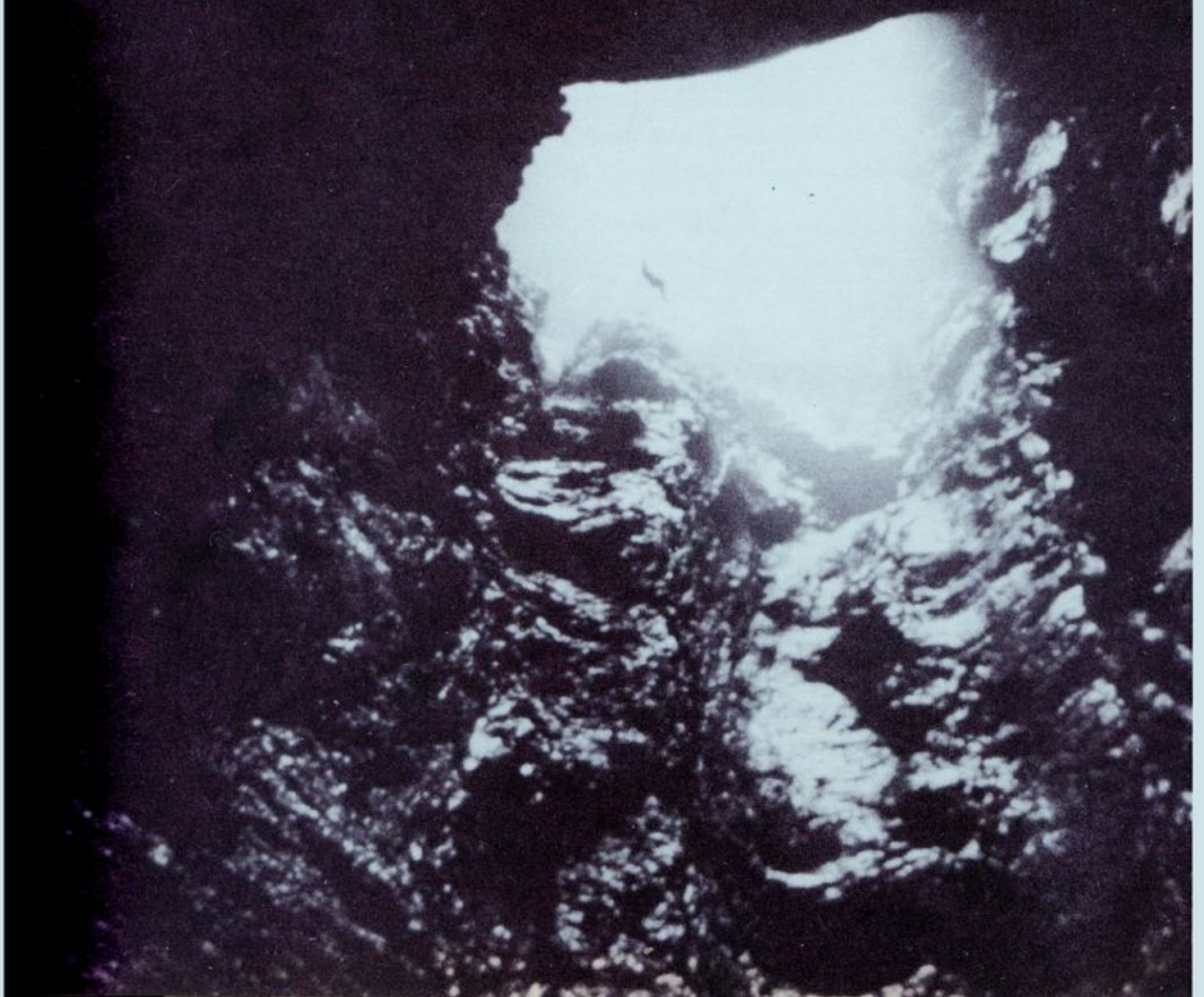


SUSS

BULLETIN OF THE SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Sydney University Speleological Bulletin

Contents

Editorial	2
Trip Report: Danae	3
Trip Report: Mammoth	6
Trip Report: Spider Cave	7
Trip Report: Mammoth/Henry's Hole	10
SUSS Club of the Year Report	11
Trip Report: Wellington, McCavity Cave	14
Mt Etna Story.	
Trip Report Speaking Tube/1	15
Mt Etna Background	18
Trip Report: Speaking Tube /2	23
Trip Report: Speaking Tube Cave/3	25
Trip Report: Speaking Tube Cave/4	25
Computer Network Traffic regarding Mt Etna	27
Future Trip List/Announcements	32

THE SAGA CONTINUES.....



Editorial

Many of the trip reports in this bulletin are concerned with the looming destruction of Mount Etna. The appeal in the High Court is soon to be heard and then shortly the Full Trial. The Mount Etna trial is important not only because of its endangered species and beautiful caves but also this campaign has profound implications for the conservation movement in Queensland as well. When this case is won, it will be the first time a conservation group (CQSS) legally restrains a large corporation from senseless environmental destruction.

David Suzuki preaches that we have perhaps ten years to reverse the destructive process man is inflicting on this planet.....if the law of Standing continues in Queensland in its present form it will set back the Conservation movement back ten years. The law of Standing provides unfair legal protection to large companies preventing Conservation groups from mounting legal action to restrain unlawful action by mining companies. At present the Courts do not ask the question: "Is it true that a law is being broken?" but rather: "Are you qualified (rich enough) to bring this to our attention?" (Apologies to Pat for my unsophisticated lay interpretation.) The law of Standing may soon undergo a re-interpretation in the courts.

As far as SUSS is concerned the campaign has received a significant contribution from our Club of which we can be proud. The University background of many of our members has given us access to legal and scientific expertise that is effective against a company spending millions of dollars to counter the actions of "Greenies". It is a tragedy of modern society that people are educated to believe that we are small cogs in a big machine. We are dehumanised by our apparent helplessness to change an unfair system but it has been made only too apparent to me that SUSS has a membership that is prepared to take a risk and stick their necks out for an ideal and be an effective force to progressive change.

As a final comment I wish to make special mention of Life Member Henry Shannon. While in Rockhampton the likelihood of the caves being granulated rose and fell with dramatic turn around. We would literally go from losing to winning the caves several times during a week expecting an explosion to finished the arguments once and for all. Henry committed sums of money that were above and beyond what would be expected of any person and was prepared to trust the Mt Etna team's ability beyond what we ourselves would do. Nevertheless his suprising offers came at an all time emotional low and his demonstration of faith, itself changed an attitude of defeat into positive action.



MEMBERSHIP 1989

Congratulations go to all those who have renewed their SUSS membership already for 1989. The response to the membership form we mailed out was just amazing - with many lapsed members from past years renewing. Welcome also to all our new members for 1989, thanks to you our financial membership has passed the 100 mark! The Bulletin circulation has now reached 150 - a club record!

If you see an asterix (*) on your mail label this means your membership will expire on 31/3/89 and you wont get any more Bulls!!! To avoid such a tragic event renew now or suffer. You may think the fees are a bit steep but next year THEY WILL GO DOWN as ASF have reduced their fees. (Paul Keating eat your heart out.). SUSS is also planning to distribute Australian Caver so that the latest mailout info can be used from the new SUSSbase address list.

Fees for 1989 are as follows:

Please return your mail
label with payment.

Prospective Member	\$15
Full Member	\$25
Associate Member	\$25
Family Membership	\$30
Assoc/Subscribing	\$15

DANAE TO MOUNT HAY WITH A KAZZZOOMPAAAA!

Easter 1989 (25th, 26th March)

Present Day 1: Steve Keenlyside, Robert Crowe, Chris Young

Day 2: + Kirsty Currie, Felicity Hargraves

What seemed like thousands of tonnes of very heavy nothingness was pouring down on my head completely obliterating my Being with white noise and terror as my legs dangled around frantically feeling for something solid that just wasn't there. I had the uncomfortable feeling that this is really what you might expect if you sat at the rear of a 30 Gigatonne elephant with diarrhoea. The only difference was of course that everything looked white - I couldn't even see my own hand and the cold so complete that I couldn't feel it either, hopefully it was still gripping the rope, hopefully I might reach the bottom intact.

So this was the beautiful danger of Danae Brook that half crazed SUSS people raved about. However it seemed quite tame in comparison with the trip up from Sydney with Steve the night before, thus allowing me to join the ranks of the fully crazed fools who ever allowed themselves to get into a rally car with Steve! The first moment you get into Steve's car you start to worry - both front seats are equipped with seat belt arrangements that leave the Space Shuttle for dead, the back seats however are equipped with nothing! Not even a G-string. I managed to score the back seat! As Sydney began to blur into the mountains accompanied by the occasional "Kazzzzoompaaa" and fishtail from Steve my life flashed before me several times and the thought of doing the mighty Danae the next day in the drab rain with the thing in near flood seemed quite restful.

