ 150
Others	\$ 500
	<u>\$3520</u>

##### Revenue:

Membership fees	\$1700
Aust. Geo. payment	\$1000
Union Bull. grant	\$ 150
Union Library grant	\$ 100
Misc. Union grants	\$ 300
Sports Equip. grant	\$ 800
	<u>\$4050</u>

PROJECTED OPERATING SURPLUS: \$530

#### 11. Library and Equipment Rooms

The University of Sydney Union has very generously given the Society a second cubicle in the Barton Room. One cubicle will be used for equipment and the other for the library. In addition, the Union has set aside money for purchases for the SUSS library.



1988 is the 40th year of the Society and we intend to celebrate the occasion in style. We are approaching the Tourism Commission with a view to holding a weekend convention at Jenolan Caves House. We will be attempting to involve as many of our past and present members as possible.

In addition, the Committee is considering the incorporation of the Society. This will necessarily involve a major review of the SUSS constitution and by-laws to comply with relevant legislation. As soon as the details are formulated they will be circulated to all members.

Finally, the Committee would like to thank the members of the Society for their enthusiasm and support in 1986-87, and wish the incoming Committee success in managing the Society's affairs in the next year.

#### The Committee, 1986-7:

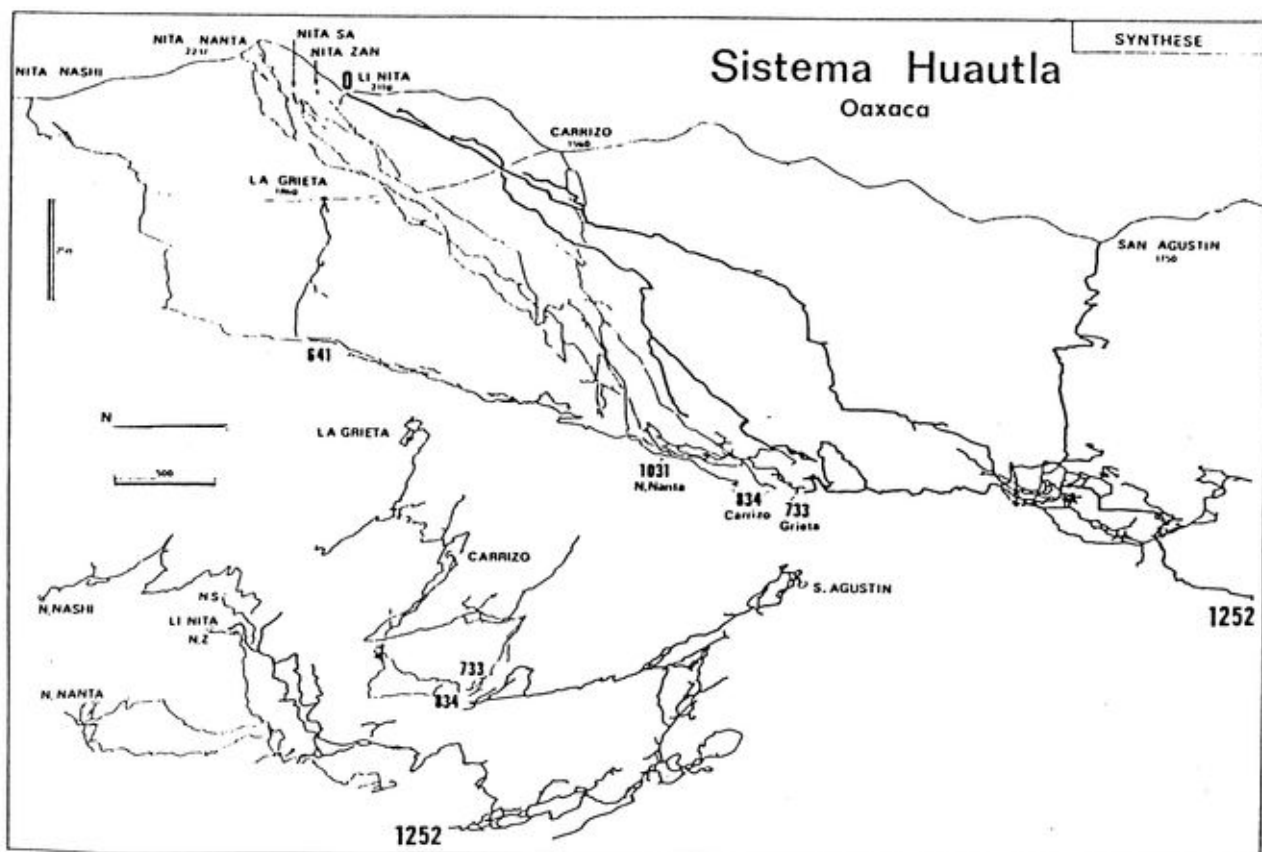
Mike Gibian, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Patrick Larkin, Jacob Michelson, Danusia Kucharska, Greg Wilkins, Mark Pollinger, Mike Lake, Chris Dunne, Martin Scott, Ross Bannerman, Rob Crowe, Allan Fried.

## Mexico News

Al Warild's third Australian Expedition to Chilchotla, Mexico, is scheduled to last for three months beginning mid-November 1987. After the Nita Nanta/ Sistema Huautla link (see below), Chilchotla now contains the second-deepest system in Mexico: Guixani Guinjao (-940m), discovered by Al and his team last year. Clearly the area has the potential for a new world depth record. We wish Al and co. the best of luck! The following SUSS members will be participating in the expedition : Phil Cole, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Ross Bannerman, Anne Gray, Richard and Judy McNeal and Rolf Adams.

According to a postcard recieved recently by Al Warild, elsewhere in Mexico a group of American cavers have linked Nita Nanta and Sistema Huautla to establish a Mexican depth record and make the system the third deepest in the world at -1389m. Prior to the link-up, Nita Nanta and Sistema Huautla were the two deepest caves in Mexico (see map, reproduced from Atlas Des Grandes Cavite's Mondiales, UIS and FFS, 1986).

Pat Larkin



# The Glenrock Epic, with Hills

SUSS- Ian Atkinson, Steve Keenleyside, Susan Maish, Martin Scott, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Steve Williamson. HILLS- Rick, Adrian, Shane, Garry, David. 26-28/9/86

## Introduction

By coincidence Hills Speleology Club and us were going to Glenrock on the same weekend. Normally this would not be allowed at Government controlled caving areas, but since Glenrock is on private property, it turned out to be my first joint club trip in 5 years of caving. The government restrictions should be changed as it turned out to be a constructive trip for both clubs.

Rick kindly showed us the entrances to the better caves, while Hills spent Saturday surveying and describing some more new caves. Keir and the Steves were met after they had been into the deepest cave at Glenrock - "Hens Teeth" (-45m). We then dropped into GR 43 (Fig.1), "Bats and Bandicoot", the largest cave in the area.

## Incident in Bats and Bandicoot Cave, GR 43

The small entrance to the cave leads to a climb down a typical Glenrock shaft, from where a gently inclined squeeze/crawl leads through batshit in various states of decay to a smallish chamber. A ladder pitch descends into a largish chamber with side passages. While exploring one of these, I chimneyed down a hole into a rockpile. I called out to Garry to follow me, while the rest of the group left the cave to lie in the sunshine. We started pulling out rocks that had got caught in the slot, and revealed that it continued down for at least another 5 metres.

While I was dragging one of the rocks out, rocks fell onto my right leg including one of major concern and discomfort 100x50x20cm large. Now was the time to panic, and having similar thoughts of never wanting to go caving again. This was suppressed and a rock below my leg was removed, relieving the pressure on my leg. However my foot was trapped between rocks and would not free itself. After about an hour trapped in the pile of rocks, Ian left the others who had a good suntan by this time, to see what was happening in the cave. He soon returned with the others and rescue gear.

Steve K. tried valiantly but unsuccessfully to cut the shoelaces on my pinned boot. Rope, pulleys and tapes then emerged to lift the large rock. While the rock was being "surrounded" by rope and tape, it decided to slowly fall onto my leg again. Time for pain and panic however controlled. About 10 minutes later, the longest 10 mins I have ever experienced, the rock was hauled up with a 3:1 hauling system. This was not the end! The rocks trapping my ankle were eventually moved and I escaped after about 2 hours. Thanks again to everyone who executed my release.

## Conclusion

It could have been very dangerous (like fatal!) if the rocks had fallen when we were head first down the hole dragging rocks out. The rocks could have fallen a lot worse than they did, as there was no pressure on my leg for most of the 2 hours. The cave is reported to have high CO<sub>2</sub>, which could have been a further complication. The message is to be wary of rockpiles as fellow SUSS members have also had nasty experiences in them. NB. I now have a pair of pulleys, invaluable devices for rescues.

## Postscript

At the end of this, we were all covered in batshit so we visited the local turbo bath - the outlet of water pumped into the Hunter River Valley for eventual use in cooling the Bayswater Power Station. Keir, the Steves and Ian decided to continue non-caving activities, probably a good thing at Glenrock, and drove for an hour and a half over 22 creek crossings to the pub in Nundle on Saturday night and returned (the same road) in the middle of an enormous thunderstorm. Heroic effort!

