

**BULLETIN** *of the*

**S***ydney*

**U***niversity*

**S***peleological*



**S***ociety*

SUSS Bull. 32(1)  
January - April 1992  
SUSS Constitution Issue

# SUSS Trips and Meetings

- May
- 9-10 Jenolan - Jill Rowling is eager for helpers to work on the new improved Spider survey. Ring 8882927 to enlist - before you're conscripted!
- 9-10 Pigna Barney - Sick of the same old karst areas? Well, Ian Cooper (6826790 (H)) reckons he's got a brand new chunk of limestone that's never been looked at. Be in on the find (or disappointment) of the decade.
- 17 Abseiling - Another in our series of field days. Learn about knots, rope choice, and how to descend a cave in style with Mike Lake (8882927(H)). Venue to be confirmed.
- 23-24 Tuglow - Try and persuade Martin Scott (4494092(H)) to show you the All-New Wonder Cave.
- 26 Committee Meeting - Forest Lodge Hotel, 6:30pm.
- 30-June 1 Colong - One of NSW's longest caves awaits those who go with John Oxley (8684660(H)).
- June
- 4 General Meeting - Macleay Museum, Gosper Lane (off Science Rd to east of the footbridge), Sydney Uni, 7:30pm. All our regular features, plus the Wellington Caves exhibition.
- 6-8 Jenolan - For the long weekend, with who else but Mark Staraj (046) 296760 (H), 2387715(W).
- 13-14 Abercrombie - Keir Vaughan-Taylor (8197153(H)) is spearheading our voyage of discovery here after a long absence.
- 20-21 Wyanbene - Another attempt to visit this classic streamway cave. Put on an extra layer of thermals and call Chris Norton on 9593613 (H).
- 23 Committee Meeting - Forest Lodge Hotel, 6:30pm
- 27-28 Tuglow - Bet you can't wait to dive into that streamway in midwinter! Phone Martin 'Iceman' Scott on 4494092 (H). PERMIT PENDING
- July
- 2 General Meeting - Holme Common Room, 7:30pm
- 4-5 Cliefden - Find out just what's so good about this area (if anything...). SUSS's triumphant return headed by Keir Vaughan-Taylor (8197153 (H)).
- 6-19 Waitomo, NZ - What, again? Just goes to show the amazing drawing power New Zealand caves hold for SUSS. One person who keeps going back is Carol Layton - speak to her on 3114364 (H) to find out why.
- 13-19 Yessabah & Environs - Mega party on the mine! Come and help Keir Vaughan-Taylor (8197153 (H)) celebrate his phenomenal win, and find out just what we were fighting for.
- 25-26 Jenolan - For our standard monthly fix.

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

### **ROLF ADAMS DIES IN CAVE DIVING TRAGEDY**

It's my sad duty to report that Rolf Adams, a member of S.U.S.S. for almost 8 years or so, has died over Easter in a cave diving accident in Florida, U.S.A. Rolf was a close friend of many current and former S.U.S.S. members and is very sorely missed by all who knew him. A very active caver he participated in many international expeditions mostly to Mexico and New Zealand. Prior to this he could be found pushing many of the hard leads at Jenolan.

An obituary for Rolf is on the next page. Condolences and sympathy to all his family and friends.

### **ERRATA**

The article titled "Pooh Goes Canyoning" in SUSS Bull. 31(4) was written by C.Norton (a.k.a. "anon.") and not the Pooh himself: R.McNeall.

### **NEW ZEALAND : ELLIS BASIN EXPEDITION 1991-92**

Over December-January a mixed bag of 30 cavers from New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland and one cow (but it's a long story!) encamped at the Ellis Basin, Mt. Arthur. SUSS members included John Oxley, Martin Scott, Rolf Adams, Steve Keenlyside, Danielle Gemenis, Ian Houghton and Patrick Larkin.

In the Ellis Basin System (Exhaleair-Tomo Thyme-Exhalibur) another 4 km or so was added to the survey mainly by pushing climbing leads. Exhalibur was used as the main entrance on this expedition.

In Falcon Cave the bottom sump was visited without success. A climbing lead above Souse Pitch was pushed upwards by Mark Wilson without a conclusion. Incognito was pushed to a streamway which linked into Falcon Cave at the big waterfall near the start of Peregrine Rift. Other caves such as Tussock Tomo, 393, Arch Rival and Toucan were also connected into the Incognito streamway - some of these caves being new discoveries. The estimated new depth of Falcon Cave is c.550m with Tussock Tomo being the new higher entrance.

Other caves were also discovered and investigated at the Ellis Basin, Bruce Creek and the Twins (all being parts of the Mt. Arthur karstfield). SUSS members also visited Takaka Hill and Waitomo before returning to Australia.

### **OLD HOMESTEAD CAVE: LONGEST CAVE IN AUSTRALIA - or is it?**

In 1991 a CEGSA led expedition to Old Homestead Cave on the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia extended the surveyed length of it from 14km to 23km to make it the official longest cave in Australia. An estimated further 2km were explored but not surveyed with many leads left to push.