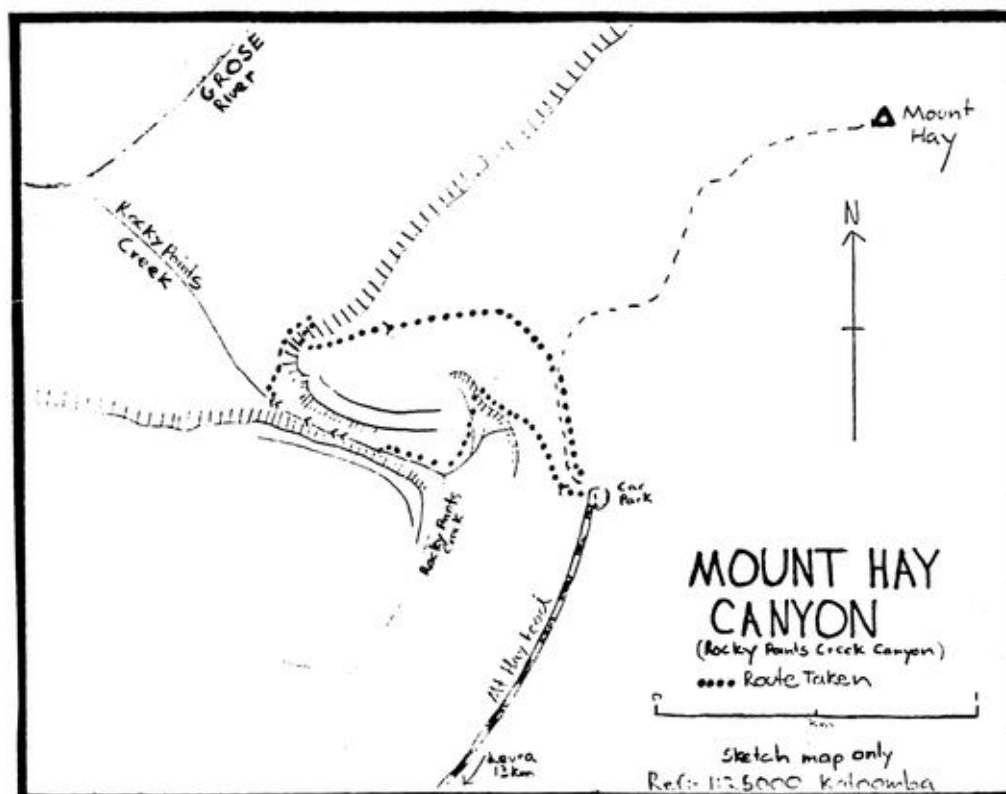
Two faces loomed out of the inferno of water as I hit bottom in a tangled mess. Robert and Steve were grinning as I dragged myself from the grip of the plunge-pool, glad to be wearing a full wetsuit. "Kazzzoompaa!" said Steve, and I could tell he really meant it. It was only 9:30, we had left the cars before 7:00 and had reached the top of our folly within an hour without getting lost (a miracle). There are about 5 abseils of no more than 50m spaced closely which makes for a quick trip through the wet canyon section. Two of the pitches are very wet and they really have the potential to get pumping when it has just been raining! The trip was made even faster with the Keen/Crowe team acting like a slick machine rigging from one belay point to the next only seconds after I was off the rope, leaving me no time at all to pause for photo taking.

Then it was over, the creek valley opened up and it was a matter of endlessly hopping down boulder after boulder for about an hour until the confluence with Kanangra Creek. After a quick snack in the merrily drizzling rain we launched ourselves up the nearest ridge towards the Walls. The valley scene obliterated by fog, things started to get cooler and as we reached the top of the Walls it was too horrible to hang around in. We started passing little groups of sodden bushwalkers who eyed us strangely. In the distance we spotted 2 people showing off their high-tech Gortex Jackets to anyone and the rain. As we got close they turned into more SUSS types -

it could only be Jill Rowling and Mike Lake - looking for someone to do a canyon with them, any canyon! After informing Mike of our quick little trip he looked rather disappointed and so we raided their chocolate supplies and left with them, bound for the bar at Caves House feeling only a little damp. Total trip time: seven and a half hours.

For some reason that seemed to make sense at the time it was decided that we actually pay to stay somewhere in Katoomba that night because it was too soggy to camp out. Once in Katoomba it was then decided it would be cheaper to drive home to Sydney and then come back up to do Mount Hay Canyon the next day, allowing Steve to pick up Felicity. This time however I took my own car back up with Robert - much more peaceful. After we all met up again in Katoomba the next morning, sipping our hot chocolate, it actually stopped raining and so the time came to "hit" Mt Hay.

To get to Mt Hay we drove back to Luera and turned off along Mt Hay road. After about 18 km of fairly rough road, that Steve did terrible things to, we arrived at the end of the road at about noon. The air was still nice and dry and the canyon we were heading for was in sight of the cars. Steve assured us that it would be "a nice little trip ... trick is getting out right!". Trusting that Steve knew the 'trick' we toddled after him, quickly arriving at the start of the first pitch - short but pretty. The canyon seems very tame to begin with, but soon turns into a dark vertical slot cutting through the layered sandstone with the bottom hidden from sight. The longest pitch is about 20-30m originating from a tiny ledge half way down the slot, necessitating a cows-tail to stop you falling off into what looks like some endless void. It puts you straight down the waterfall and leaves you with a thrill. Several jumps into pools follow and the canyon then opens out into the Grose Valley for spectacular views. After a short dry pitch Steve and Felicity point up to the right to what they describe as the 'short way out'. If you have a spare 10 hours or so you can do what other SUSS people have done in the past and follow the creek into the Grose and find your way out via the Blue Gum Forest!



We obediently followed, scrambling up and around the base of the massive sandstone cliff. It zig-zags back towards the canyon and then turns into a narrow and precarious ledge - part of which is a shelf-cave which you have to crawl through. From the ledge is a beautiful view of the Grose looking towards Blackheath, an experience as rewarding as the canyon itself. Suddenly the ledge runs out leaving you nowhere to go but up a grade 12 crack which Steve disappeared up and then top-belayed us, not hard but still scary when you think of the cliff dropping away below you. A short 20 min took us back through wild stone formations on top of the cliff and back to the cars by 4:30.

As we packed up the clouds were looking dark in the south, bringing forth the next weeks rain and we raced out against the dark to lie by the fire in the Hydro Majestic feeling warm and very alive.

Chrispy



ALPINE GUIDES

· MOUNT COOK · NEW ZEALAND ·

- ☐ **SCHOOL OF MOUNTAINEERING**
Courses for Private Instruction
to suit your own needs.
- ☐ **HIGH GUIDING**
- ☐ **MOUNTAIN PARAPENTE**
SCHOOL
- ☐ **SKI TOURING**

For latest brochure write to:

Alpine Guides
Box 20
Mount Cook
New Zealand
Ph (05621) 834 : Fax (05621) 898

10%

Off All Climbing Courses for SUSS people.

You must book before 31st November

S.U.S.S TRIP REPORT: a typical fresher's trip (and my first trip report).

DATE: Saturday, 13th August, 1988

CAVE: Mammoth, Jenolan

NUMBER IN PARTY: 3

NAMES: Michael Lake, Jill Rowling, Peter Davies.

TRIP LEADER: Michael Lake

Mammoth cave was entered at about 11 am and the group proceeded to the end of Entrance Cavern, thence Conglomerate Cavern where Mike spotted a bat. We went to the beginning of Mammoth Squeeze. Here, some graffiti was noticed on the walls. As Peter did not wish to continue this way, Mike took him back and down through the rockpile. I continued through Mammoth Squeeze, finding a small puddle of water about 1 cm deep after the second last bend. This was most comfortably negotiated by putting the battery in it and lying on the battery. I took about 25 minutes to complete it. The climb down the rift at the end wasn't too bad and I waited for the others to turn up.

The party re-joined in the passage below the 40 Foot, and continued towards Home Sweet Home. I found the more northerly passage to Home Sweet Home easier for me than the parallel path which Mike and Peter took.

Near the turnoff to Oolite Loop, there was less organic debris than observed last May (the SUSS 40th). At lower River, the water was about 30cm lower than it was last May. The mud was organic-rich and sandy. Peter crossed the water (about calfdeep) to a bank on the other side. On the way back, I took some photos.

Near the 6 Foot drop, the party diverted to look at the turnoff to Grinning Monster Lake, but did not continue that way. We returned via the Rockpile, stopped at the top of this for snacks at about 3.30pm, then proceeded towards Horseshoe Cavern. There was the usual breeze blowing through Cold Hole. Horseshoe Cavern was reached via the first turn to the right after the Sand Passage turnoff. The group continued through Railway Tunnel to Skull and Crossbones and observed the historical graffiti. It was decided not to continue, as it was getting a little late and it was Peter's first trip. On the way back, I took more photos. The party locked and left the cave at about 4.45 pm.

Jill Rowling



In Search of The Wooley Rhinoceros.

Trip Report:

29th & 30th October 1988 (Spider Cave & Henry's Hole)

People:

Richard McNeall (TL), David someone (VSA), Mike Lake,
Jill Rowling.

Richard had obtained a permit and came from Melbourne with his friend David. Judy had gone rockclimbing at Mount Piddington with friends, so what better excuse to go caving?

We agreed to seriously explore the Northern extremities of **Spider Cave**, so went to the guides' office to get the key and let them know what we were up to.

We took my short ladder and some tape for Etrier Pitch. We entered Spider Cave (that gate bolt is still loose...). Mike and I had no difficulty getting to Frustration Chamber, so we waited for a while for David to get through Dingo Dig (he is taller). We showed David the pretties in Helictite chamber then proceeded to Pirates Delight.

"Oh dear," said Richard, "It's half full of water."

I found some ice-cream containers in the rift to the left of Pirates Delight (as you look into it) and we set up a chain of bucket-passing. The water was poured down the rift (I wonder where it goes - back down into Pirates Delight maybe?). After moving about 20 litres of water, Richard was still not happy and Mike estimated there was about 75 litres of water still there.

"And remember Archimedes' Principle," said Mike. "When your body displaces the water, where does it all go?"

"Into every orifice in your head," I replied. "Let me have a look at it."

I stuck my hand vertically into the middle of the cold puddle, until my fingers touched the bottom. It looked like about 10cm water and 15cm air space above it. I considered the following: Get thoroughly soaked first, filling your ears and nose with mud, wearing thermals and cotton overalls, then do maybe 6 ~ 8 hours caving and seriously exploring vast unknowns. It sounded like a recipe for hypothermia (been there, done that).

"Guess what, guys," I said.

"What?"

"I'm piking".

There was a brief, shocked silence. Then:

"I'm glad you said it. We were waiting for someone else to pike first, but were afraid that you might think we were wimps."

Had this been just a "tourist" trip to Khan Passage and the River, then I would have barged in, had a look around, and barged out of the cave as soon as possible.

So back we went, discussing the use of hand-held siphons similar to those you use for siphoning petrol.

At Z Squeeze, Richard decided to let off some steam by being funny. Now, this was the first time I had ever met Richard, and Mike had warned me that he was "an extremely funny person", however, I was not prepared for what happened: Richard apparently mistook my cave pack for Mike's, since all Mike's lollies were in it, and decided it would be very funny to take everything out, and spread it everywhere. At first, I thought he was being curious. Then, after I got annoyed, but still hadn't said anything, he disappeared with the empty pack down Z Squeeze. I shoved as much as I could into pockets and squirmed through. I was going to "bop" him one, but pinched his foot instead.

"Richard!" I said. "You've won first prize!"

"What in?"

"A&\$(#@^(of the year award!"

"Oh... was that YOUR pack?"

"YES!"

"Oh dear..."