## New caves at Glenrock

Hills were interested in the untagged caves I found on the last trip to Glenrock (SUSS Bull 26(2), fig. 3, p5). We piled into their 4WD hilux's (we really should get some of these) and drove in the light rain along some very slippery tracks to the southeastern limestone outcrops. While searching for the

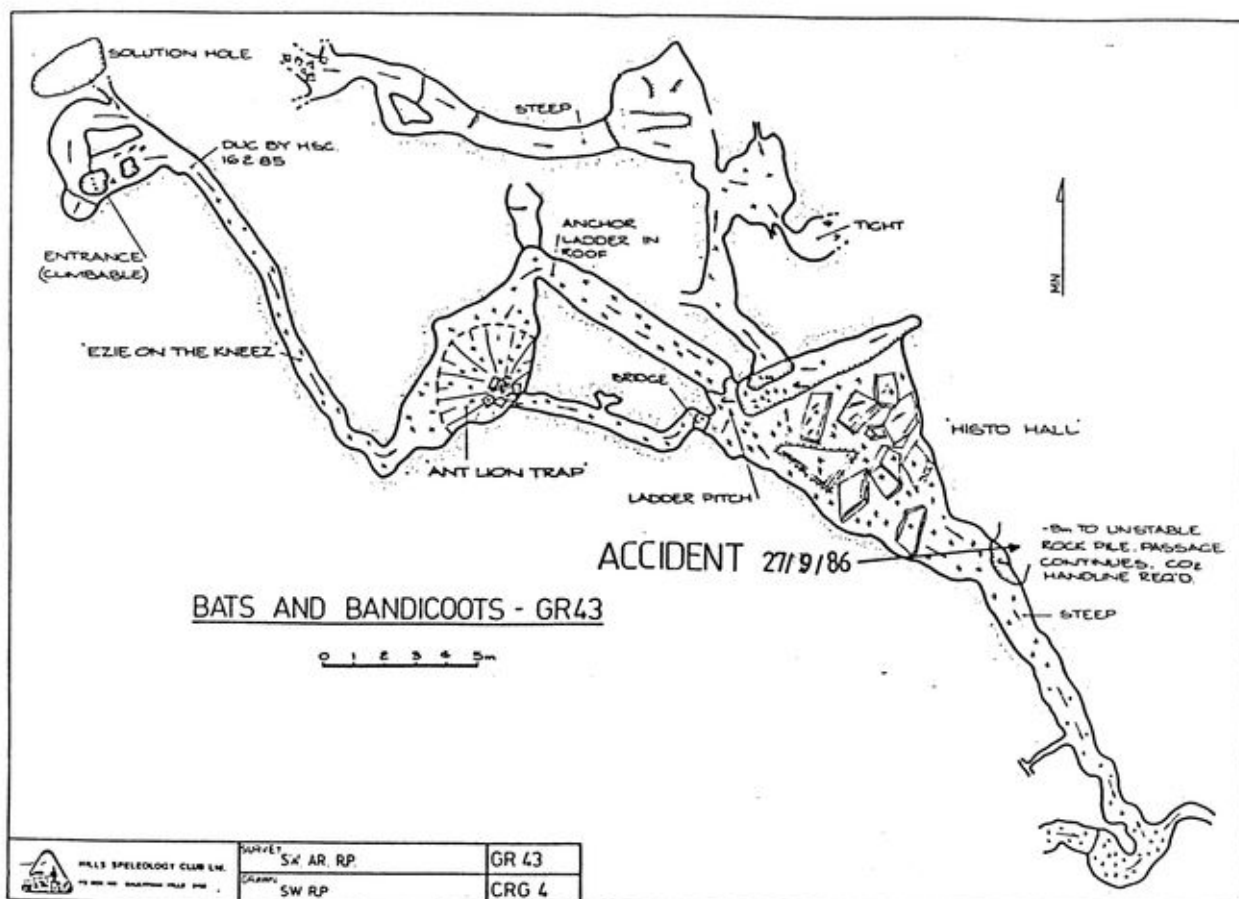


Fig. 1 Bats and Bandicoot Cave - from Hills Newsletter 1 no. 3

caves, I found another untagged cave. Unfortunately, this is the most disgusting cave I have been in for years, although pretty typical of caves at Glenrock, so Rick and I decided no one else should have to suffer it again, so we surveyed it.

The new cave GR95 is a 7.5m climbable shaft which is agonisingly tight at the entrance, leading down to pretties and a small chamber with a false floor ending in a hammer and chisel squeeze (a very doubtful lead). Formations at Glenrock are very scarce so it was decided to call it Speleothem Cave. Meanwhile Ian and Shane had found another new cave entrance with a boulder in the way. A 3:1 hauling system later, and Shane was into the cave, GR96, which descended not far into CO<sub>2</sub> laced air.

This was enough caving for one day (who actually did go caving?) so it was back to the 4WD's. The rain was still falling lightly and the track had turned into a quagmire. After some minor roadwork, we pushed and pulled the cars up the track while the wheels spun mud all over the place. After a shower in the rain, it was back to Sydney.

Ian's Peugeot had an epic trip. On the way to Glenrock it slid off the Broke road into a barrier, damaging all the panels down the left-hand side. Later the alternator fell off at Glenrock as an aftershock. On the way home water decided to meet up with oil in the engine through the head gasket, leaving the radiator only damp but boiling. After 5 Litres of water and a complete oil change it got us home.

### Hills and Glenrock

I was most impressed how organised Hills are; we were pathetic by comparison. Anyone who finds a new cave at Glenrock has to survey, tag, describe and name it. The caves are also tied into a surface traverse so that they can be found easily. When they go looking for new caves they take survey gear, ladder, rope, pulleys, tape so that they don't have to return. Within a couple of years they have located 100 odd new caves, the surveys and descriptions of which fill a book an inch thick. Thanks again to Hills for making it great weekend.

Martin Scott



# Speleosports '86

At a meeting of the NSW Speleo-Council in May last year, it appeared that there would not have been a speleosports in 1986. To avert this impending catastrophe, SUSS offered to host the venue at a new venue-the Sydney University Campus. Over 200 invitations were sent out - to almost every caving club in NSW and the ACT and to many scouting, venturer and rover groups. On the day, eighteen teams faced the starters gun. In order to eliminate (as far as possible) teams having to stand around with nothing to do, the course was broken into three modules - Courses A,B,C.

The organisers, led by Keir Vaughan-Taylor, introduced a number of refreshing changes from previous Speleosports competitions. Firstly, arbitrary time penalties for specific infringements (such as a straw or can) were eliminated. Second, simple SRT events were incorporated into the competition in a manner so that even the inexperienced exponents of SRT could participate. This was achieved by providing a marbar ascent rig, supervised and belayed by officials and marshalls overseeing the events. Finally and most importantly, a number of new obstacles were introduced.

## Course Description

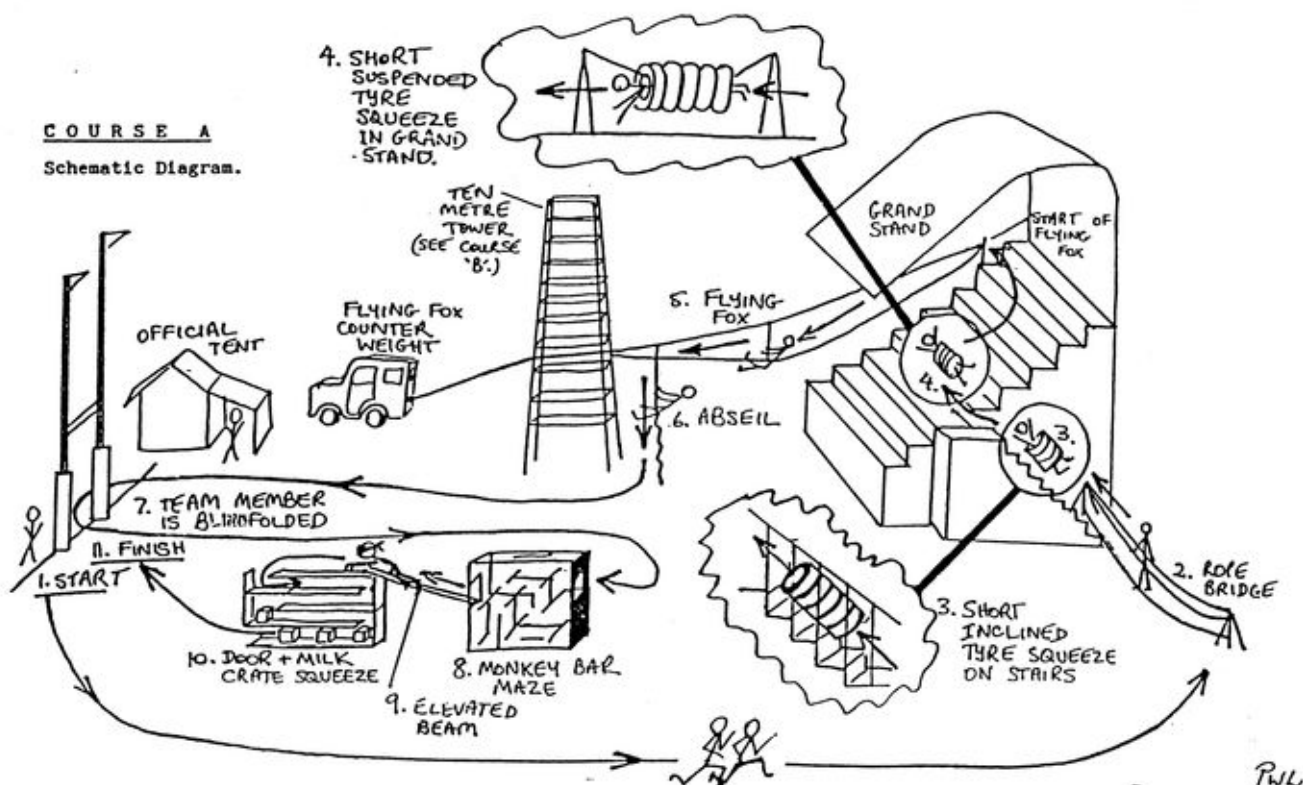
### Course A: (see figure)