The previous official longest cave title belonged to Exit Cave in Tasmania. The exact figure for Exit is in some doubt. New passages and entrances have certainly extended it from the official figure of 17km to at least 19km but also revealed a serious flaw in the current survey. A full resurvey of the cave might be expected to add upwards of another 2 km to bring the total to 21 km by accounting for all those "insignificant" side passages. Maybe or maybe not. The correction to the error might even reduce the total! However I would not be surprised if the total remains in contention for the longest cave.

How about the Jenolan System? Interestingly, in the news brief submitted to International Caver by the expedition leaders it was claimed that Old Homestead had surpassed the previous longest cave - the Jenolan System - at 20.5 km. Well considering that no official figure has yet been given for the Jenolan System since it was listed as 7km then this a surprise indeed. Strong rumours confirm that those in the know put the figure at over 20km - but noone is saying by how much. Nor will it be possible to add much to the official length as the survey had been very thorough except for some very minor passages known to SUSS in Spider Cave awaiting a survey. It would be dissappointing indeed if the Jenolan System has been gazumped as claimed as the longest cvae in Australia.

So to Old Homestead goes the mantle certainly - but not all the contenders have yet weighed in!

## **EDITORIAL**

You might have noticed that at least half of this bulletin is devoted to the new SUSS Constitution an By Laws. A tremendous amount of work by the Committee went into this document and a lot of careful thought. Chris Norton is to be mentioned especially as a) drafting the new version and b) resolving the sticky business of incorporation and liability. Although these documents are by their nature pretty dry I very strongly recommend at least reading Chris' very good explanatory notes , the responsibilities of the SUSS committee, requirements of a SUSS member, how elections are held and issues voted on, and finally how SUSS official trips are conducted. Every member should at least have some working knowledge of the above.

Mark Staraj.

# OBITUARY : ROLF ADAMS

ROLF ADAMS 6/8/ 1964 - 25/4/1992

"He that leaves nothing to chance will do few things ill,  
but he will do few things."

HALIFAX

Rolf Adams is dead. He was killed in a cave diving accident in Florida. The details to date have been very sketchy and there seems to be some confusion about the manner in which he died. To many of his friends, bewildered, shocked and saddened by the news it helps to analyse all the details as they come to light, it helps to come to terms with the event. That aside, the tragically important fact is that we will never see Rolf again.

How do you express your feelings when someone who was close enough for you to assume that he would always be there, dies. How can you describe him to others. He was someone who was fun loving, easy going, enthusiastic, original and relaxed yet he could be highly motivated and driven. He was a person who strove for achievement and set his own standards. He is remembered as being very unique and unconventional. We all follow the beat of a different drummer, Rolf's beat was somewhat more uptempo than most.

You can talk about Rolf's life, his scholastic achievements, the "Booty" he scooped caving, his travels in America, Mexico and Europe. I could write pages and pages but I don't think it could do his life justice. I think it is enough that the people who knew him remember him for who he was. We all have a different memory, he was such a multifaceted individual. I know I will remember his sense of humour, his way of choosing to interpret literally things that were said for their amusement sake.

His death is a great loss to his family and friends as well as to the Caving Communities he was involved with. He was a person who I found you could not help but like and whose exploits invariably commanded respect.

We say goodbye Rolf. God speed. You go with our love. We will miss you.

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There will be a service for Rolf Adams at Mt Victoria on Saturday 16 May. I don't know all of the details at the moment but contact me closer to the date and I should know more.

Stephen Keenlyside

# TOILET BOWL PLUMBED!

## Explorer flushed with success!

DATELINE: JENOLAN

Steve McCarthy, new member of SUSS and currently residing in the vicinity of Tuglow, has revealed exclusively to the SUSS Bull that he has passed the squeeze at the bottom of the notorious 'Toilet Bowl' in Oolite Cavern, Mammoth Cave.

The exciting breakthrough in this area that has intrigued speleos from all clubs for ages was apparently made several years ago.

Steve, then an employee of Jenolan, was on a caving trip with some fellow employees into Mammoth Cave.

"I saw the squeeze and decided to pop in and have a look", he told our reporter.

"It wasn't too difficult to get in - just getting out!"

Steve reports that once past the small constriction that has blocked past explorers, he was able to continue down the steep tunnel for some distance until it ended in water.

"[Lower] River was pretty low then - lower than it is now. I don't know if you'd be able to get as far at the moment."

There is some doubt about whether Steve had in fact reached the level of Lower River (a considerable distance below the entrance to the Toilet Bowl) or whether this was some other stream.

Certainly, his report would serve to explain the Toilet Bowl's distinctive 'flushing' sound during times of flood, and the splashes made by rocks rolled down the sloping tunnel.

The Toilet Bowl has been postulated by the noted Mammoth Cave Expert Mr. Mark Staraj as a possible route to the fabled Woolly Rhinoceros.

Steve's breakthrough suggests that whilst a connection may exist, it could well be impossible for a person to navigate.

But, in the great Jenolan tradition, Mammoth explorers will not give up hope.

And now, the part you've all been waiting for...

Trip Report

## Down the Kowmung and Up the Creek

October 8-11, 1991

The advent of University Holidays meant that a Really Good Trip could be undertaken. If SUSS was going to go to Church Creek, it had to be done properly. None of this wimpish driving up Mount Armour for a short walk in - a proper walk from Kanangra was called for. When Keir Vaughan-Taylor and Sue Willis found out that this was planned, there was a moment's hesitation - but soon they plunged willingly into the fray. Despite a skiing injury, Carol Layton also announced her intent to come. So they all joined Chris Norton at Jenolan for a lazy long weekend before setting off on Tuesday morning to walk to the caves.