I wasn't sure whether to laugh or cry. We had lunch in the bottom of the Entrance Chamber. Dried bananas taste nice, but look odd.

Since the Spider trip was off, Mike suggested we go and have a look for **Henry's Hole** in the Wallaby Enclosure, since there might be a possibility it could eventually be connected to Spider.

Henry's Hole was found after about ten minutes of exploration. Mike had been there about 8 years ago on a fresher trip with Ross Franklin. We took my short ladder, just in case. Henry's Hole is very dry, with old crumbly speleothems. There was a strong breeze coming out.

Some of the squeezes are fun. Mike rigged the ladder under an enormous chockstone above a hole, which we descended. Further down, there is another squeeze for which I had to remove my battery, but of course Mike had no trouble. From here on, the cave is wetter, with much cave coral on the walls.

A breeze is also evident, coming from the various rifts and tiny slots. This part of the cave looks like an old collapsed section, so we looked for a way on down. Mike wiggled down what looked like an impossibly small hole, and his light could be seen through the rockpile. We decided that there was further passage, but we needed tools to remove rocks.

Getting up the "remove battery" squeeze was fascinating, for me.

On the way out I found I could face climb the hole on which the ladder was used, but we left the ladder in place. The climbs back through the squeezes were even more interesting than the climbs down. I was just coming out of the last squeeze when I looked up and a bat nearly flew into my mouth. I squealed, the bat U-turned, and my heart stayed in my mouth for a while!

We returned the Spider key to the guides and obtained some Kanga Hammer Chisels and a hammer. That night, we all fantasised about a pitch from Henry's Hole straight down into the Jenolan River.

The next day, we were all up, keen to start on our "Henry's Hole Dig". I think everyone used the ladder again, and everyone commented that the hole looked climbable from the bottom, but you can't see the foot holds from the top.

At the "dig", we spent about an hour moving rocks.

As you look at the wall, the right-hand side is very crumbly and unstable.

At one stage, whilst Mike was chiselling away at a slot, he noticed that what he was standing on was becoming unstable. "I want to be tied on," he said.

In his pack were all sorts of goodies and eventually we had Mike in a swami seat with a short rope, tape round a boulder, and Mike on the rope with an ascender. As Mike wiggled feet-first through the slot, he used the foot loop on the ascender because he could not find any stable foot holds below him. Eventually he got to the bottom of the squeeze and we could hear him rummaging around and occasionally see his light. After a while, he came back.

"You'll never guess what I've found"

"The Jenolan Underground River?"

"No, worse, much worse."

"It doesn't go anywhere?" "A 50 foot pitch?" ... etc

"No," said Mike, "I'm really sorry but I've been here before, on Ross Franklin's trip. There is a dig at the bottom."

Ah, Pike, thy memory has failed thee!

Richard decided that he needed to get out of the cave quickly, so off he went, followed by David. Mike and I de-rigged and I managed to almost drop his pack with all the gear back down the hole! (and thus got a lecture on de-rigging).

Near the Coral'al area, I was still curious about the breeze coming up through the rockpile. As Mike had an enduro suit on, I thought it was a good idea to get him to go into a small hole lined with calcite projections that would shred cotton overalls. He went in about his body length but said it petered out.

The ladder was removed and the tape used to haul the gear up. When we got out, we discussed the dig. What is needed, according to Mike, is a small bucket and a collapsible shovel, because the dig (ie the real one, not the "Pike Hole") is in compacted mud.

After lunch, Richard and David wanted to go to Great North Cavern but I thought that sounded Far Too Hard (They were also planning to go canyoning the next day). Mike and I decided to accompany them to Mammoth cave entrance, where we wished them a nice trip,

then made animal noises at them from the upper entrance (the echoes are great) before going for a stroll up the valley. The weather was perfect. We looked at the area just south of Serpentine where floods have scoured little canyons in the valley, and saw lots of kangaroos.

Some weeks later, I heard again from Richard that he and David didn't get to GNC; they got so tired by the time they got part way (Thud in the Mud?) that they returned and didn't even go canyoning the next day!

Jill Rowling, 4th March, 1989

Trip Report: **Jenolan Caves: Mammoth and Henrys Hole,**
28th and 29th January, 1989.

People: Martin Scott (TL), Martin's French Polynesian friends, Mike Lake, Jill Rowling, Mark Staraj and three other people. Also Simon & Keir on Sunday.

Saturday 28th January, 1989: Mammoth Cave.

While Mark Staraj took his group to Spider Cave, Martin took another group to Mammoth cave.

This was essentially a tourist trip, taking about 3.5 hours.

There was a Very Bad Smell near the bottom of the Entrance Rockpile, which turned out to be a dead mouse and a small dead skink.

Martin took us to Horseshoe Cavern. In the mud were lots of white flatworms (see fig. 1).

This was the first time I had seen white ones, and the first time I had seen flatworms in Mammoth Cave.

There were also the usual pale plant sprouts.

We looked at the aven then went to Skull and Crossbones where we stopped for a snack. Next, we went back and down the rockpile to Lower River, where everyone tried to get across the shallow part without

getting their feet wet (some even succeeded) and most people had a look at the deeper section. No one attempted to cross that part of the river. There were more white flatworms in the mud on the Northern bank (maybe it's the mating season).

We then went up to Oolite Cavern (a first for me) to see the pretties.

On the way back, Martin took his friends to Grinning Monster Lake, but Mike and I went straight back up to the bottom of the rockpile as I was not feeling 100%. When the others arrived, I proceeded up through the rockpile. Mike thought it might be fun to see if I could remember the way out. No worries!

We got to the bottom of the Entrance Rockpile at about 2.30pm, and were presented with one of Mammoth's lovely sights: a beam of blue sunlight shining down from the daylight hole onto the backlit rockpile. Beam me up, Scottie! Unfortunately, no-one brought a camera.

Despite the language barrier, Martin's French-speaking friends enjoyed themselves immensely, thus proving again that caving is indeed an international sport. They also told us about caves in New Caledonia which they had been to.

That night, we all enjoyed ourselves at the Caves House bar.

Sunday, 29th January 1989: Henrys Hole

Simon and Keir turned up to dive the river in the Imperial Cave, and the others left to look at the sights of the Blue Mountains. Mike and I decided to try to link Henrys Hole to the Hairy Diprotodon. This is not as silly as it sounds, because theoretically Henrys Hole lies somewhere over part of the Northern extremities of Spider Cave, and, if we could break through, it would make the exploration of Northern Spider Cave so much easier (it would bypass Pirates Delight, for a start).



fig. 1: White Flatworm

So off we went. Firstly, we looked futilely for Playing Fields Cave on the wrong (Western) side of the valley. Then we got bored with looking at dolines that "didn't go" and went up to Henrys Hole. There were some tourists taking movie pictures of a cliff. Maybe they were waiting for formations to appear.

We did not take the ladder this time, because we thought we could remember where the hidden foot-holds were (refer to the last Henrys Hole trip report of 29th and 30th October, 1988). Even though, the climb down was "interesting".

At the bottom of Henrys Hole, where we had been digging on the last trip, Mike slithered down the hole which looked impossibly small at first, but turned out to be not too bad (something like a cross between a chimney and an arete climb). Once down though, the cave looked rather different. We crawled into a muddy hole which had a dig in the bottom, and I peered into a small rift with shattered rocks on the floor and either felt or imagined an air current. Throughout this entire trip, the air currents were much less than on the last trip. Much of the rock in this part of the cave is shattered. Some of the limestone has calcite forming in the shattered sections, other cracks look fresh, and still other sections look like they are dissolving. Near the dig, there is some cave coral which looks like kernels of corn. Mike tested one of the shattered, bodgey-looking rocks in the roof with a G-pick, but nothing fell! We debated the age of the rock shattering and decided to "agreed to disagree" and get a geologist down here sometime (Martin, now's your great chance to come up with a theory). Meanwhile, the dig itself could be tricky but rewarding.

The climb up the ladder hole was interesting without a ladder. The trip took about 2.5 hours.

Things to do:

- Obtain (or do) a surface survey from Spider Cave entrance to Henrys Hole so that Henrys can be located on the Spider map;

- When there is a breeze in the entrance, check to see if there's a breeze in the rift near the dig - it may be easier to move the shattered rocks than dig the mud, if the rift looks passable.

- The same goes for the breeze we all felt in the Coral'al area (this is mostly curiosity).

- Geologise about the stability of the dig area.

- If we start digging, where do we put the mud?

Jill Rowling, 6th March, 1989.

SUSS : CLUB OF THE YEAR, 1988

The following is a report on the activities of SUSS during 1988 which is adapted from submissions to the Univ. Sydney Union and Sports Union.

MEMBERSHIP

As usual SUSS have been active in trying to increase membership and awareness of our club at orientation week, with a stall, abseiling and prussiking displays as well as the infamous milk crate squeeze which attracted much attention. It was again a bountiful week for SUSS with 29 new members joined for better or worse. At Open Day the display was resurrected for the TV cameras and the thousands of visitors. Perhaps the highlight was the camera footage of a speleologist abseiling down the Fisher Stack in academic dress for the Open Day promotion. Membership increased to 156 members throughout 1988, with interest created from the Australian Geographic article, SUSS 40th celebrations and caving activities and achievements.

40TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SUSS

1988 was the 40th year of speleology at Sydney Uni and was celebrated at Jenolan Caves on the 27-29th May, with 150 past and present members and friends. The weekend was organised with the co-operation of the Jenolan Caves guides and staff for accommodation, caving tours, barbeque, slide presentation in the Lucas tourist Cave and a commemorative dinner. Accommodation was made available for members at the Caves House, the Binda Bush Cabins and camping. Cave tours organised included a candle-lit tour, a "grand" tour of the Southern Show Caves and many and varied trips to the "wild caves". Professor Jack Kelly from UNSW, founding president of SUSS, was invited as guest speaker to the celebratory dinner at Caves House. The speech was very entertaining and the dinner was a resounding success with many late starters the next day. A farewell barbeque on the Sunday at Blue Lake was organised for the final climax of the weekend.

As one could expect this weekend took a lot of organisation from SUSS members, utilising the universities address list of past graduates to find previous members. The help of the Graduate and Community Relations centre was invaluable. The whole weekend was organised with a view to restricting the cost to those attending, and despite the budget of a staggering \$10,077 a small profit of \$148 was made. Special Edition SUSS 40th year t-shirts were also sold on the weekend.