Competitors ran from the start to the rope bridge. The next two obstacles were short tyre squeezes located in the grandstand - one inclined at about 30°, the other suspended above the floor. Next the teams exited the grandstand via the flying fox, followed by a short abseil to the ground. The teams then returned to the goal posts where one member of each team lost his his light (read: was blindfolded). The teams proceeded to the monkey-bar maze, escorting their blindfolded member. The maze was an entirely new obstacle, constructed from a monkey-bar, wood and wire so that there was only one twisting route through. Competitors exited the maze by crawling along a suspended beam to the next obstacle: the door and milk crate squeeze. This consisted of a number doors held parallel in a frame. Each door contained a hole through which the competitors had to squeeze through in a zig-zag fashion to the bottom. Between each door were placed a number of milk crates to make passage through the squeeze even more difficult. On exiting this obstacle, teams ran to the finish line.

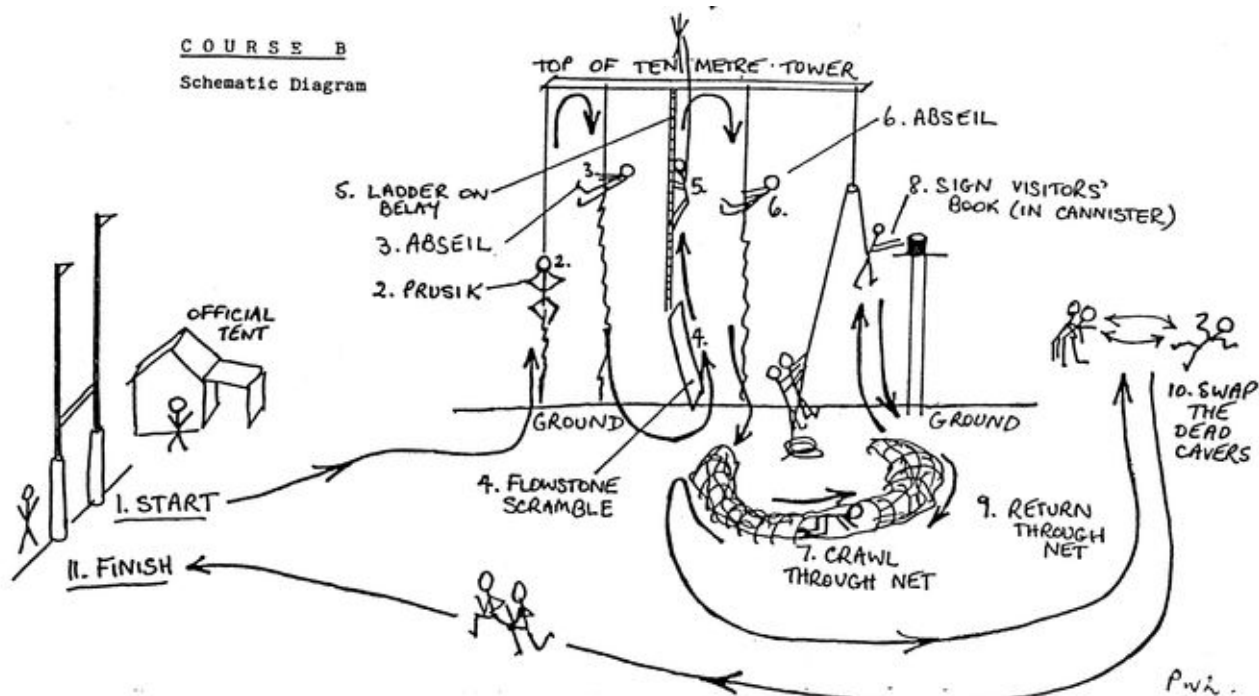
Course A provided the most spectacular obstacle - the flying fox, and considerable entertainment as blindfolded team members grappled with the monkey-bar maze and the milk crate squeeze.

### Course B (see figure)

This course made extensive use of a hired 10 metre scaffold tower. Competitors ran from the start line to the tower for the marbar prussik. The marbar rig was provided for use by all competitors to climb the tower and then abseil back to the ground on another rope. Next came the flowstone scramble - a climb up a slippery steeply inclined plane. From the top of the climb the teams laddered to the top of the tower, belayed by an official. Once again they abseiled down. Next was the "sign the visitors book" event. Each team member had to crawl through a net and then be hauled up to the book by his



COURSE B  
Schematic Diagram



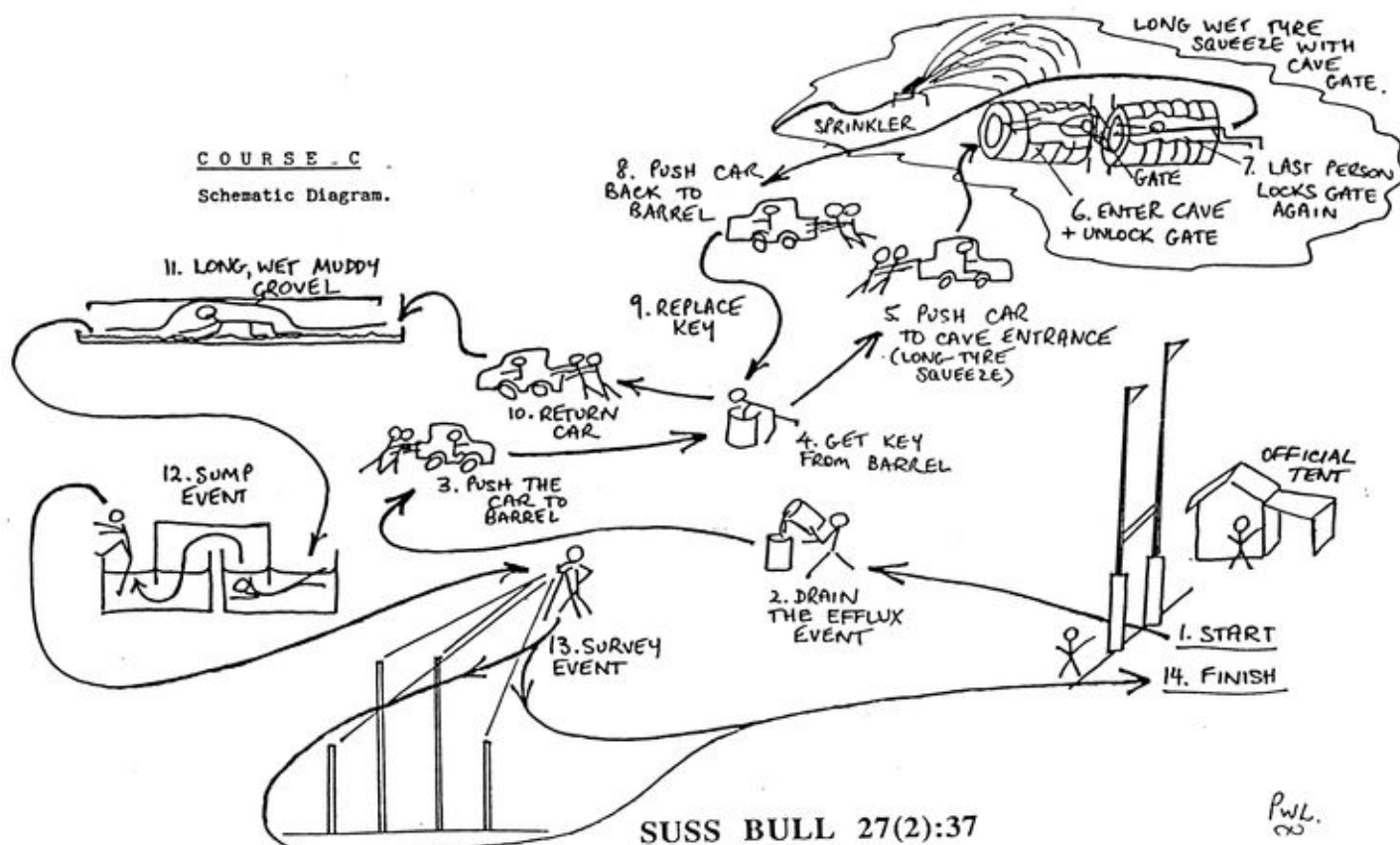
fellows. As usual the pencils were soggy and broken but a sharpener was provided with the book in the canister, which was suspended in mid air. The final event was to swap "the dead cavers" - two dummies placed at either end of the oval. After completing this task the teams ran to the finish line.