The initial plan was simple enough - walk to the caves on Tuesday via the Bullhead Range and Cabbage Spire and set up camp on the old Inglis selection, go caving on Wednesday, walk up the Kowmung to Orange Bluff on Thursday and sprint out up Silver Brumby Spur on Friday morning, thus combining some caving with some jolly good bushwalking in some of the prettiest scenery you'll find anywhere.

Well, the plan was for a perfectly serious trip. Whilst it approached that at times, what emerged was a closely fought competition for Silliest Event of the Trip. As the trip unfolded, all participants had made entries...but in the end, there could be only one winner.

Chris made his first showing early. Whilst descending Cabbage Spire, Keir passed him his rather bulky pack, containing most of his and Sue's food and equipment. Chris promptly dropped it, and it took off down the steep slope at an alarmingly rapid pace with Chris in hot pursuit. The pack decided to contribute to the seriousness of the situation by opening the zipper on the front of the pack, jettisoning water and fuel bottles, chocolate and a sizeable quantity of macadamia nuts. However, rather than continuing all the way down to the Kowmung, the pack was arrested by thick scrub after a short distance. The event was declared Not Too Silly, particularly because it actually helped Keir find his missing penknife.

Carol decided to make her entry soon afterwards. Upon reaching the Kowmung, she announced her intention to return to Kanangra the following morning without even glancing at the caves as she was required in court. This threat was made good the next morning. For sheer pointlessness, this was a strong entry, compounded by her injury - however, she made a serious tactical error by leaving the party and thus not being privy to the other efforts made by the party.

Carol's early departure caused us to camp further from the caves than planned - about 1km downstream from the confluence of Church Creek and the Kowmung. As dinner was produced, Sue submitted her entry, which had been prepared long before: "I haven't brought nearly enough food." This was true - a chocolate bar and a pack of figs is not enough to sustain even a normal appetite for a hard day of walking, let alone a voracious Keir. Chris tried his best to nurture his companions with snakes, chocolate jelly babies and halva, but the stomach pains remained. Things were not made easier by Keir's desire to eat more than his ration at every sitting, consequently making future meals smaller and smaller. The image remains of a plaintive figure sitting on a rock after a hard day climbing up and down the Church Creek limestone, gazing at the empty chocolate wrappers and musing "Today, all I have eaten is three Weetbix."

Wednesday morning, and Carol was off bright and early. The others rose later and set off towards Church Creek. It was a warm day, and the wildlife was out in force. Many red-bellied black snakes were spotted, two of which were twined together - "Fighting", as Keir explained.

Just as Keir was wondering whether we'd come the right way or not, his eyes lit up: "Look - limestone!" he exclaimed, gazing at imposing grey bluffs rising into the air. The party rushed towards the rocks. Sue, having performed her silly act for the trip, reverted to her sensible self and lay in a quiet corner sunbaking and playing with the lizards whilst Chris and Keir crawled over the rocks and through the scrub.

As Sue mentioned, the area was reminiscent of Yessabah, with limestone pinnacles scored with rillenkarrren towering above large cliffs laced with greenery. Also like Yessabah, the limestone was extremely sharp, and in no time Chris and Keir had scored matching holes in their trousers. Unlike Yessabah, however, the area was relatively easy to move about as it was not coated in lantana but stinging nettles and sharp prickly plants, making it merely painful to move around rather than a life-and-death struggle. Anticipating something thicker, Chris had brought the SUSS machete; however, its only use on the trip was as a shovel, thus scoring another minor silly event.

After spending all morning roaming over the limestone, only a small area had been covered with minimal success. The only caves found were untagged vertical shafts leading down between the pinnacles and down fissures, the deepest of which ran down some 15m, which were all choked with dirt and/or rocks. Keir suggested that the problem was frost shatter, with chunks breaking off the pinnacles and jamming in the tubes. Whatever the explanation, there wasn't much caving going on, so after a while the explorers headed back to meet Sue and try and find the larger Askin and Fife Caves.

After lunch, searching began on the north-eastern end of the main bluff. The efflux (CC5 - Hughes Cave) was located, and entered for about 10m by Chris, however,

its generally yukky nature (tight crawlway full of sloppy mud and pools) made traversing of the full 30m an unappetising prospect. Searching continued, and Chris found a small untagged cave in the vicinity of the main caves with a little poor decoration. This cave does not seem to correspond to any of the descriptions in the Karst Index, and contains a small (but non-blowing) lead that was not pushed.

Keir soon found Askin Cave, which he and Chris entered after Chris made his way there through a large patch of waist-high nettles. The two were singularly unimpressed by this dry cave, although one chamber contains interesting examples of palaeokarst.

On emerging from this cave, Chris soon stumbled across the entrance to Fife Cave, the only substantial cave known at Church Creek (some 640m long, according to the visitors book). Sue was summoned and the cave entered with some haste, partly to escape the threatened tick colony just inside the entrance. The ticks weren't there, however (at least not obviously) and so we continued down a series of short climbs impeded only by an irksome bat until we reached the visitors book by the streamway.