ACTIVITIES

SUSS organises meetings twice a month, with members showing slides and giving talks on caving activities, which are reasonably well attended by members. These meetings are used to coordinate caving trips that are held weekly throughout the year. SUSS also organised the Cavers Annual Dinner in 1988.

SUSS also continues to produce high-quality bulletins which inform members of discoveries and events planned.

The highlights of this years (so far) speleological activity are described below.

SPELEOSPORTS

Speleosports is an annual competition staged by the NSW Speleological Council contested among the many clubs of this state, to test teams for their caving skills. An obstacle course is set up to represent different caving situations such as squeezes, sumps, abseils, ladder climbs and simulated caves. Teams compete on a time trial and penalties basis for the

Speleosports Trophy. Since its inception in 1980, SUSS won seven years in a row up until 1987, when we came third. In 1988 the showdown was on to win our title back. SUSS appeared to have it wrapped up until the late formation of a non-club affiliated team containing 3 SUSS members (out of 4 in a team) which won the competition. SUSS claimed second place, with a tenuous hold on first place.

EXPLORATION AND MAPPING

Mapping and documentation has proceeded apace at a number of different localities. Principal focus this year was at **Tuglow** where SUSS has run a number of survey trips in preparation for a published map and book of the Tuglow Cave system for which none exists at present (despite visits and exploration over the past 100 years). Surveying has commenced at **Wombeyan** in Sigma Cave, a well-decorated and significant cave. Work is still proceeding upon the mountain of information brought back from the 1987 **Mt. Anne Expedition** which so far has yielded a glossy, illustrated and action packed article in the May issue of the **Australian Geographic**.

On the exploration front, a recently formed group of cavedivers in SUSS are finding an incredible amount of new passages by passing through sumps that have generally been untouched in NSW. Initially at **Jenolan** discoveries were made in the Imperial streamway with new extensions past sumps 4 and 6, and more recently in Barralong Cave a difficult tight dive has lead to large new passages heading south in the Southern Limestone. The highlight however has been the hundreds of metres of new large underwater passages with excellent visibility in Peppercorn Cave (Lime Kiln Cave) at **Wellington**. The cave is now considered to be the largest at Wellington, surpassing the Cathedral tourist Cave in extent, although most of it is submerged. Discussions with the Wellington Shire Council by SUSS lead to the search for Water Cave, which from old surveys by an early government surveyor, was buried beneath the caravan park. With the use of the council's backhoe the park started to resemble a bomb disposals' playground, but under the guidance of one of our older members the cave was unearthed revealing an anticlinal roofed chamber with a lake at the bottom, but diving did not reveal any more passages unfortunately. It is hoped to turn the cave into a tourist attraction.

The success of the cave divers in SUSS has given the impetus to make the connection between Spider Cave and the **Jenolan Tourist Caves**. Since the discovery of the Jenolan Underground River in Spider Cave in 1979 it has been known that a connection with Imperial Cave was inevitable, but passing through the estimated 20 or so metres between the caves has been slow. Recently trips to Spider Cave have been spent sitting, lying, diving and digging in the underground river for up to 6 hours at a time in wetsuits or thermals, in a very unstable rockpile. Similar trips by cave divers were also made on the Imperial Cave side of the rockpile breach. In mid August this year 3 cavers entered Spider Cave and 3 cavedivers passed through the sumps in Imperial Cave to hopefully make at least a voice connection between the two caves. Miraculously they arrived at the same time at the rockpile and were able to grab each other through a constriction! After a couple of hours digging and chipping with hammers and a chisel, a caver from Spider was able to pass through the constriction and into Imperial Cave. **The connection between Spider Cave and Imperial Cave and the Jenolan Tourist Caves was made after nearly nine years of trying.** Cave diving equipment was swapped for caving overalls and 2 cavers each made through trips, from Spider to Imperial and Imperial to Spider. This trip now makes for one the best and most technically demanding trips in the country, requiring the caver to pass through squeezes, an unstable rockpile and sumps in the Imperial Streamway while taking in some beautiful formations and cave passages.

SUSS IN THE NEWS

The successes at Wellington Caves were covered by the local **Dubbo-Wellington newspaper** with lots of pictures and an article on our caving activities on a number of occasions. **The Sun-Herald** also picked up the story as it was unfolding.

The linking of Spider Cave to the Imperial Cave at Jenolan was reported in the **Sydney Morning Herald** and the **Financial Review**, with the possibility that the Jenolan Tourist Cave System is now the longest in Australia. Interest was created from this media coverage which lead to two SUSS members being interviewed on radio station 2JJJ. Television stations were also not to miss out, with SUSS being approached by Channel Ten and the ABC's 7:30 Report within days. During the August vacations SUSS took a **7:30 Report** film crew to the site of the connection, producing a feature on the newly created cave system which went to air on Wednesday 7th of September. Late in 1988 SUSS filmed underwater footage from Peppercorn Cave for screening on the **Channel Ten News**. In early 1989 a film crew from **Channel 7's Derryn Hinch "show"** was taken into the previously blocked Speaking Tube Cave, a valuable roosting site for the endangered Ghost Bat.

The May 1988 issue of the **Australian Geographic** featured the article on the SUSS 1987 Mt. Anne Expedition, acknowledging sponsorship from Australian Geographic, Wildsports, Australian Airlines and the Union. The Australian Geographic was successfully approached this year to sponsor a cavediving expedition

CONSERVATION

SUSS and its members have been active in the fight to save the Mt. Etna caves and their bats from destruction by the Central Queensland Cement Company. To this end SUSS members have been raising funds for the continuing struggle, by selling raffle tickets, buying CQCC shares to influence the AGM, demonstrating in support, attending a fund raising dinner and organising a barbeque. In December 1988 and January 1989 SUSS members were actively involved in the struggle at Mt. Etna, reentering the previously blocked Speaking Tube Cave, a valuable roosting site for the endangered Ghost Bat. A film crew from Channel 7's Derryn Hinch "show" was taken into the cave and screened in January bringing the issue to a head, leading to court cases with the CQCC.

Recently there has been a Plan of Management drafted for the Jenolan Caves Reserve, which asked for input by interested parties. Many SUSS members wrote detailed submissions about aspects of the Plan.

At the recent "Festival of the Forests" SUSS suspended an enormous banner from the Fisher Bookstack for the Wilderness Society, and also manned a stall to promote our club.

SUSS: UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY UNION CLUB OF THE YEAR, 1988

In recognition of our outstanding achievements this year we were awarded the Union Club of the Year in 1988.

Martin Scott & Mark Staraj

Trip Report. Wellington McCavity Cave.

Present:

Simon Judy McCartney, Greg Ryan, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Greg Wilkins
9th November 1988

This was the weekend to come back with video from within McCavity. We had already filmed twice before and experimented with different lighting. Somehow although the results were always interesting the film footage that we played back on the television was never quite up to even a fraction of the true experience. We pooled our financial resources and purchased a better video and tried again. The result was much better although there were many problems with flare and still not enough exposure. We decided to apply technology and Greg Wilkins sat down with a computer and designed and high powered light that would really light the cavern up. Then he approach a fitter and turner and had it built. Most of the work came in the research involved selecting a battery system that would give high amp output for a maximum period of time. I remember we tested the unit one night on a dive in Port Hacking harbour. The light lasted about five minutes before fading into dimness. Greg forgot to charge the batteries.

It was something of a risk to roll up this particular weekend with promises to channel ten of even better film production. Nevertheless they seemed to have faith in our abilities and we went diving with Greg's new light now dubbed "The Mega Blaster".

The dives in McCavity are now standard procedure. There is a very small hole to drop through order to enter the larger mega passage below. Unfortunately the size of this hole is too small to get through with scuba gear on. It is necessary to drop through the hole using a hooker (a regulator on the end of a long hose) and then have the tank and buoyancy compensater passed through afterwards.

The experience of descending into this vast underwater hall is awesome. The size and majesty of this kingdom is unexpressable and I guess we just wanted something of an inkling of what it is like to come out on the video. The problem of course is that as soon as the photographic subject falls back from the camera the amount of light required to show big chambers goes up enormously. We had Greg's new light a number of other dive lights and some small ones mounted on the video. A large light tends to spoil the picture by producing lots of glare and backscatter.

The hall of Montezuma we called it, just spontaneously. Triangular and wide and disappearing off into the distance with huge formations festooning the ceiling. Operating the camera severely task loads the cave diver. Not only do you have to worry about perspective, camera angles and if the damn thing is on or off but also the mundane diving technicalities like air, navigation and buoyancy control. Every now and again you get an instant to look around and for a short second appreciate the incredible environment in which you trespass, then back to the job at hand. We used one diver to act as lighting person, one diver as subject and me driving the camera. This time everything seemed to go well. The image on the eyepiece seemed good but you can never tell until back at the viewing television.

It was that night that we all sat round the television to see what we had come out with. The men from Ten sat on one of the bed in the Wellington cottages and we auditioned our material. Fantastic just fantastic. It was the best we had ever come back with. Channel Ten went to air with the news story happy with our material.

That night Greg and I jumped into the Heart of Gold and warped our way back down the dark bitumen towards Sydney. I like night driving. The roads are clear of traffic and you can set up a good fast pace along the roads which are generally quite good. Somewhere between Wellington and Orange was a sudden smash and shattering of something striking the car. I thought here must have been a rock on the road that we had hit and I pulled over for a quick inspection for damage. Nothing seemed untoward and partly motivated by the cold night air we repositioned ourselves back in the nice warm car and continued down the road. It was not until we pulled into Orange that the

temperature gauge showed a disturbing increase. Under the lights of a 24 hour Self Serve I lifted the hood and discovered there was no generator. I looked through the windscreen at Greg and smiled. He thought it was going to be okay. The generator light had not come on because all the wiring to light the warning lamp had gone for a wander down the road along with the generator. The temperature had been okay though because it was very cold and our average speed was 120kph. It was only when we slowed down to 60kph that the temperature shot up to boiling. The obvious solution was to drive at 120kph all the way back to Sydney and hope that the police don't notice how fast we pass through Bathurst.