Course B was comprised largely of vertical caving obstacles. The most entertaining obstacle was the sign the visitors book event, as competitors struggled to support their fellow caver at the cannister.

Course C (see figure)

The first event was the "drain the efflux" in which a large volume of water was moved from one vessel to another for no good reason. Next was the "push the car" event. Car troubles are mandatory on caving trips and in the spirit of many past trips, this event was included in the programme. A cave key had to be retrieved from a deep barrel of water and the car pushed to the cave entrance. The 'cave' was a long, tight tyre squeeze containing a gate and also subjected to a sprinkler of cold water. The gate had to be unlocked, and locked again as the team left the 'cave'. Next the key, and the car had to be returned. The competitors then ran to the long wet and muddy grovel. After emerging from the mud, they ran to the sump event - a water-filled double duck under. As the day proceeded more mud was moved from the grovel into the sump. The last event was the survey event. The team had to survey the bearing and inclinations of some goal posts. If the readings were correct to within one degree, the team ran straight to the finish. If not, they had to run via the goalposts on the other end of the oval.

COURSE C  
Schematic Diagram.





Course C was a very wet course, followed by an opportunity to stand around and freeze while someone surveyed. All in all, a very entertaining course - for the spectators.

## Results

Congratulations to the SUSS team who successfully defended the Spelean trophy for the seventh occasion. The team was : Greg Wilkins, Rolf Adams, Steve Keenleyside and Craig Buckle. Second place went to a combined SUSS/SSS team, the 'B' team, consisting of Mark Bonwick and SUSS's Anne Gray, Richard and Judy McNeal.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Combined Time(mins: sec)</u>
1	SUSS	31: 02.5
2	'B' Team	35: 20.6
3	Hills No.2	38:41.7
4	Hills No.1	38:45.0
5	'A' Team	40:00.3
6	Turramurra Rovers	45:08.8
7	Turramurra Venturers	46:15.0
8	UNSWSS	49:15.0
9	MUCG/CRG	50:42.5
10	CCOG No.1	58:50.1



## Acknowledgements

A number of people and other club journals have commented that the Speleosports was a tremendous success and a refreshing change. A great deal of the credit must go to the organisational energy to Keir Vaughan-Taylor and his helpers, who turned up for the weekend, constructing events and for acting as marshalls. Many thanks must also go to the competitors who put so much enthusiasm into Speleosports '86. Finally, the Sydney University Sports Union are thanked for permission to use the No.1 oval and surrounds.

## Speleosports '87

The author sincerely wishes that the organisers of the next speleosports do not revert to the arbitrary time penalties. If time penalties are imposed they should be in the form of an extra obstacle or distance to run, as in the survey event. The author also suggests that the module approach be maintained and refined, so that the delays between participation for individual teams are minimised.

Pat Larkin

## Some minor finds in Wiburds Lake Cave

Robert Dancer, Phil Gifford, David Hamilton, Derek Hobbs, Paul Jones, Pat Larkin (T.L.), Ralph Monserrat, Tim Philips, Martin Scott, Mark Staraj, Cecilia Wells, Dave Wilmore. 25-26/4/87

## Introduction

Wiburds Lake Cave has attracted numerous trips by SUSS over the last year because it is perceived to be the best way to the northern underground river - the "Woolly Rhinoceros". The problem for some time has been how to get into this river and where does it flow? The general opinion is that the Western Passage used to be a feeder for the underground river which lies further to the west, but the passage has been subsequently filled with mud to varying degrees. The intermittent lakes (the Lake Chamber and the Dyke Passage below the mudslide) and stream are only present when the upstream sink at Watersend Cave J244 (Northern Limestone book) is not able to cope with the water flow after heavy rain.

So with these observations SUSS has been digging in the West Sand Trap no. 2(Chatterton,1984) at the end of the Western Passage. The West Sand Trap passage is near Pitter Patter Passage and this whole section of the cave is uncharacteristically high-roofed or deeply incised. The West Sand Trap Passage is developed along a fracture-joint, easily identified in the cave walls, trending 80°-260° (Northern Limestone book) and dipping about 80° to the north. Along this fracture a number of passages have developed at various levels as shown on the maps.

#### The Dig - the "Bowling Alley"

Over 5 or 6 days with varying commitment SUSS has been widening a small constriction so that it is now about 20 metres long. Mud or silt forms the floor and limestone the roof over most of the passage. The passage shape resembles a phreatic loop which hopefully will open up to large passage similar to Western Passage. Progress in the upper dig has been slowed by large rocks in sticky mud and gravel, which are difficult to extract, but we are still following an opening about 20cm in diameter that rises steeply. There is also a hole in the roof (rocks in mud), that might be worth more examination. The lower dig has been restarted and is following a small hole at the base of the Bowling Alley.

#### Higher Level Chambers

While I was taking a turn at hauling the bucket up the Bowling Alley ramp, I decided the higher levels looked interesting. Robert gave me a boost up the initial climb, and I then followed some cut steps in the steep mud slope. These had been made by Pat a number of years ago, when he explored the upper level. At the end of a crawl, the passage could be seen to continue narrowly for about 5m and appeared to open up. After some preliminary digging I decided to return the next day.

Terry, Ellie, Derek, David and I went to the dig on Sunday. By rigging a 20m ladder and a long tape to the large narrow bollard we were all able to get up to the higher level. Once Terry got into the single-person dig there was no stopping him, so instead of being bored, David gave me a boost up another awkward climb towards an even higher level.

This is a difficult chimney climb up a narrow rift for about 10m, at the top of which is a small opening leading into a chamber. Now I thought I had found a new way on, but after removing some dirt to open up the constriction, the chamber ended up being only small. It is the result of breakdown along the fracture, as evident by the broken rocks forming the ceiling, walls and floor. Meanwhile Terry had broken through below and squeezed along to find a small chamber filled with mud and mud formations. Rocks in mud form the roof, and two small leads in the floor choked out.

On Saturday night we were invited to a barbeque at the Olivers residence, where the Jenolan Cottage Association had a meet the neighbours-guides night. The Olivers are thanked for their hospitality, and the slide show on caves in Thailand - awesome. John Bonwicks slide presentation of of choc-a-bloc formations in Chevalier were also stunning.

#### The Dig Continues.....

It is particularly satisfying to have found some more cave at Jenolan, but the really big stuff awaits at the end of the Bowling Alley dig. The progress at the dig is the result of numerous SUSS wombats whose contribution is greatly appreciated. The dig was so named before the grim reaper ads appeared and there is absolutely no chance of catching AIDS while digging.

Martin Scott

Chatterton P. (1984): Wild Speculations on Wiburds Lake Cave. SUSS Bull. 24(3)

Welch B.R. (1976): The caves of Jenolan, 2, The Northern Limestone.