From here the cave divides into two sections, roughly described as 'upstream' and 'downstream'. Both sections contain some reasonable formation close to the entrance, but nothing approaching the show-cave standard formation mentioned in the SSS trip report of this cave's discovery. Vandalism is minimal; however, most of the formation is merely dead or naturally muddied, even in the supposedly well-decorated Dagger Chamber.

The main feature of the cave, however, is the streamway, which more than makes up for the general lack of formation. Although very small scale, some well-sculpted passageway exists, particularly in the downstream section. The water is rich in calcium carbonate, and even shallow pools are a brilliant turquoise in hue. A short distance from the entrance in both directions, the streamway becomes quite low and necessitates crawling in some places, and even squeezing to reach some extremities. The upstream section leads through several large chambers with small-scale rockfall connected by tight passages, with the stream becoming less and less evident until it is found to be filtering out of a gravel floor at the extremity of the section. The 'downstream' section is a bit of a misnomer, as shortly after the Dagger Chamber the stream is met by a second stream (dry at time of visiting) which can be followed upstream a long way. Whilst Keir explored downstream from here, Chris pushed upstream through some tight passageway (reminiscent of the Infinite Crawl in Mammoth) through dark grey, veined limestone. The gravel on the floor eventually gives way to light brown mud of thick-shake consistency, thickly coating the cave. Every 10-20m, a mud-and-rock slope emerges from the roof, suggesting an inflow point. There is a good chance that some concerted work in this section could lead to the uncovering of much more passageway and several other entrances.

Eventually, we left the cave. Despite spotting an inviting entrance high on the opposite bluff, Keir lacked the energy to climb to it - there's a limit to what you can do on three Weetbix - and so we set off for camp under a most threatening sky.

Returning by a slightly different route to avoid climbing a hill, we found we had to cross the river. Keir chose this time to make his entry in the Silliest Event of the Trip contest. As the river had carved a deep channel by the bank, Keir led us to where some logs had jammed together. Sue was not as confident as Keir. "I'll show you how," he promised, stepping onto the first log and leading her across. "Now, this bit's easy!" he announced, stepping onto the next log, which promptly gave way under his weight sending him crashing into the Kowmung with much force. The silliness of this event was compounded by the fact that Keir happened to be carrying the cave pack with everyone's clothes in it at the time. He stood rather bewildered amidst the torrents for a moment as he had bumped his head on a log. Sue and Chris fished him out and the three continued back to camp.

It didn't rain that night, as it happened, and so the next day we set off down the Kowmung. Keir's cave-finding skills led him to an old mine on the western bank at the intersection with Pippin's Gully - it consisted of a single drive that branched into two galleries, each about five metres long. We continued along, passing assorted snakes, lots of lizards, a few frogs and a couple of bushwalkers. Keir also saw an eagle.

The riverway became more constricted - and walking more difficult - as it passed through the Bulga Dennis Canyon. Some of this was bypassed by a short scramble over a saddle, where Chris made a half-hearted attempt to be silly by climbing up just a few metres to the side of a perfectly good track, involving the party in much thrashing and scrambling.

Upon reaching our campsite at Orange Bluff, we realised we had a lot of time to spare. Time for a joint entry in the silliness stakes. Keir decided that he could start a fire without matches, lighters, flints etc, and so set about making a patent aboriginal firelighting device with his penknife, taking couple of slices out of himself in the process. Then, he and Chris pulled a piece of string back and forth until promising puffs of smoke began to rise. However, try as they might, and despite many modifications to the device, nothing would convince our piece of bark to light, not even after liberal saturation with shellite. Sue, meanwhile, had been co-ordinating dinner and tent erection, and Keir abandoned his gimmicky device for the good old-fashioned piezo-electric lighter to produce a nice Keir-sized blaze. After a while, it died down enough for us to get within three metres of it, and we could cook dinner. An enjoyable evening was spent watching satellites and shooting stars. A UFO passed overhead, but we were too tired to notice it.

Friday morning, and everyone readied themselves for the dash up Silver Brumby Spur. This was accomplished with ease, and the party had soon reached Kanangra. It

looked like Keir's log exercise was a dead cert to take out the Silliness Championships. But as they say, the trip ain't over 'till you walk in the front door... Chris decided for one last shot at the title. And what a beauty! Turning a somersault is silly enough. Doing it whilst in your car is sillier. But persuading your car to somersault with you inside it is surely the height of silliness. Add to this the rather public nature of the display (in the middle of the Kanangra road), the loss of his wallet containing all his cards and ID, and the fact that this meant that he could not deliver the Club of the Year Trophy to the Sports Union in time for their Presentation Dinner, and there was no question as to who was the recipient of the award. Keir and Sue were just able to fit all the gear in...with the exception of Martin's rather grotty digging bucket, which still sits by the side of the road (sorry Martin, have to wait till another time). The Corolla now joins the Scott Cortina, the Lake Audi, the Heart of Gold and other notable machines which have given their life for SUSS.

Requise cat in pace.

Chris Norton

# Laptop sheds light on Thai caves

By VICTORIA CAMPBELL

A DAMP and dark cave may not be the ideal spot for a portable computer, but five members of the New Zealand Speleological Society put one through its paces during a recent two-month expedition to Thailand.