The more mechanically minded among you will no doubt have raised an objection to this plan. With no generator eventually the battery will be drained by the lights and then car will cease to run. Not a problem when you are dealing with two technocrats. Outside Orange on a deserted stretch we broke out a roll of masking tape and stuck Greg's Mega Blaster diving light to the roof. In theory the batteries should last an hour and the lights used during the dive had only been in use foran hour. We turned off the headlights and zoomed long with a ferocious beam lighting the road ahead. Occasionally when a truck approached from the other way we switched off the Mega Blaster and switched on the headlights.

In Bathurst the police were parked by the side of the road and had stopped a Holden panel van. We switched over to the headlights as we passed by and said good to see the boys in blue protecting our city streets at night. By Lithgow the Mega Blaster batteries were fading and we swapped back and forth between the headlights and the Blaster and making do with fewer photons per kilometer per second. It was apparent that we were only going to make Katoomba and sure enough the last electron volt available to run the spark coil expired just outside the railway station. I slept in the car that night opposite an auto electrician and Greg took the train into Sydney in order to get back to work Monday morning.

Its funny but every time I go caving with Greg he only just manages to get him back and its always a bit of an epic.

Trip Report. Speaking Tube Cave.

Present:

Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Joe Vavryn
8th December 1988

From previously drawn cave maps CQSS suspected that Speaking Tube was basically intact despite the detonation of explosive charges by QCL and the filling of the entrances with crushed limestone. Its a long drive to Rockhampton from Sydney but the Heart of Gold had never been that far north in Australia before. A nice drive to the caves seemed a grand plan.

Steve Kime is the barrister representing CQSS against QCL. He works without fee. His advice indicated we would need to show intact Ghost Bat avens and evidence that there was in fact a cave that could be saved.....a survey and a map. It all depended on whether the cave was still there. The amount of limestone that was poured into the cave mouth was reported to be of the order of thousands of tonnes. With this material we could launch legal proceedings against QCL based on a breach of the Flora and Fauna conservation act. If I had known at that time how complicated the whole issue was later going to be I wonder if

I found myself covering my lovely yellow (telecom like) caving helmet with matt black paint. The SUSS caving packs that show up so well in all those caving photographs were likewise camouflaged. Late at night Joe's Wife dropped Joe and myself near the mountain and we crossed the Stalag 17 barbed wire fence and headed through the darkness towards the cavernous tower limestone. The fence erected by QCL to keep cavers out must have cost tens of thousands of dollars yet presented an obstacle rating of zero.

As we reached the edge of the limestone we heard the sound of a car driving along the mine site and so we clambered up the hillside and hid amongst the towers of limestone. Looking down to

the mine site we could see that the car was a security vehicle checking the area for trespassing greenies. At regular intervals the vehicle would stop and the security officer would get out and scan the area with a powerful search light. He then got in the vehicle moved along the mining benches and repeated the process.

Fortunately the whole procedure was a routine intended to scare off casual visitation. It was merely a matter of waiting until the routine was completed and then we were able to continue the search for our entrance. At night this was difficult and since the terrain had been changed so much by mining operations it was difficult for Joe to recognise landmarks. Eventually we discovered a little used entrance that Andrew March had escape through when the mining company was filling the cave with crushed limestone. Unfortunately his escape alerted the miners to the alternative entrance and they had plugged the lower chamber with rocks and boulders. Obviously QCL is unaware of the kind of digging operations that cavers engage themselves. The boulders rated with the fence as an obstacle.

We had discovered our Gold. We waited for another security patrol and after it had passed we retraced our steps for home to formulate further plans.

I wanted to be in Sydney for Christmas and so I drove south for all that bah humbug festivity stuff leaving promises with Steve and Craig of returning with a crack SUSS team to survey any cave in Rocky that might need to be surveyed. Most of our people were in New Zealand or Tasmania and it would be hard to find someone. Nevertheless on a number of canyoning trips a considerable amount of political scheming and plotting took place with some key SUSS people.

TCN Channel 7,
Mobbs Lane,
Epping,
N.S.W. 2121

Dear Roy,

Following our brief telephone conversation before Christmas I have prepared, with the help of my colleagues, a brief presentation of the Mount Etna controversy. In this covering letter I have set out the broad aims and objectives of the individuals and the society vis-a-vis the Mount Etna debacle and our purpose in approaching TCN Channel 7.

Before going further with this story I must you to be strictly bound to act with extreme discretion regarding this material - should the Queensland Cement Company realize that the fight for the life of this important ecological system is far from over it is more than probable that they would immediately act to extinguish that life before the courts could stop them.

SUSS

Sydney University Speleological Society (SUSS) is one of the largest - if not the largest - caving groups in Australia. SUSS is highly active in the exploration of new caves and publishes books and scientific papers on speleological matters. SUSS celebrated its Fortieth Birthday during 1988. It is fortunate that SUSS presently contains in its ranks of "active" members many talented individuals who are already participating in professional careers as doctors, chemists, geologists, computer scientists, physicists, etc. etc. This group is highly motivated on many environmental issues, but particularly on those which are related to caves or 'Karst' areas.

MOUNT ETNA

Mount Etna has attracted a certain amount of media attention over the last couple of years. Sadly none of it has been competent enough or aggressive enough to reveal the incredible behaviour of the Queensland Cement Company (QCL) for what it really is.

In our conversation Roy, you noted that "Queensland Cement and Lime had not come out (of previous television media reporting) smelling too good". I believe that with the assistance of my colleagues and I we can provide information and material which would enable Channel 7 to produce an excellent story which will make that view the understatement of the year.

In short we offer your station:

- . The benefit of all our research - for example, our legal officer has been involved with the Mount Etna saga from the outset
- . A depth of research into the story which no reporter could realistically achieve in the timespan available
- . The opportunity to film the forthcoming developments on the mountain "as they happen"
- . Video taped exclusive material filmed secretly by the Society inside the caves of Mount Etna on a proposed trip (see page 5 of attached report) which will prove that extensive cave still exists. We hope above all else that the same video tape will be able to capture remaining Ghost Bats.
- . Access to and full assistance from the most relevant interviewees (either from the environmental lobby or independent experts). Recommendations concerning QCL staff interviewees - difficult questions, etc.

Plainly it is our goal that Channel 7 will do such a great job on QCL that the Queensland Government will find it impossible to continue in its present course of overt - though cringing - support. We can hope to achieve this through an aggressive investigative report clearly revealing the tactics and true course of QCL.

Roy, once you have had a chance to digest this material I would welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposal face to face. This should be done as soon as possible. My colleagues are actively obtaining new material in Queensland right now and time is fast running out for Mount Etna and its irreplaceable inhabitants.



SIMON MCCARTNEY

MOUNT ETNA

PREAMBLE

Queensland has three major cave systems - Chillago, Texas Caves and Mount Etna. The Texas Caves were flooded as part of an irrigation scheme and Mount Etna is threatened with destruction by mining. The quarry has about three years of limestone available from the mountain at present mining rates (see Craig Hardy for economics of limestone quarrying).

Mount Etna stands like a huge pyramid buttressed on one side by a col of limestone called Limestone Ridge. The ridge and the mountain have the most highly cavernous limestone in Australia and are significant for world class formations, fossil remains and the rare endangered bat populations that use the caves as maternity sites. In particular Bat Cleft displays the phenomenon of the dusk bat emergence whereby female bats pour out of the cave in such huge numbers that many snakes and frogs lying in patient vigil gorge themselves in an incredible feeding frenzy at the entrance of the cave.

HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Mount Etna Caves have been known since 1886 and were declared Recreation Reserves in the State Government Gazette in 1920. At that time the Recreation Reserve was the highest form of protection given to crown land. Guano mining was permitted provided no damage was caused to the surface area.

By 1960's Mining Leases were established and the threat to the cavernous areas were of nervous concern to environmentalists. The CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research restrained mining at the entrance of Johannsen's Cave and we are fortunate that this still exists today.

The mining company made many agreements regarding their policy and treatment of the caves at Mount Etna and whilst no doubt the agreements were made in good faith at the time, changing personnel and economic pressures saw informal agreements infringed upon and forgotten.

In response to a letter protesting the mining of Mount Etna in the Brisbane Courier Mail by the University of Queensland Speleological Society the then Mining Manager, Mr. Woodcroft, denied claims that mining would destroy caves. However by 1967 Mr. Woodcroft stated that it was his intention to mine the whole mountain. This view became apparent at the same time that the then General Manager of Queensland Cement Ltd. (QCL) Mr. L. J. Jones assured the world that no mining would take place within one chain of any cave entrance. By 1967 this undertaking was being breached with the commencement of mining on the northern flank of Mount Etna.

The 1970's witnessed the dawn of political limelight-snatching derived by politicians casting the illusion of pursuing an active conservation policy. Mr. Connor, a National Party Candidate stated ". . . the Premier Mr. Bjelke Peterson has given me an assurance that mining of Mount Etna would cease in future." The next month he stated that ". . . the minister of mines has assured me that a National Park will be dedicated not only on Mount Etna but also on Limestone Ridge". November 1974 Deputy Premier Gordon Chalk stated that ". . . he was sympathetic to the gazettal of a National Park on Mount Etna".

By 1975 the minister of mines Mr. Camm stated ". . . at no time have I as Minister ever indicated that Mount Etna would be preserved as a National Park". The State Government shortly thereafter gave approval for the continued mining of Mount Etna. This decision came one day ahead of a report by the State Ombudsman which stated there was an anomaly in the Government's decision on a course of action which remained under investigation. Legal advice from a Queen's Council indicated that the mining leases on Mount Etna had been granted invalidly. In 1977 the Queensland Government rescinded the Recreation Reserve on Mount Etna and passed a law stating that any mining leases inadvertently granted illegally would now legally stand.

DESTRUCTION GATHERS PACE

The 1980's are witnessing the final demise of all previous agreements and undertakings by governments and mining companies. The Cave Crystal Palace which contained some of Australia's finest formations rivaling the grandeur of Jenolan Caves was exposed and destroyed by blasting. The widening of the road to the crushing plant created a 20m cliff face under the Bat Cleft Track. The cave Elephant Hole was exposed on the cavernous face. Speaking Tube is under threat and is particularly sensitive because of the last population of Ghost Bats breeding in the cave.