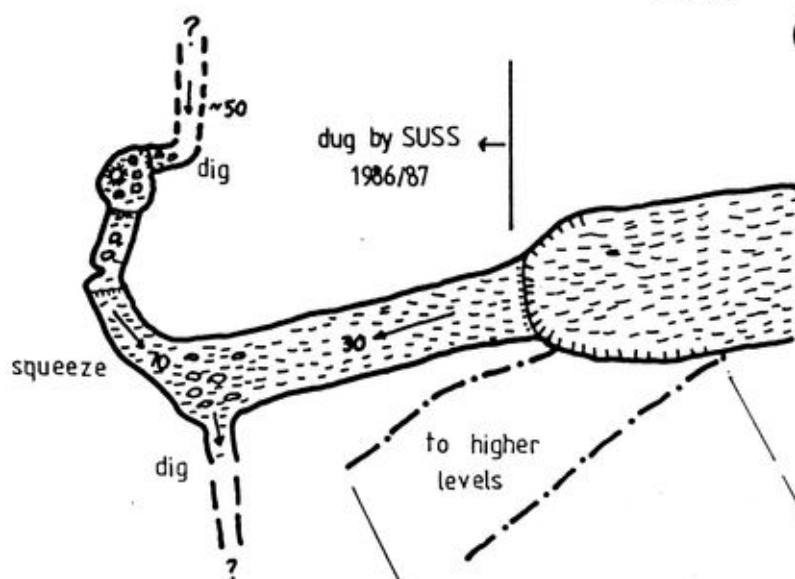
A4 draft M. Scott 6/5/87

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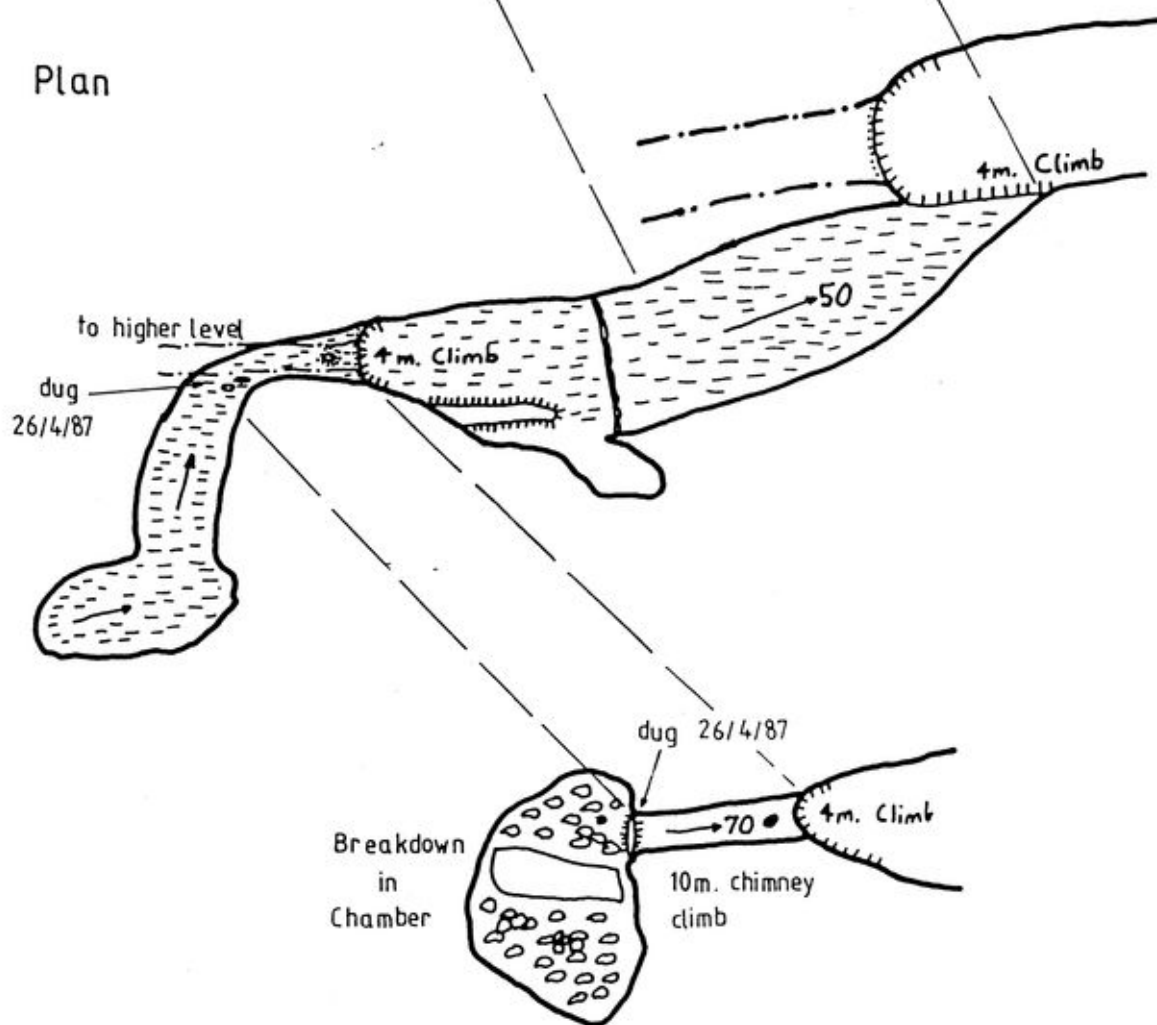
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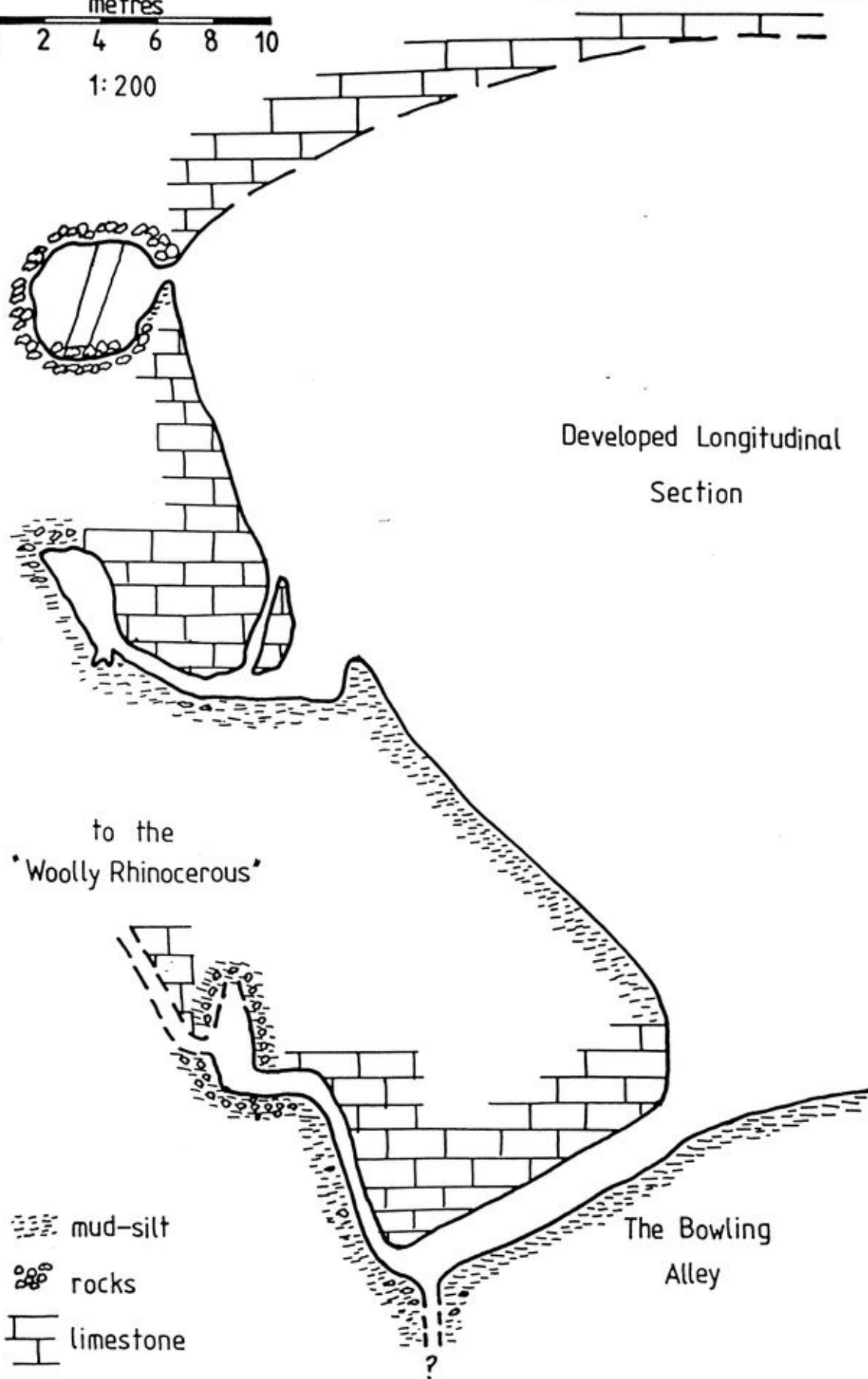
Plan



6/5/87 — A4 draft M. Scott

metres  
0 2 4 6 8 10

1:200



# New caves at Bakers Swamp

Igor Jazbec, Craig Schwab, Martin Scott (T.L.)

16-19/4/87

## Introduction

If you thought finding new caves in New South Wales is virtually impossible, then you have been misled (probably to the popular caving areas). By wandering around the lesser known areas the chances are that you will find something new. With this in mind we set off to Bakers Swamp, one of the many cave areas in the Orange-Wellington region, for Easter. Bakers Swamp may not be the most inspiring name for a place to look for caves, but the swamp has disappeared so there is no need to dive through boggy water to go caving.

The limestone at Bakers Swamp is thickly bedded, trends north-south for at least 7km. beside the Bell River, and all on private property. The limestone outcrops discontinuously because of extensive alluvial deposits. The owners of the farms were only too happy for us to look for caves, especially the a'Becketts on the property "Columbine".

## Caves

Bakers Swamp has been visited by cavers from NSWITSS (Labrinth 19, Feb-March 1978) and MUSIG (Quaver 2, November 1978), each of which looked at different caves and assigned numbers to the caves without tagging them. The Karst Index has subsequently not recognised the caves found by MUSIG which were designated the prefix "Narriagal", and only lists BS 1, Bakers Swamp Cave. The following cave entrances have the numbers assigned to them as below, inscribed with a pentel pen. This is only temporary, and they should be permanently tagged. The inscriptions on the caves BS1 and BS9 have been mixed up, and should be tagged as below.