Under the auspices of Expedition Asia '90, the group of cavers used a SupersPort 286E laptop donated by Zenith Data Systems to plot caves and produce maps at each site.

Equipped with caving gear, the SupersPort and a Panasonic printer, the cavers travelled throughout Thailand, exploring and mapping caves in 11 areas.

They also explored caves in the north of Malaysia.

Before leaving New Zealand, the SupersPort was loaded with Smaps, software developed especially for plotting and mapping caves.

On the expedition, the cavers took measurements at regular intervals of the width,

centre, slope and estimated height of each cave.

This data was fed into the computer and processed to produce maps which could then be printed.

"Plotting the cave co-ordinates manually is a very time consuming process," the expedition's leader, Mr Ian McGregor, said.

"Using the Zenith laptop, a cave that might take an hour to plot manually could be mapped in one minute," he said.

"Creating maps on the spot gave us a visual check of our work while we were still in the area and importantly, allowed us to give instant results to locals who helped us."

The SupersPort has a VGA screen which the cavers found easy to read, even in the variable lighting.

It was also equipped with a nicad battery pack and recharging unit which was useful when the cavers travelled into areas with no power source.

## CHURCH CREEK SPECIAL

With Ian Cooper overseas and Martin Scott otherwise engaged, the SUSS Remote and Inaccessible Places Subcommittee (unofficial) seems to have been inactive of late. So it seemed to me about time that, strictly in the interests of bringing SUSS Bull readers information about as wide a variety of karst areas as possible (remember the great days of Glenrock and Duckmaloi?), someone wrote something about a Remote and Inaccessible Place. For no good reason, I chose Church Creek.

### History

The Church Creek Caves are located in a 1.2km by 0.5km outcrop of limestone on either side of Church Creek, in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. The limestone was probably first discovered as early as 1802 by Ensign Barallier, an early pioneer who attempted a crossing of the Blue Mountains through the area and was eventually stopped by what are now known as the Barallier Falls on Christy's Creek. His comment on the area was that it was very hard going for his horses and carts (!) (Visitors Book). It is unknown when the caves were first entered; however, Oliver Trickett certainly knew of the existence of one cave at Church Creek:

Near the northern end of the limestone, in the vicinity of Church Creek, is the Lyttleton Cave which, I am informed, is not particularly interesting, I did not therefore visit it. (Trickett, 1899)

Trickett considered the Church Creek area, and indeed the Billy's Creek caves nearby, part of Colong Caves and never individuated the three systems, despite the individual crops of limestone being several kilometres apart (Middleton, 1968a).

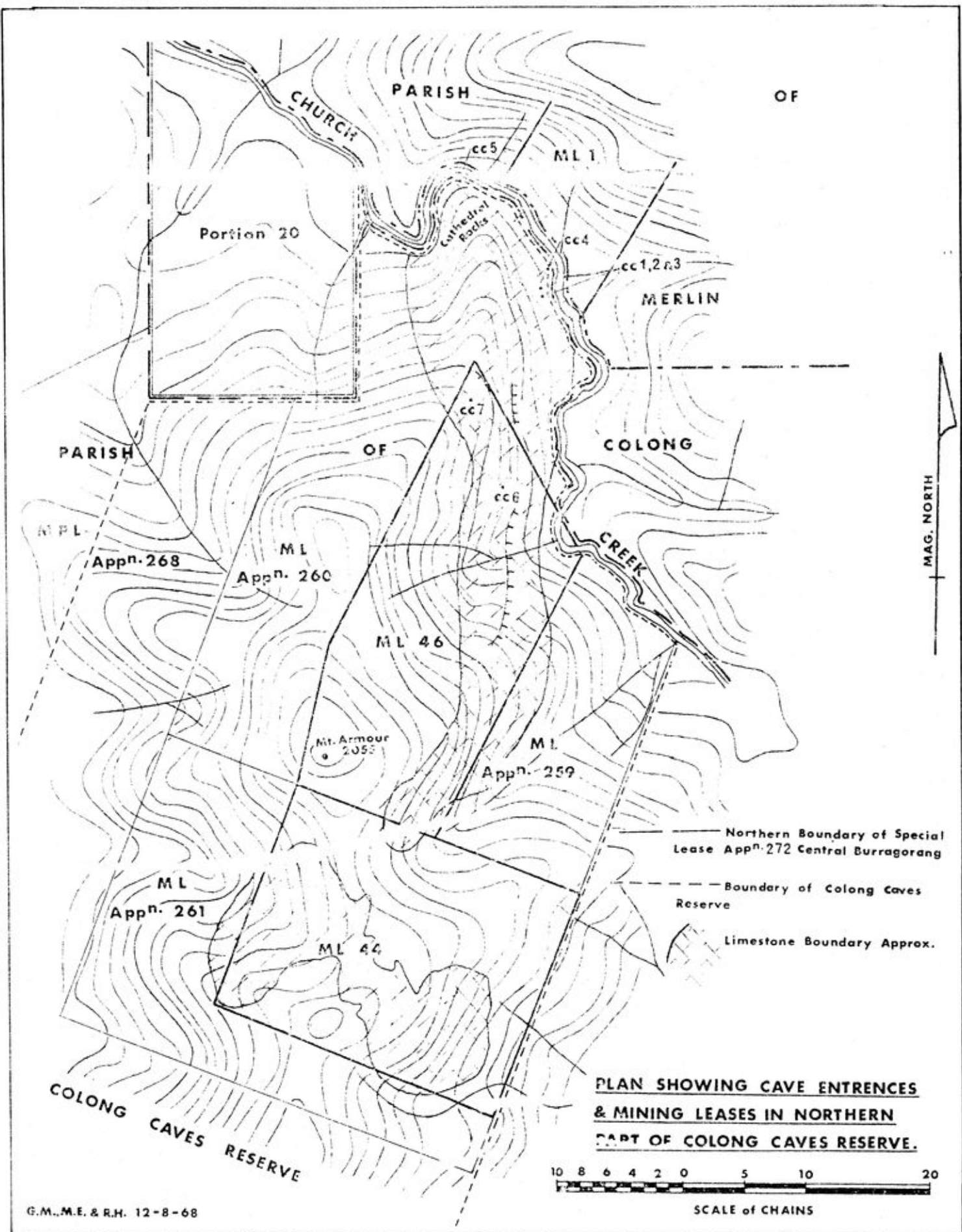
From the early part of this century, a lot of land adjacent to the limestone was purchased as a selection by John Manson and a Mr. Inglis. Eventually, a bridle trail was constructed down Blue Brush Ridge to this land, which was much used during the Kowmung Gold Rush that also saw the rise of Yerranderie. The property was traded back and forth for many years until resumed by the Crown for inclusion in the Kanangra-Boyd National Park. (Visitors Book)