In the light of the growing protests and unrest in the environmental groups the mining company moved swiftly to destroy the features on the mountain which required protection in an obvious effort to make discussions irrelevant. The mining company set out to destroy the bat population by erecting plastic sheet barriers in the nursery area to trap and kill the bats. The entrances to caves also were buried to prevent media trips into caves and advertisements concerning the good environmental work by the company were placed in newspapers.

Prior to blasting drill holes of about 10m depth are bored into the rock for placement of explosives. About twenty blasting holes were drilled in the vicinity of Bat Cleft, Elephant Hole and Speaking Tube. QCL General Manager, Mr. Robin Town, stated that ". . . he was at a loss as to why so-called concerned people had spread wrong information about the location of drill holes".

"We are not mining any closer to the caves mentioned and we do not intend to destroy them". Mr. Town claimed the drill holes were placed for "road maintenance".

The usually conservative speleological society planned action to deal with a company that they had come to believe was incapable of meaningful discussion. The drilling was being undertaken in an area which society members believed would have fatal effects on the bat population in Bat Cleft and in such a position that the main access to the caves would also be destroyed. A group of about ten society members and conservationists carried buckets of cement and containers of water to a site near Bat Cleft. They then plugged the "non-existent" drill holes with cement and rocks. It was the strongest protest yet by speleologists and represented a change in the means of protest. Mr. Town inspected the drill holes that had been filled and described the actions of those responsible as "straightout vandalism".

The events that followed signalled a change in tactics and attitudes. Mount Etna became the site for commando style action and the commitment from the speleologists became total. Craig Hardy sold half his business to finance the Etna campaign and suffered threats of imprisonment after arrests on the blockade. Many gave up their jobs and donated large amounts of time and money to the planned protest - Mount Etna was to become a national issue.

Bob Brown had for some time been aware of the issues at Mount Etna since the speleological community sent the Wilderness Society regular reports. When he visited the mining leases the mines manager criticised greenies "who do not know anything about what is going on". He was surprised to find the degree to which the greenies are in fact briefed. Telecommunication (Connect International) companies provided (free) an information service regarding the events on the mountain. Magazines ran stories about Mount Etna and Australian Geographic magazine ran a story reporting that the caves had been saved - the undertakings of the mine manager to the magazine lasted a few days before it was apparent that the mining company was again brushing to one side its avowed objectives regarding conservation.

In an effort to attack QCL from within the speleologists purchased a package of QCL shares which were then distributed to interested speleological/environmentalists around Australia. Theoretically this would have given these shareholders rights to attend QCL Board meetings and access to company reports, etc. Investigations by Craig Hardy and others into QCL's financial management - or mismanagement - revealed a wealth of information indicating QCL operations at Mount Etna were not financially viable nor are likely to be and that in fact the mountain and its inhabitants were being destroyed not as QCL would have it to provide a large employment opportunity in the area but rather to perpetuate the jobs of a handful of miners.

After many court hearings QCL was successful in gaining the ruling that each share did not constitute a 'marketable package' and the transaction was considered null and void.

Large food dumps and water supplies were placed in the caves by the speleologists. The caves have deep vertical crevasses requiring specialised rope techniques to descend them. It was believed that the miners and police would neither have the training nor the desire to enter the caves to get blockaders out. Large numbers of cavers entered the caves and prepared for a long protracted stay. A radio system linked the underground blockaders to those protesting at the main gate and to the organisation centre. The mining company could not blast or mine while there were people underground. They attempted to send people underground to get the blockaders out but their men were inexperienced in caving and could only search for trespassers on the surface.

When a moratorium was proposed it seemed that enough attention had been drawn to Mount Etna and QCL was ready to make some compromises. Men and women who had never been underground in their lives had spent weeks in caves and for them it must have been a welcome release. Once the pressure from the blockaders was gone QCL took the opportunity to train their men in the use of vertical caving techniques. They erected a large security fence around the cavernous face and installed spotlights to illuminate the side of the mountain. The moratorium was ended and the main entrances to Elephant Hole and Speaking Tube were blasted. The explosion sent debris hurling over a nearby farm and rained around a farmer working on his irrigation system smashing his pipes. That afternoon the miners went into the local pub and drunkenly celebrated their victory over the greenies.

Immediately the blockade began again but the inertia was lost and the numbers could not be found to go underground in the short time available. The last few weeks saw only two men underground and the surface of the limestone guarded day and night by miners and police. The mountain was lit at night by spotlights and it was difficult to get anyone in or out of the caves.

The miners dropped ropes into the caves and went in search of those still underground. First attempts were aborted when they became stuck for a number of hours just over the edge of a precipice. When a climbing rope is held tight it is impossible for a descending device to move. As the ropes came down the shaft the blockaders pulled them tight and tied them securely thus making descent impossible. More ropes were obtained and more miners were sent below ground. A cat and mouse game throughout the caves began and the two men crept about moving from one chamber to another. While they eluded capture their water supplies and food dumps - enough for months - were discovered and removed.

A new tactic was tried to extract the cavers. Many sonic devices were lowered into the crevasses and some were cemented into position. The high decibel level meant that the noise would permeate through many of the echoing chambers and deprive those

underground of sleep or peace. The radio crackled instructions from the blockade organisation centre that at all costs one of the sonic devices had to be captured since it was evidence for an assault charge against QCL. Joe Vavryn was still underground and elected to try. He managed to climb high enough in a chamber to reach one of the sonic devices and cut it off. In doing this he suffered bleeding of the inner ear resulting in deafness. He hid the device inside his sleeping bag and surrendered. As he left the cave he was arrested but they did not realise the sonic device had been taken by him and did not search his camping gear.

At this stage it is not known if QCL believed that Andrew March was still underground. Nevertheless they began filling the cave entrance with thousands of tons of rubble. With the cave being filled, his light sources limited to a few hours and no food or water he was forced to abandon the cave and surrender. QCL continued to fill the cave entrances and it seemed victory was on their side.

IMMEDIATE SITUATION - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The cavernous face is fenced and patrolled hourly by security guards. Nonetheless at night two cavers managed to cross the fences between security patrols and climb to the cavernous face in order to discover if there is any hope that the Ghost Bat has survived and whether the deeper sections of the cave system can still be humanly accessed.

The report of these two cavers indicates that whilst QCL have filled the entrances it is believed that the caves themselves remain intact and there is hope of finding new entrances. The midnight trip confirmed sightings of the Ghost Bat in flight on the mountain side and a possible mode of entry.

Craig Hardy's legal advice is that if evidence proving that the Ghost Bat still exists and that there is still a cave left to save then this be presented to the courts to obtain an injunction restraining QCL from further destructive activity on the cavernous face. On 6 January 1989 a team of speleologists skilled in surveying will journey to Rockhampton for another midnight trip to the cavernous face. The objective is to gain evidence that the cave system still exists and that the Ghost Bat is not yet extinct. The entire trip will be videoed evidencing the surveying and, hopefully, pictures of the surviving Ghost Bat.

It has just turned 1989 and it is likely that QCL is in no hurry to cut out the remaining caves since they believe environmental action is over. It is essential that this remains secret until they begin mining operations later in January otherwise they will commence operations as soon as they can. It is likely that even following an injunction QCL will attempt to destroy the hillside to further their aims and so a further blockade is planned. This time help from speleologists across Australia is being organised.

Queensland Cement Limited



Dear Sir/Madam,

We refer to your application for registration of the transfer of a share in Queensland Cement Limited, which was refused.

In refusing the application the Directors considered that the transfer, if registered, would create a new shareholding of less than the marketable parcel of securities in Queensland Cement Limited. The Stock Exchange Listing Rules provide that a company may refuse to register any transfer of securities where the transfer would, at the date of acquisition, create a new shareholding of less than a marketable parcel "...: Stock Exchange Listing Rules 3D(3)(c)(iv). "Marketable parcel" is defined in the Stock Exchange Listing Rules to be calculated with reference to the cost of the shares. The definition provides "marketable parcel" means in relation to an offer to buy or sell securities, the minimum number of securities in each case as follows: ... 100 where the price exceeds \$1.00 but does not exceed \$10.00".

The existence of single shareholdings would create great additional costs to the Company, in terms of calculating and paying the miniscule dividend which would result from such a small shareholding, producing and sending all the additional annual reports, and generally circularising the shareholders.

In addition, on the basis of the press reports and material circularised by Andrew Robson and other conservationists, the Company does not consider that the transferees of shares from Andrew Robson have the best interests of the Company in mind, nor does it consider that they have the desire or intention to become bona fide shareholders of the Company.

Yours faithfully,

R.F. Schodel,
Company Secretary.

Trip Report. Speaking Tube Cave.

Present:

Andrew March, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Greg Wilkins.

6th Jan 1989

Greg Wilkins was supposed to be working for some insignificant communications company and had to play nine to fives so could not afford the time to spend playing dogfights on the interstate highways and so he flew up north via East West.

Our main objective was to survey Speaking Tube but I carried a camera to add video evidence as well as a cave survey. Our route traversed up the back of the mountain avoiding the security officials routine path along the mining benches. Observation had shown that security patrols were discontinued but we took the precaution of the less exposed route anyway. It was important that the mining company did not at this stage realise we had gone anywhere near the mountain since their mining activities were at this stage minimal. If they thought environmentalists had not yet given up on the issues they would certainly expedite the destruction of the caves and we needed as much time

as possible to prepare our legal case for an injunction. More importantly we were now planning offensive legal action in the form of a mandatory injunction requiring the company to restore the damage already caused to the caves and hopefully reversing the destruction being wrought. One can not help but smile at the thought of QCL directors being required by the Court to reverse their environmental damage. Hopefully future destructive acts will be much more carefully considered.

As before we easily crossed the fence and negotiated our way across the mining benches to the tower Karst. Many of the trees had been ripped from the ground and because of the darkness and changed landscape it was with difficulty that we finally identified the hole in the limestone that dropped in the main entrance of Speaking Tube.

Immediately below the surface is a small chamber and the way on is through a horizontal fissure in the floor. This was blocked by numerous boulders placed in position by the mining company to ensure that greenies were not likely to gain entrance by this route. The company must be unaware of the considerable digging operations most speleos involve themselves. It was only an hour before the way on was clear...I wish all digs were that easy. We slipped down the narrow fissures of rock with the video running.