### BS1-Bakers Swamp Cave

This cave was previously named and surveyed by NSWITSS, although this was unknown to us at the time we found it. The cave is visited by locals as evident by the occasional beer cans in the cave. Two entrances in a doline on the hillside (fig. 1) lead into passages that reconnect with each other forming many loops, indicative of previous phreatic development. The main passage leading off from the inscribed entrance becomes 4-5 metres high and canyon-like and has rocks in the floor, suggest the cave took a stream in the past. Most of the cave has subsequently been filled with mud and silt, but raised flowstone with level bases indicate that the floor has dropped about 30cm.

The cave is dry and the formations are not particular impressive. A lead in the north of the cave requires digging to continue, but it is likely that this will reconnect with the chamber to the west. The northerly strike of the limestone has controlled the cave's development and the 30° dip to the west influences the passage shape.

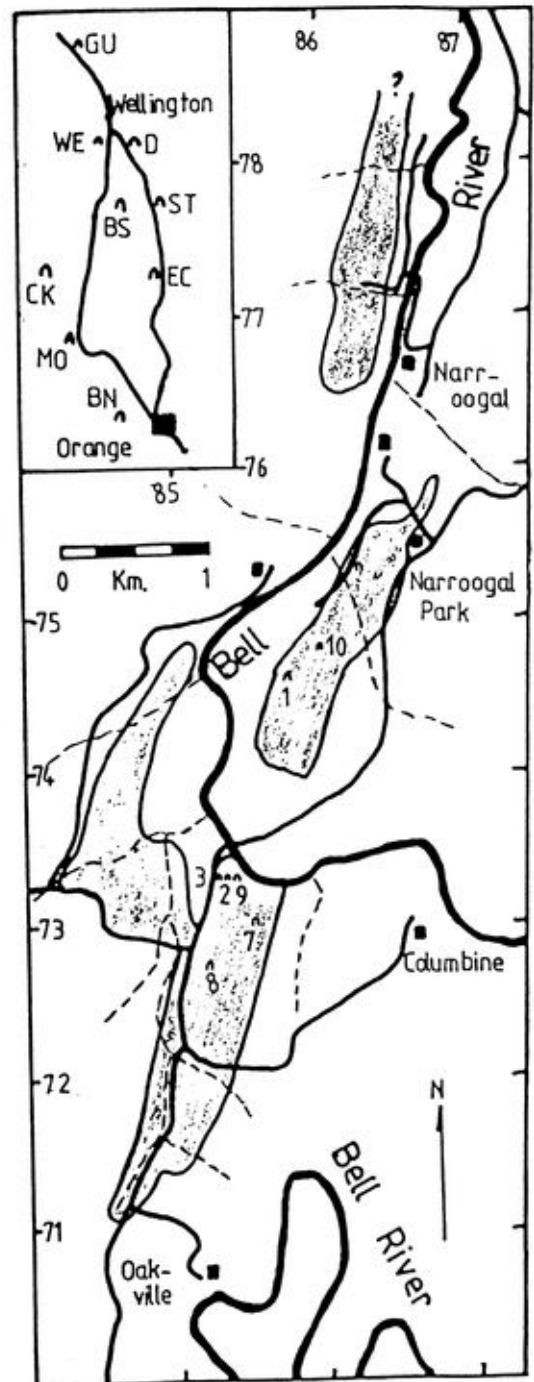


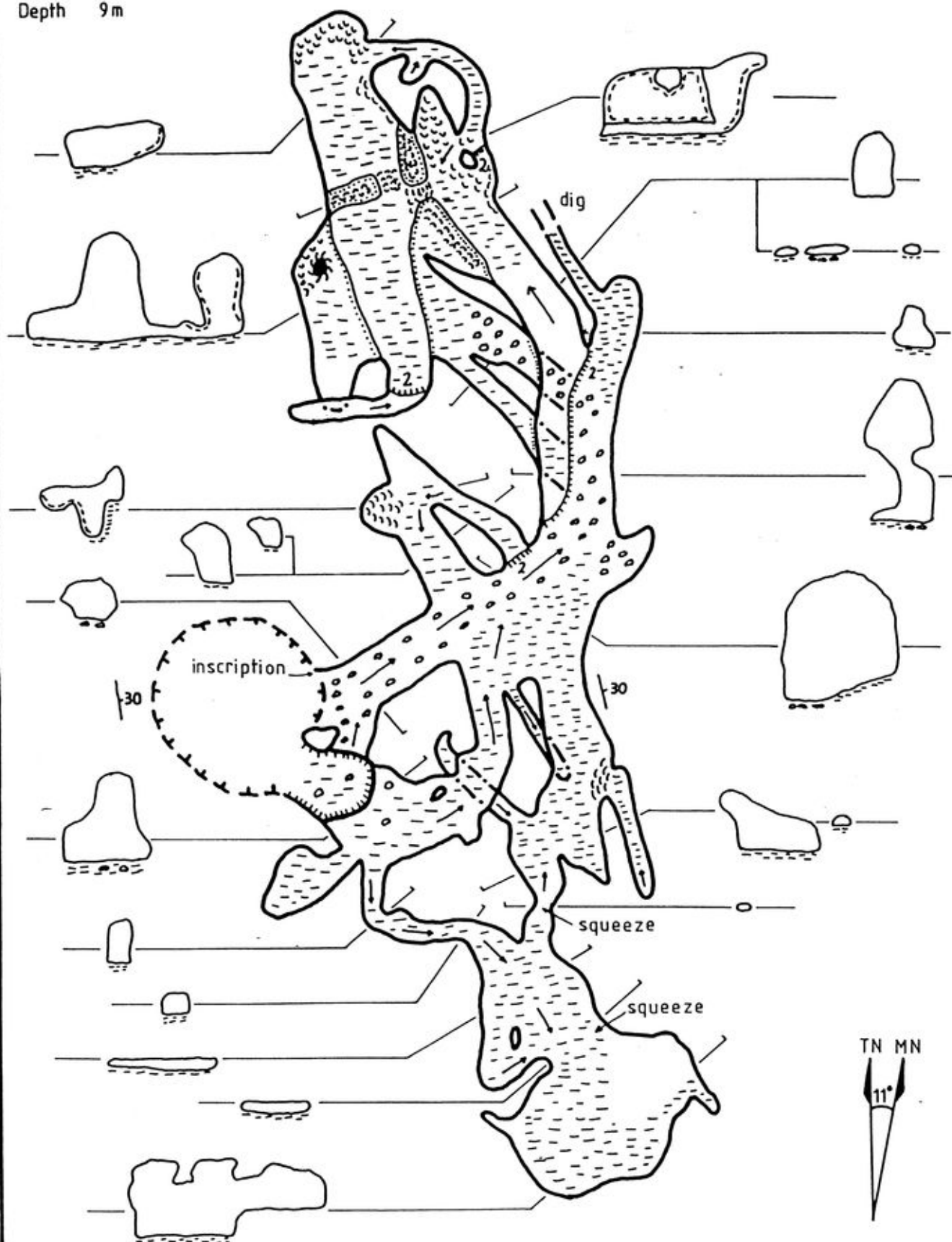
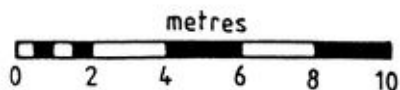
Fig.1 Caves and limestone from Bakers Swamp. Limestone outcrops from Kemezys, K.J., 1959. Geology around Bakers Swamp. Univ. Syd.- B.Sc. Hons. Thesis. (unpubl.). Grid marks from 1:50,000 Wellington & Cumnock sheets.



Surveyed  
Length 119m  
Depth 9m

# PLAN

1:200



BS1 BAKERS SWAMP CAVE

2BS1SUS1

ASF55

Suuntos  
Fibreglass Tape

Surveyed—M.SCOTT, E JAZBEC, C SCHWAB 18/4/87; A4 DRAFT — M SCOTT 5/5/87

## BS 2 and BS3

These small caves have been mapped by MUSIG and were numbered on this trip.

## BS 4 , BS 5 and BS6

These caves were mapped by MUSIG, but were not located.

## BS 7

This cave is on top of the hill above BS 2,3,9 and is probably the cave that MUSIG did not survey because of rocks and boulders "tenuously suspended in space". Although the cave is more or less gaps between what appears to be a big rockpile, the rocks are pretty stable. The cave drops 2m from the entrance into a small chamber, from which two passages lead off to eventually rejoin lower down. A small hole in the floor is the start of narrow constrictive passage which continues to the bottom of the cave, only broken by a small chamber with encrusting cave coral. Half way down the cave, rocks were moved to continue through a constriction, indicating the cave had not been previously explored or only cursorily so. A new cave at Bakers Swamp that needs a good survey by some patient surveyors.

## BS8

Two shafts drop 6 and 8 metres and join at the bottom. The lower shaft can be free-climbed or otherwise use a short ladder. These would be the holes that MUSIG found but did not descend.

## BS 9 - Columbine Cave

This cave was not entered by MUSIG because of nesting swallows (previously designated NG 1, but as 1 was already assigned it is renumbered) and herein named Columbine Cave after the property it is on. Two entrances descend into a small passage with a rock and silt floor, and old flowstone on the walls and roof. Past the flowstone constriction the cave opens up to 4m wide and the ceiling height rises towards the pool of water, with a mud floor and two avens rising towards the surface.