Exactly when the main caves at Church Creek were discovered is uncertain. Certainly, in the depression, two cave systems were known, with descriptions roughly resembling the two main caves known today. The Lyttleton Cave was described as being some 30-50' above creek level, leading through a curved passage to a large chamber 50' wide and 200' high, with a high 'window' near the top of the passage and sparse poor formation. This seems to fit CC1-2-3 once characteristic exaggeration is taken into account. The other system, Manson Cave, was discovered by John Manson (one of the original selectors) some 50' above creek level which led down several drops to a chamber with a hollow floor. Returning with Wiburd and the constable from Yerranderie, Manson cut through the floor to find well-decorated passages and a streamway which prevented further progress (Middleton, 1968a). Two later trips in the subsequent decades by the Rover Ramblers located the cave, together with a 'window facing Church Creek'. The later trip noticed that the old entrance to the cave had collapsed and a new entrance was dug out (Visitors Book). This cave sounds very like CC4, although there is no window facing the creek in this system.

Another visitor to this area was Miles Dunphy in the late 1930s, eager to see what all the fuss was about. Unfortunately, he was unable to find the cave from Manson's information, and was left in the dark - or in the light, as the case may be. (Middleton, 1968a).

SSS conducted the first true Speleo trip to Church Creek in June 1965. After a long walk in, they spent two full days at the caves, locating about a dozen entrances; however, none of these were anything like the spectacular systems spoken about, all being vertical shafts that grew tighter and tighter before becoming impassible. (Wellings, 1965)

In the late 1960s, interest in Church Creek suddenly grew with the announcement of the intent to mine the recently granted ML46, covering a sizeable



proportion of the Church Creek deposit. In order to strengthen the case for the area's preservation, it was decided to rigorously explore the area to see exactly what speleological value Church Creek held, particularly in view of recently received information from NPWS telling of Manson's discoveries. A trip in May 1968 discovered CC1-2-3, and the subsequent trip in August 1968 discovered CC4, which was in itself much more significant than any cave that had been thought to exist at Church Creek. (Middleton, 1968a).

Greg Middleton of SSS became effectively the standard bearer for Church Creek, organising several trips of many members of SSS and other ASF societies to comb the bluffs in an exhaustive and meticulous manner. In order to maximise time at the caves, the newly constructed road to Mount Armour was used, although problems were often encountered with hostile landowners brandishing weapons who were most unreceptive to the speleos' advances. In one ugly incident, a party returned to find two of their cars had been burnt out (Middleton, 1968b).

Despite the great efforts of Middleton et.al., they only managed to turn up some 19 entrances, most of which they tagged. With the exception of CC1-2-3 (75m) and CC4 (300m with hope of extension), none of these caves were over 50m, with many being merely blind shafts and potholes. It seems that all the big discoveries may well have been made at Church Creek after all.

The seventh biennial conference of the ASF at Goolwa, SA considered the Church Creek problem. They decided on the old trick of naming the caves after politicians - in this case, the members of the NSW Askin Liberal Government. CC1-2-3 was named Askin Cave, and the impressive CC4 was named Fife Cave after the then Minister for Mines. This action gained considerable notoriety in the press. (Middleton, 1969a).

As it happened, in the end APCM(A), holders of the mining lease, decided not to mine Colong after all, in exchange for a greater share of Bungonia. According to the visitors book in Fife Cave, APCM(A) never truly intended to mine Colong, but merely wanted used this threat as a bargaining chip in order to gain more at Bungonia by putting conservationists in a tradeoff situation - but this is, of course, speculation.