At the bottom of the cave we were confronted with the impact of the unusual mining operations. Here the lowest point in the cave is a long corridor passage maybe 2 meters wide and 15 meters to the roof. From one end the crushed limestone was pouring down out of the roof at 38 degrees. It presented a steep slope that continued all the way to the roof. The limestone rocks were mixed with some wet gummy material and had apparently been injected into the cave with the aid of a high pressure water hose. We could see at the top of the slope that there was a small opening which Andrew said led into the upper chambers and the bat avens.

With our boots sinking into the mud we groped up to the opening and crawled through into an upper chamber. Here the sloping limestone went round the corner and the steep slope continued up all way up into the roof. Massive amounts of mined limestone gravel mix in a reverse mining operation.

Despite the thousands of tons of gravel mix, the cave was basically intact, furthermore it would be feasible to remove it. The question remained about the condition of the bat avens. There are two of them. The first we visited was not the main roost. It had however sustained severe explosions with debris and rocks scattered about the floor of the passageway. We climbed up the passageway and were daunted by two boulders that had been blown from the roof and precariously wedged between the walls and ready to fall. We gingerly climbed under the boulders not daring to touch any keystones and only really appreciated how insecure they were when we were on the other side. Above, the bat aven had been seriously blasted. Boulders and rock shatter lay scattered across the sloping floor and sat balanced on ledges above us. The aven itself rose well above our heads. Except for the danger of falling debris bats could still quite happily live in this environment. This is unimportant however since the mining company made a blunder. This aven is not the aven used by roosting Ghost Bats.

The adjacent aven almost opposite the main entrance with its new sliding limestone incline had also apparently suffered blast damage. At the base of the aven a large slab of rock two to three meters high had come off the wall and scattered small rocks and debris down the slope leading to the aven. It is possible that this was only caused by transmitted shock from the blast in the adjacent aven. The roof where the Ghost Bats hang out is intact and most of the walls are unscathed.

In normal mining operations holes to a depth of 10 meters are drilled. The holes are then packed with explosives and a detonator. The top of the hole is packed with a sealer to contain the explosion as much as possible within the rock. Of course they couldn't get the large drilling equipment into the cave and could only set the explosive material in the cracks in the rock. Even though 1000kg of nitroperyl was placed, its effects were largely wasted.

We started our survey and slowly measured our way out of the cave with the last station ending on the entrance of limestone over looking the destruction of the mining benches.

Trip report. Speaking Tube Cave.

Present:

Derrick Hobbs, Keir Vaughan-Taylor and a team of others.

9th January 1989

Derrick and myself re-entered the cave to complete fine detail on the survey while others stocked the cave with food and water in anticipation of further blockade activities. This time the food and water was buried to avoid detection by invading mining workers.

Trip Report. Speaking Tube Cave.

Present:

Simon & Judy McCartney, Andrew March, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Greg Wilkins.

Channel 7 News Team (Smithy the sludge buster, Paul, David)

12th January 1989

The Heart of Gold was consuming huge quantities of oil. While in Rockhampton I took the opportunity to visit Blackdown Tablelands fabulously beautiful National Park that is being logged as fast as the trucks can carry the trees to the pulp mill. While I was mainly interested in having a campfire and forgetting technical difficulties for a day or two I did notice that the Heart of Gold consumed 4 litres of oil in a 300km journey. Oh oh!

Simon telephoned and confirmed that channel 7 was going to do the story. Once it was confirmed that we had certain access to the cave the whole enterprise was a goer. The channel 7 news crew would arrive at Rockhampton airport on Friday wearing suits with their camera gear in suitcases. That same night we would retrace the route up the mountain, cross the limestone in the darkness and descend the cave carrying their camera equipment.

We filmed the climb into the cave and the limestone gravel and the impact of the blatant assault on the cave was quite apparent to the news crew and more importantly the camera. We did not finish until the early hours of the morning. We returned to the news team motel room where a few beers lubricated the sense of achievement and hatched a plot to interview QCL officials on the Monday asking questions that we already knew the answers to. Naturally QCL refused to do an interview but the news team did a "walk in" with cameras rolling.

Merv Barton acting mine manager was abusive but none of that was used. He was asked "Did the company blow up Speaking Tube?" Yes he said, it is gone there is no possibility of restoring the cave. This of course was cut with the footage of our boys descending the cave.

The program went to air on Derryn Hinch one week later. A copy of the program went to channel 7 in Rockhampton. Unfortunately officials with the television station have sympathies with QCL and it was re-cut, edited and went to air in favour of the Cement Company.

For QCL the situation after the story was broadcast must have been a worst case scenario. They had spent huge sums of money against the "green" movement. Security patrols, police and miner guarding the property for weeks and all earning lots of overtime. The high fence round the mountain must have cost at least \$40000. Advertisements were placed in newspapers proclaiming what a good environmental job they were doing and how they had saved the bat caves. They mailed their share holders pamphlets with optimistic prophecies about the end of the misguided conservationist campaign and included a map showing how all the caves were outside their mining lease and arrows indicating the caves that they had saved way out on the non limestone areas and away from the lease. During the CQSS blockade the company filmed all the participants with video. The people that they could identify on the video were contacted and threatened with legal action. They were required to sign an apology and an undertaking to never enter upon the mining lease again. Failure to sign this document would incur legal action by QCL.

The next few weeks saw us all helping Pat put together legal documentation for the planned injunction and formulating a defence for those charged with trespassing. It was basically a race to get

as much material before the Court before the mining operations began. As soon as the bulldozers moved we would go to court to halt the operations. In hindsight this preparation time was of utmost importance and the hurried nature of its preparation has hindered the arguments in all the subsequent Court actions. While Derryn Hinch was a public relation masterpiece reaching an audience of 5 million, it was only seven minutes long and tipped QCL off that the "greenies" were at it again. It would not be long before the dozers were up on the mining benches trying to rake the hillside of its caves. The injunction would have to be served asap. Events showed that we had an amazing four days preparation time after the Hinch program before Pat had to take immediate action. We are soon to discover whether that time was enough.

I took the Heart of Gold back to Sydney with a brilliant plan to solve its developing mechanical problems. I had 40 litres of the cheapest Nofrills Kmart oil that money could buy and a regular stop to satiate the ever increasing hunger of the engine. By Sydney the car was a smoke polluting embarrassment and the Heart of Gold was dead.

It was those two caves or 130 jobs.

— Robin Town, of Central Queensland Cement,
ghost-bat busters

THE BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 15, 1988



Sean Leahy, *The Courier-Mail*, Brisbane, November 3

Mount Etna and The Computer.

After Greg Wilkins returned from Rockhampton he set up a communications news service regarding conservation issues using the a network called ACSnet. The following communication notes have been edited from the newsgroup aus.conserve. These are some of the news items that were transmitted across Australia to all major universities and also around the world. The following news items, document most of the legal milestones in the court tactics up to this present time.

Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: Court Decision: Mount Etna
Keywords: Standing Conservation Bats lawyers
Date: 3 Feb 89 07:07:36 GMT
Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

Mt Etna Courts Decision.

We lost. The injunction was not granted but there is a suprise.
We expected to lose because we did not have enough money to cover the alleged losses of CQC however we lost on two other points.

1. Standing

In Queensland there is a law that you can not run a court proceeding even if there are illegal acts taking place unless you have an interest above and beyond the normal public. In other words a financial interest. You can see the law is designed for corporate interaction. In NSW anyone can bring an action. The speleological society CQSS became an incorporated society, they sell T Shirts, give tours in caves and have rental agreement with farmer to rent camping sites to tourists etc. Naturally the aim of all this is to give the "Standing". CQC defending barrister poo pooed the insignificance of their business compared to the mining company and claimed their T Shirt Sales were unlikely to be affected by the destruction of the caves and that they could hardly give tours in the caves if they had to trespass on a mining lease and even less so after the caves ceased to exist.

2. There is no breach of the Flora and Fauna Conservation Act.

This is unbelievable !??? I was not at todays decision but on Monday the argument was over the definition of a nest. Because the bats were not actually in the cave during the blasting this is not a "taking" of fauna. It is also illeagle to destroy a nest however while the cave is used by pregnant ghost bats and is essential to their breeding they dont actually give birth in the cave and so CQC argues it is not a nest.

We can appeal on both these points of law and probably win. (Said this before didn't I) Unfortunately it costs \$20,000

The money we raised before was trust money. If we had got the case to trial the chance of winning was 99% and the money could be returned. The chance of winning the appeal is not so good and the money might be lost.

Well Senator Richardson was unable to help before because no precedent had been set whereby the Commonwealth underwrote an indemnity. Now we are back in the costs ball park. We need political support and it is now more important than ever to lobby this man. He should come to believe that his political future is dependent on the environmental issues he purports to support.

Dennis Hinton of Broadsound in the Mt Etna region won his seat by 200 votes. I suspect he is very concerned about the States nefarious relationship with QCL.

If you want to do something then phone write or telegram either of these men or the Queensland Premier....Ahern

Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: Trespass on Mining Leases in Queensland
Keywords: obstruction trespass Etna arrested trial
Message-ID: <1749@basser.oz>
Date: 7 Feb 89 00:13:12 GMT
Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

QCL cement Ltd have resolutely been pursuing all those people that participated in the Mt Etna blockade. Trespass charges were brought against all those that appeared on the CQC videos taken during the blockade.

Last friday a group of protester pleaded not guilty to charges of trespass and police obstruction. Their defense was that they were on the mining lease to uphold the law, and prevent an imminent breach of the flora and fauna conservation act. The judge accepted this and since the protesters had peacefully allowed themselves to be arrested the obstruction charges fell...

Unfortunately a group of blockaders had already been heard in court and pleaded guilty and paid the fine. All those that decided to fight the charges

had their charges dismissed after the first case.

Moral: If you dont fight you lose.

>From: bigm@banana.cs.uq.oz (Michael Pilling (Dr Chocberry))
Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: the law and conservation.
Date: 3 Feb 89 05:17:26 GMT
Organization: Computer Science, Queensland University, Brisbane, Australia

Reading the articles about QCL and the law, only reinforces opinions that I have been forming about the law for some time.

I am becoming more and more convinced that the law as it stands is complicated for its own sake, purely to be offputting to the layman and to further entrench lawyers in their own jobs. The law is also based on some fundamental premises which are wrong e.g. the guilty wont confess.

Since the victor in court these days seems to be the one with the most staying power, especially financial, I think we should do our best to seek law reform before we have to use them. Most of these laws were written YEARS ago.