The pool deepens to the south and west, and the water level is higher than the time I visited it in 1983 during a drought when there was no water in the neighbouring Bell River. On this previous visit, the pool was smaller so it was possible to crawl through very sloppy mud to the south until it narrowed. Previously on the western side of the pool there was a squeeze at water level, but is now submerged, that lead to further passage that was not entered. The level of the pool is well above that of the Bell River which is only 50m to the north, but the river probably influences the rate at which the pool drains. You will probably have to wait until the next drought before the level of pool lowers to allow further exploration, which can be surveyed into the "moated" stalagmite.

The cave has developed orientated north-south along the strike of the bedded limestone and the steep westerly dip has influenced the shape of the western walls.

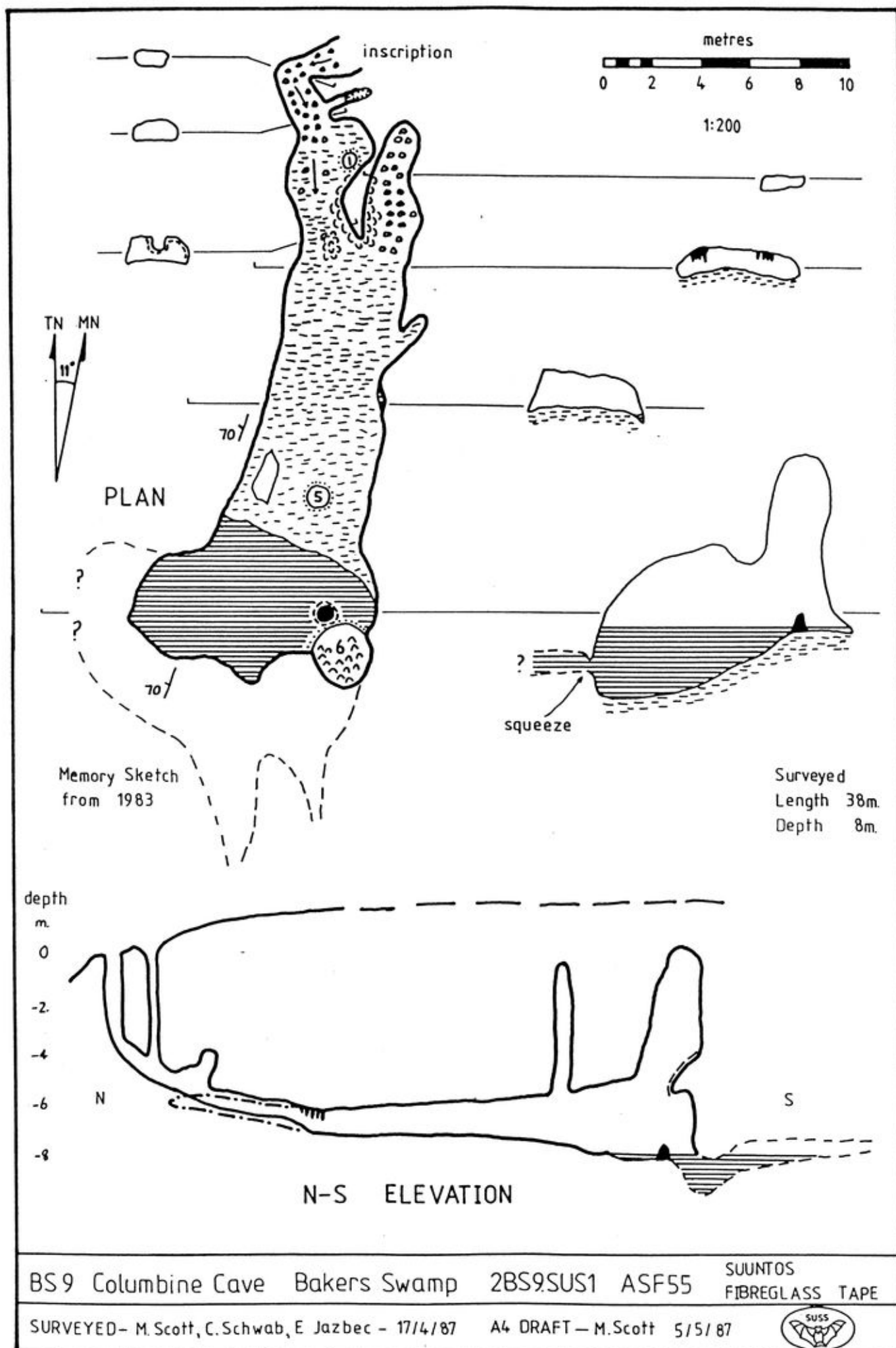
## BS 10

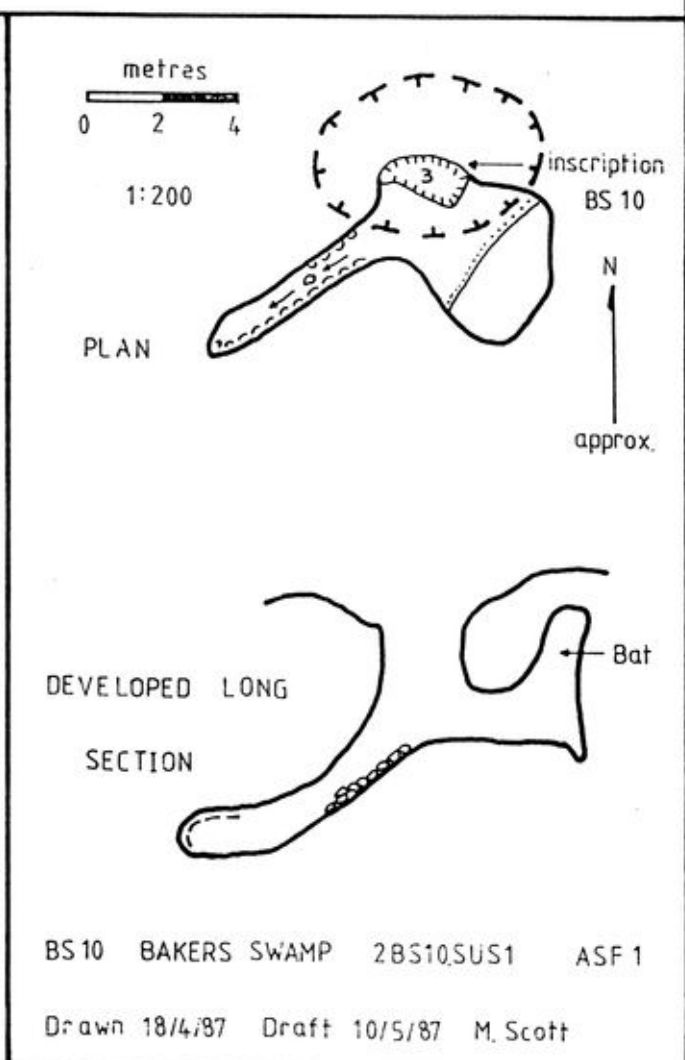
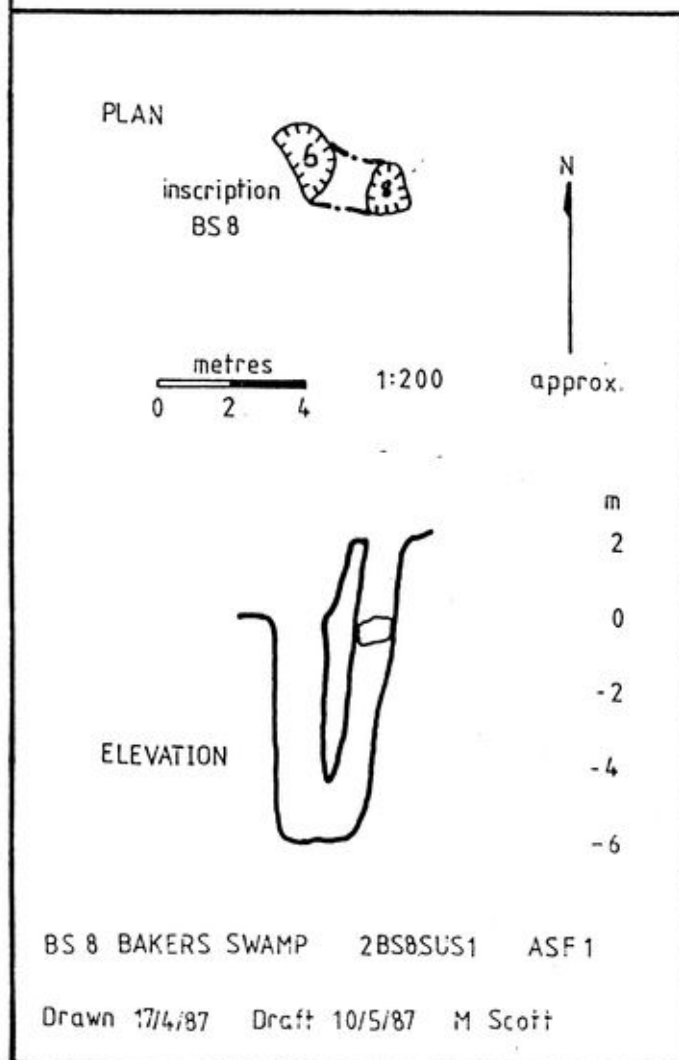
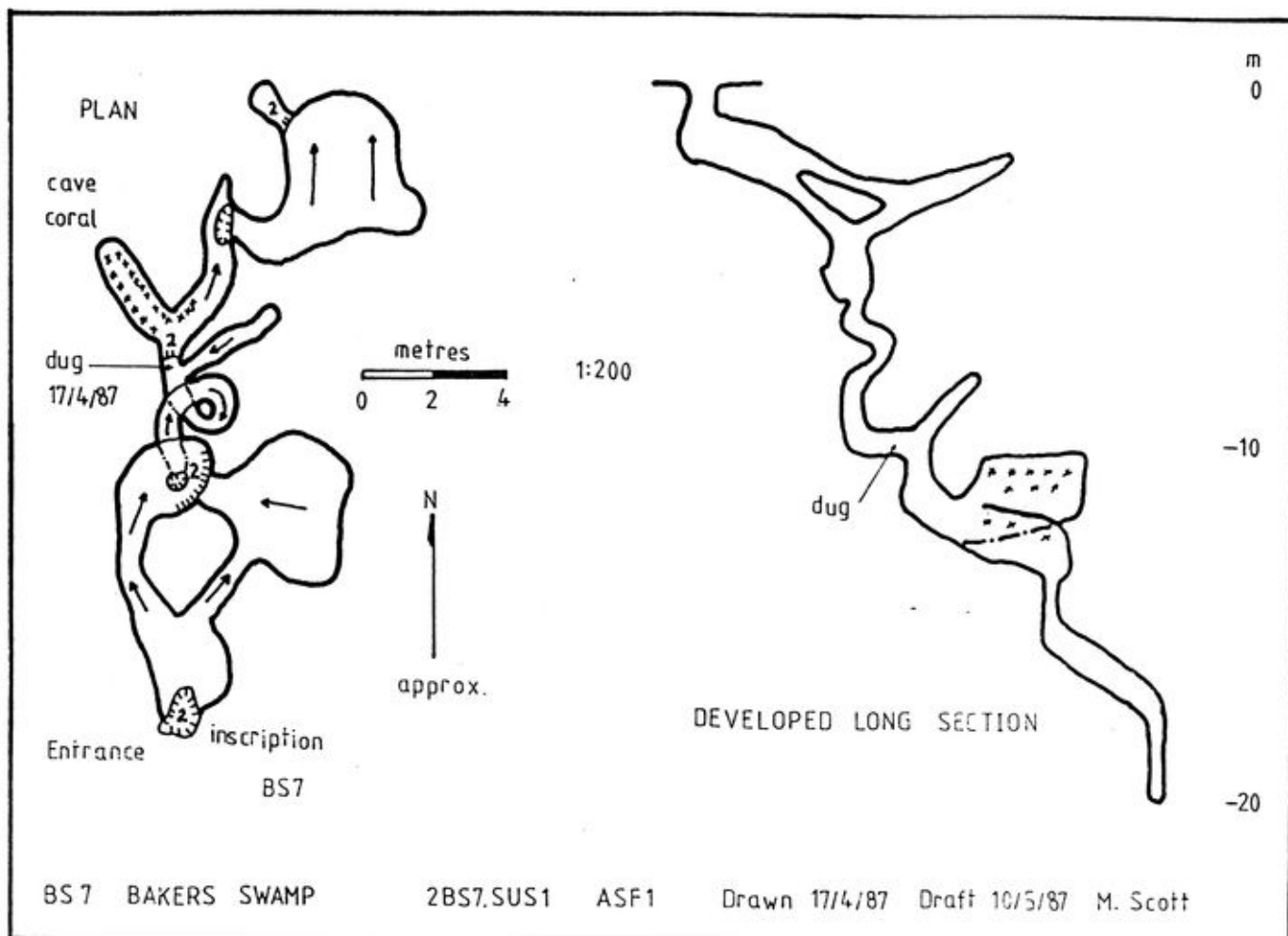
A small inconspicuous doline on the hillside above and to the north of BS1 was found by Craig. At the base of the doline a 3m climb down through ferns leads to a small cave; the western lead descends past flowstone covered walls and terminates after about 5m, and the eastern side has rockpile breakdown with the roof rising to form a bell-shaped chamber, which makes a warm cosy home for a bat.