Since the wide publicity gained in these years, visitation at Church Creek has increased. The main cave is currently onto its seventh visitors book since the first one was placed in the mid-seventies. The visitors book itself is excellent, giving several pages of history and listing the current surveyed length of the cave as 640m (additions to the inadequate SSS exploration being made by fairly easy pushes along the streamway). It is interesting to note that whilst the name Fife Cave is used for CC4 in the Australian Karst Index, the plaque at the mouth of the cave and the visitors book both identify it as Church Creek Cave and make no mention of the name given by SSS.

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# GOING UNDER IN TASMANIA

Guy McKanna (TL), Cheryl Aldrich and Roy Winstanley.

Tasmania is host to Australia's deepest, longest and most beautiful caves, but despite these attractions there were few takers for a venture to this State's underground wilderness late last year.

But, Cheryl and Roy dragged themselves out of semi-retirement to make sure I was not alone.

First stop was Mole Creek, host to the nation's most attractive cave - Kubla Kahn. But unfortunately this cave was off limits due to finalisation of a management study of its future use. The cave is expected to be re-opened in several months, but with limited trips to caving societies.

Unperturbed, our small team visited the well-decorated Croesus Cave. This involves a stroll along two kilometres of gentle stream passage, with the major obstacle being trying not to fall into any of the many rimstone pools.

The more sporting Lynds Cave provided entertainment during the afternoon. Roy noted that both these caves had not suffered any noticeable damage from visitors since his last trip about five years ago.

The drier and smaller Ghenghis Kahn was visited the next day to try Roy's new-fangled flash extension and photograph some of its delicate formations such as aragonite clusters, helictites and coral-encrusted stalagmites.

On departing Mole Creek, it was noted that a bush fire on the northern side of the main road revealed a number of dolines. But a lack of time prevented thorough investigation of this area.

Next stop Maydena.

Welcome Stranger was first choice. The horizontal nature of this cave is in sharp contrast to the vertical nature of most caves of Maydena, as is its surprising array of formation.

Once warmed up, we moved into Growling Swallet. The superb rainforest gave way to a stream way which rushes underground, plummeting over numerous small waterfalls. The water provides clean, solid rock which makes for a change to the mud of NSW and a thoroughly enjoyable trip to the sump at a depth of around -170m -- and all this without the need for vertical gear.

Despite taking more than 200 metres of rope, rigging and prussik gear, the team did not feel up to the challenges of a deeper, more vertical pot.

But before leaving Maydena, we did manage to inspect where the Growling streamway resurfaces, the Junee Resurgence, along with a new tourist path.

With several kilometres between the two caves and several pots up the hillside, some of the moles in SUSS may be better rewarded if they relocated their digging efforts from Jenolan to Maydena.

While no underground finds were made at Maydena, one interesting discovery was that the company APPM was itself no longer logging the area. It plans to move its administrative and support operations down the road to Boyer and use contractors at Maydena, according to townsfolk.

Our third caving stop, after not finding any significant caves while bushwalking along the rigorous Western Arthurs Range, was at Ida Bay. But with not quite enough rope for the superb final 60m drop in Midnight Hole, we opted for a tourist trip of Hastings Cave - which none of us had ever visited. Why do cavers always visit the tourist caves last?

Overall, the trip provided a sense that next year's conference in Tasmania could provide a good excuse to give up digging in the mud of Jenolan to look for more rewarding caverns in the country's southern-most state.

# THE JENOLAN MINI-FLOODS

December 1991 and January 1992

Ian Cooper

During 2 recent trips to Jenolan moderate to heavy rainfall occurred, resulting in minor flooding. The following is a summary of observations with a few ideas thrown in for good measure.

## MINI-FLOOD 1, 13/12/1991 TO 16/12/1992

This flood was the result of 4 days of continuous rain and drizzle. The relevant rainfall records from the guides' office are:

DATE	RAINFALL (mm)	AVERAGE RAINFALL INTENSITY (mm/hr)
Tuesday 10/12/1991	0	---
Wednesday 11/12/1991	21.0	0.9
Thursday 12/12/1991	17.6	0.7
Friday 13/12/1991	35.2	1.5
Saturday 14/12/1991	4.8	0.2
Sunday 15/12/1991	0.3	---

At 18:30 on Thursday 12/12/1991 Mike Hallet, Phil Manning, James Reid, and the author walked up McKeown's Valley. The Jenolan River was dry as far north as Hennings Flat. The Dillons Creek sink was taking approximately 80 l/s. No observations were made northwards of Hennings Flat. By 19:30, when we returned to Playing Fields, Dillons Creek was flowing past its sink and into the Jenolan River before quickly sinking. An unnamed tributary at upstream Playing Fields, (grid reference 2400 5476, Jenolan 8930-III-N 1:25000 topographic map), was running into the Jenolan River and sinking just downstream of the ford at Playing Fields, (see figure 1A). The maximum flow observed into this sink is estimated at 120 l/s. This situation continued throughout the 13th, 14th, and 15th but flow had stopped by 09:00 on the 16/12/1991. Subsequent trips showed that no flow had occurred in either Serpentine or Hennings but Sand Passage in Mammoth contained large pools of water with some evidence of flow into Horseshoe Cavern. Playing Fields doline remained dry.