Michael Pilling
("Democracy, of course it's democracy" - Sir Jo(h)ke)
Michael Pilling,
Computer Science Department,
University of Queensland,
St Lucia, Brisbane, 4067

Article 90 of aus.conserve:
Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: Mount Etna
Date: 6 Mar 89 03:44:18 GMT
Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

All this time and the judges are still deliberating. This is good because it indicates that they dont put a great deal of credence in the claims of the cement company about their weekly \$47,000 loss.

Our good senator Graeme Richardson has recommended legal aid for the Mt Etna issue and it is likely to go through.

I dont know how much effect the network has had but apparently Richardson's office is being swamped with letters. If you intend to write perhaps it should be for congratulations.

Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: Mt Etna Cliff Hanging
Keywords: Etna Speleo Appeal conservationist
Message-ID: <1757@basser.oz>
Date: 14 Feb 89 07:58:01 GMT
Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

In the nick of time an interim injunction restraining Central Queensland Cement from further mining activity near the caves on Mount Etna was obtained today. The mining company had bulldozed over the entrance to Elephant Hole and was about to commence destruction of the tower limestone.

In the application for an appeal lodged on monday an injunction until tomorrow has been given.

It is of interest that of the three judges making the decision about the injunction, one of them disqualified himself.....Apparently he knew Bill Brett on Queensland Cement Ltd's board of directors.

Tomorrow the appeal before the full bench of the Supreme Court will probably decide the fate of Mt Etna.

The Mt Etna campaign has been novel in that the Speleo groups pushing this issue have come up with one idea after another to promote the flora and fauna at Mt Etna. There are still some secret plans in the works by the Mt Etna conservationists and there will be some more developments soon.

We are still hoping to get legal aid.

Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: Mt Etna Comeback
Keywords: extraction QCL injunction
Message-ID: <1759@basser.oz>
Date: 14 Feb 89 23:27:41 GMT
Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

Today is the appeal. Assuming the three judges agree that there has been a breach of the flora and fauna act and that the Speleos (CQSS) have legal standing to bring an action, we return to the problem of "balance of convenience". We have to put up a money to cover cost accrued by QCL as a result of any injunction and of course QCL have lodged claims of \$47000 costs per week rising to \$67000. This is why we needed a cement extraction expert. We found one.

His name is Phillip Prince and used to work for the cement company. Philip claims that he found QCL were manufacturing bricks containing carcinogenic material. He wrote reports etc and became so alarmed that these reports were being ignored that he posted warning notices on notice boards throughout the company offices. As a result he was sacked. Philip made out an affidavit last night and it will be presented in court today.

We will still need an independent extraction expert since Phillip's evidence is certainly going to be attacked. If there is one out there please contact me. It is extremely difficult to find someone in this field prepared to give evidence against a potential employer.

Newsgroups: aus.conserve
Subject: Mt Etna Appeal
Date: 7 Mar 89 10:22:26 GMT
Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

The appeal concerning Mt Etna has been decided.
There were three issues that the three judges were making decisions about.

Balance of Convenience

The judges decided that in issues of public importance that the balance of convenience was not so important. There were doubts about the verisimilitude of the the claimed costs to the cement company.

Breach of the Flora and Fauna Act.

It was decided that there was a breach of the act by the cement company.

Standing.

That the action being brought against the cement company is by someone with an interest above and beyond that of the ordinary public. In brief this is a Queensland law that presupposes that legal action is going to be brought by large companies. CQSS comply with this law by incorporating, running tours, selling tea shirts etc etc etc.

The judges ruled that the Speleological society does not have Standing.

Another appeal is being taken to the High Court, the only issue to be decided is on Standing. The case will be heard Friday week in Sydney.

Newsgroups: aus.conserve

Subject: Cement Company Bites Back over Mt Etna

Date: 9 Mar 89 03:20:51 GMT

Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

Central Queensland Cement are threatening to take legal action against Greg Wilkins for an article he wrote and was published in the Financial Review.

The article makes reference to questions in Federal Parliament about leaks from the Taxation Department regarding two \$100,000.00 payments made by the cement company to the National Party and the subsequent monopoly agreement. The leaks regarding the payments came from somewhere in the taxation dept shortly after CQC ended the "moratorium" by blasting the entrances of Speaking Tube Cave and Elephant Hole Cave.

The questions raised in parliament have not as yet been answered. CQC claims that the sums of money were of the order of \$10,000.00 and a full scale police investigation into the source of the leak is underway.

Greg may choose to go to court and use truth in the public interest as his defence. Brisbane barristers have agreed to represent Greg and have suggested that his case will enable them to subpoena the tax files relating to the "donations". If this is possible then I imagine CQC will drop the case very quickly.

The final appeal will be heard in Sydney before the High Court 17th of March. The only issue to be decided is Standing but it seems that CQC will almost certainly cross appeal over decisions made by the Full Bench and increase their chances of breaking the Greenies.

Newsgroups: aus.conserve

Subject: Mt Etna - leave to appeal granted by the High Court

Keywords: Mt Etna caves bats mining cement

Date: 17 Mar 89 08:11:01 GMT

Organization: Dept. of Comp. Science, Uni of Sydney, Australia

This afternoon (17/3/89) at about 4.45pm leave was granted by the High Court of Australia for an appeal to be heard by the full bench of the High Court on the issue of mining at Mt Etna near Rockhampton. The judges brought down their decision 15 minutes before the current injunction preventing the mining of Speaking Tube cave at Mt Etna was to expire, and continued an order restraining Central Queensland Cement from operations within 50 metres of any entrance to Speaking Tube or any operation that would interfere with this cave system. The judges specifically restrained the company from blasting, mining or filling the caves. So what now...?

The court realised the urgency of the appeal hearing to both parties and will push it forward as much as possible, but indicated that the April agenda was already full.

```

MMM   MMM   00000   UU       UU NNN   NN   TTTTTTTT
MMMM  MMMM  00    00 UU       UU NNNN   NN    TT
MM  MM  MM  00    00 UU       UU NN  NN   NN    TT
MM      MM  00    00 UU       UU NN   NN NN   TT
MM      MM  00    00 UU       UU NN   NNNN   TT
MM      MM  00000   UUUUUU  NN    NNN    TT

```

```

      EEEEEEE TTTTTTTT NNN   NN   AAAA
      EE      TT   NNNN   NN  AA   AA
  'O'  EE      TT   NN NN   NN  AAAAAAA
 / \ / @ \ / \ EE      TT   NN NN NN  AA   AA
  -"-  EE      TT   NN   NNNN  AA   AA
      EEEEEEE TT   NN    NNN  AA   AA

```

A MAJOR VICTORY ... And now to the High Court!
 //////////////////////////////////////

On Friday 17/3/89 the High Court of Australia granted Special Leave to Appeal from the decision of the Queensland Full Court in the Mt Etna case. The High Court also extended the injunction which protects Speaking Tube Cave until further order.

This is a significant victory. It removes one of the major hurdles standing in the way of getting a trial on the Merits - on the issue of breaches of the Fauna Conservation Act - & with reasonable prospects of ultimate success.

The Mt Etna case has taken on a new dimension of importance by going to the High Court. The case has been described by the Australian Financial Review and Brisbane Courier Mail as "...the most important conservation case of the decade" because we are fighting for 'standing' - the right for conservationists to take their own legal action to protect environmental values, an important right, especially where governments lack the political will to act.

In order to prepare for the trial there will be very considerable expenses because the trial is likely to be long and involve many expert witnesses from across Australia. Donations will not only be welcomed - they are the only way we can fight the case.

Any donations to: CQSS (Central Qld Speleological Society)
 36 MacGregor St
 The Range
 Rockhampton QLD 4700

Current situation:

- We attempted to take QCL to court on breach of Fauna Conservation Act
- We were thrown out of court on the grounds of "No Standing"
- We lodged and appeal and got an injunction to stop mining (and ALLEGEDLY QCL continued to block a cave entrance after being served with the court order).
- We won a prelim hearing that said "Yes you do have grounds to Appeal,"
- We are waiting for the appeal to be heard.

To allow us to prepare for the court case we made an application to the court to take some "experts" into Speaking Tube cave and to examine the damage done by QCL. This was denied on the following arguments:

- That the cave was dangerous and unstable.
- That the lower entrance of the cave was filled with crushed limestone (They said they did this to stop the cave from collapsing!!! aren't they good conservationists)
- The crushed limestone is holding up the roof
- That it would cost them \$100 000 to remove the concrete blockage they had placed in the upper entrance after the Hynch film crew got in (the same concrete blockage that they ALLEGEDLY built in contempt of court after the injunction was served).

Party Party Party Party

Over the Hill Party for Sarah's 31st

5th August 8pm
41 Chisholm St
Greenwich 438 5662

Announcement: Annual General Meeting

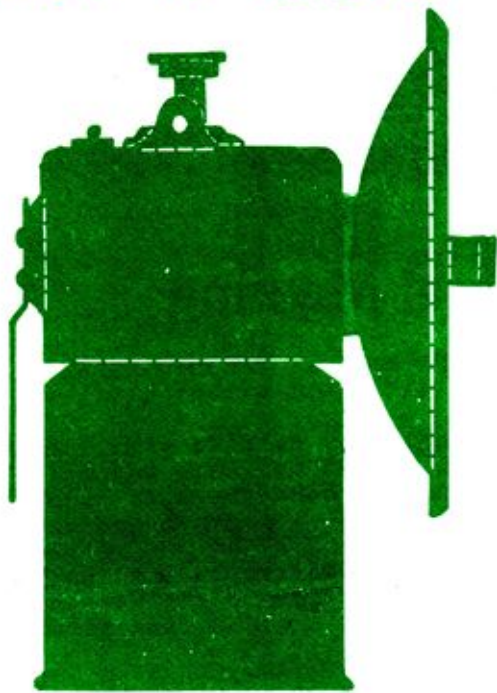
Meeting first Thursday of June. June 1st.
Elect a new committee and a new President.

Future Trips.

May 10 - 11th High Court Appeal, Canberra
May 17th Meeting, Spider/ Imperial Connection
May 27 - 28 Jenolan (Keir)
May 27 - 28 Wombeyan (Robert Brant)
June 1 Meeting AGM
June 3 - 4 Jenolan

More ripper trip calanders available at the AGM.

Lumen in Tenebris



SUSS

BULLETIN
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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