## Conclusion

The caves at Bakers Swamp have reached the double figures in number and should be tagged. There is also another small cave which was not assigned a number at 863753 (fig. 1) which has a very narrow lead at the bottom of a descending squeeze. Caves were searched for in limestone between northings 72 and 78 except to the west of Bell River between 73 and 75 (fig. 1).

Martin Scott





Unfortunately Danusia Kucharska has recently left Sydney for Brisbane and then who knows where, leaving behind her the minutes secretary position in SUSS which she has performed admirably for the last two years. Good luck in the future!

\*\*\*\*\*

CONGRATULATIONS! to Ivan Desaiely and Judi Strickland on their recent marriage!

\*\*\*\*\*

SUSS has been blessed with a plethora of good talks and slide presentations recently-on the discoveries at Mt. Anne; Judy and Richard McNeals trip to New Zealand; Tasmanian caves by Steve Bunton; and as we are going to press- Julia James. If you have missed these, then you only have yourself to blame, but the action continues (see the SUSS calender). Pat Larkin is doing a great job organising it all, so if you have a suggestion (maybe yourself) he is the one to see.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ben Nurse from SSS and the Bungonia Trust who acted as electing officer at the recent SUSS elections, told of impending restrictions to access to some of the caves at Bungonia, which may make the area pretty unattractive to visit because of waiting time for permission from the relevant authorities. The caves at Bungonia are the only good spot for SRT practice in NSW, so the outcome of the restrictions would inevitably lead to a decline in vertical caving competence in this state.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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Nick Hawkes from the Wessex Cave Club (U.K.) who met us at Mt. Anne is in NSW after spending a few months in Tasmania. He has now been banished to working in Cobar for a while and searching for the rumoured Cobar caves. A SUSS outback adventure is in the making if he has any luck.

#### Cave rescue

\*\*\*\*\*

A 47-year-old man is recovering in hospital after being rescued a cave where he had been trapped for 5½ hours. Police say the man - from Charlestown, near Newcastle - was exploring the Wyandbene caves near Goulburn when he slipped and fell 20 metres. He was taken to the Royal Canberra Hospital with chest injuries.

Did this guy really fall 20 metres and live? Or is this a piece of caving misinformation published by the media? I suspect it is the latter; no doubt we will hear more about it in the future.

Sydney Morning Herald - Monday 13th April 1987

\*\*\*\*\*

In the next issue of the SUSS Bull- description and rigging details of a new megacanyon; report on forthcoming trip to Ettrema Gorge; new caves tagged at Pigna Barney - PB 2, a new entrance into PB 1 'Barrington Cave' which is a major bat breeding site, and small caves PB 3 and PB 4, and also all about the mining threat to this area; plus what ever you write for Keir Vaughan Taylor, editor for the next issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

## "But I Didn't Say THAT" collected by Pat

"He He He! I just intermeshed the wavefunctions of an Audi and a Porsche!" - Mike Lake

"I'm going to look at the sun!" - Derek Hobbs, after another hard day at the funny farm.

Scene : Forest Lodge, SUSS election time

Phil "(Groan) Isn't that the guy with the pink umbrella"

Danusia "Yes.....but his pink umbrella is very safe"

Phil "Fine. I'll just ask Mary Poppins"

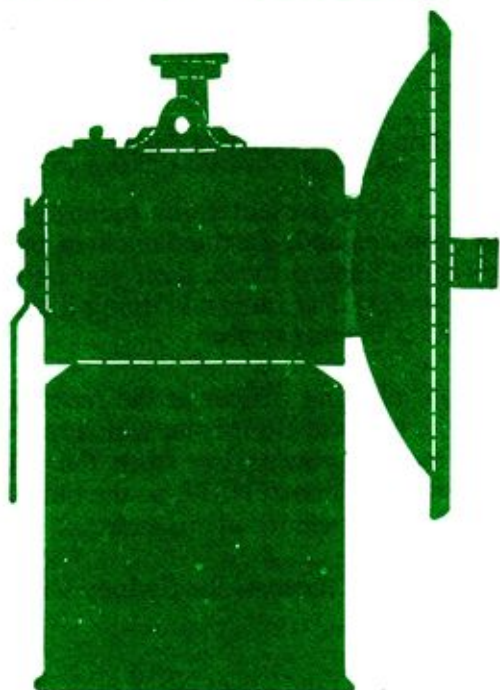
Entry in Mt. Anne Expedition log book, by Rolf Adams

"18/1/87 Rolf, Anne, Mark. Potatoes - rigged, peeled, surveyed, boiled and derigged....."

Definition: YASS (noun), a town that makes Terry O'Leary look like Rambo.



Lumen in Tenebris



# SUSS

**BULLETIN  
of the  
SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**BOX 35, HOLME BUILDING,  
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N.S.W. 2006**

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