## MINI-FLOOD 2, 7/1/1992 TO 15/1/1992

This event was mostly the result of storm activity including 2 substantial falls of hail, hence rainfall intensities were high for short periods. The rainfall records from the guides' office are as follows:-

DATE	RAINFALL (mm)	COMMENTS
Monday 6/1/1992	0	
Tuesday 7/1/1992	0.6	Cloudy and drizzle
Wednesday 8/1/1992	20.0	Average rainfall intensity: 0.8 mm/hr
Thursday 9/1/1992	19.4	Average rainfall intensity: 0.8 mm/hr
Friday 10/1/1992	14.4	Hail at 14:00 and 19:00
Saturday 11/1/1992	0	
Sunday 12/1/1992	Trace	

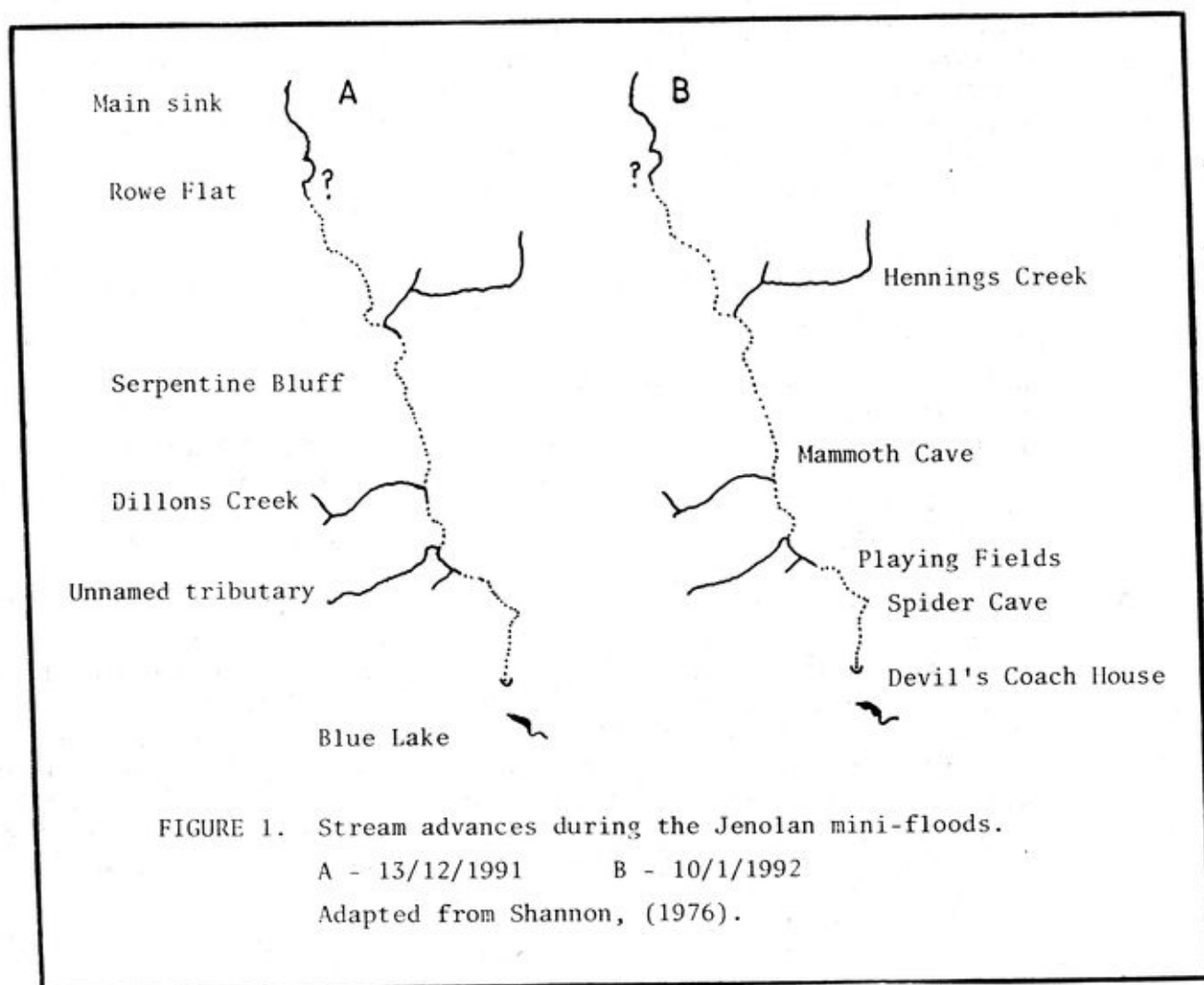
On this occasion Dillons Creek contained about half the flow of the December event and did not pass its usual sink. The unnamed tributary previously mentioned again added water to the Jenolan River. No noticeable loss of volume occurred until the sink at Playing Fields, (see figure 1B). Flow into the Playing Fields sink was first observed at 11:00 on Saturday 11/1/1992 and ceased by 09:00 on Monday 13/1/1992. For a further 2 days after this the tributary continued to flow with the water sinking gradually into the alluvium between 100m and 200m upstream of the Playing Fields ford. Again Serpentine and Hennings caves showed no signs of flooding and Playing Fields doline remained dry.

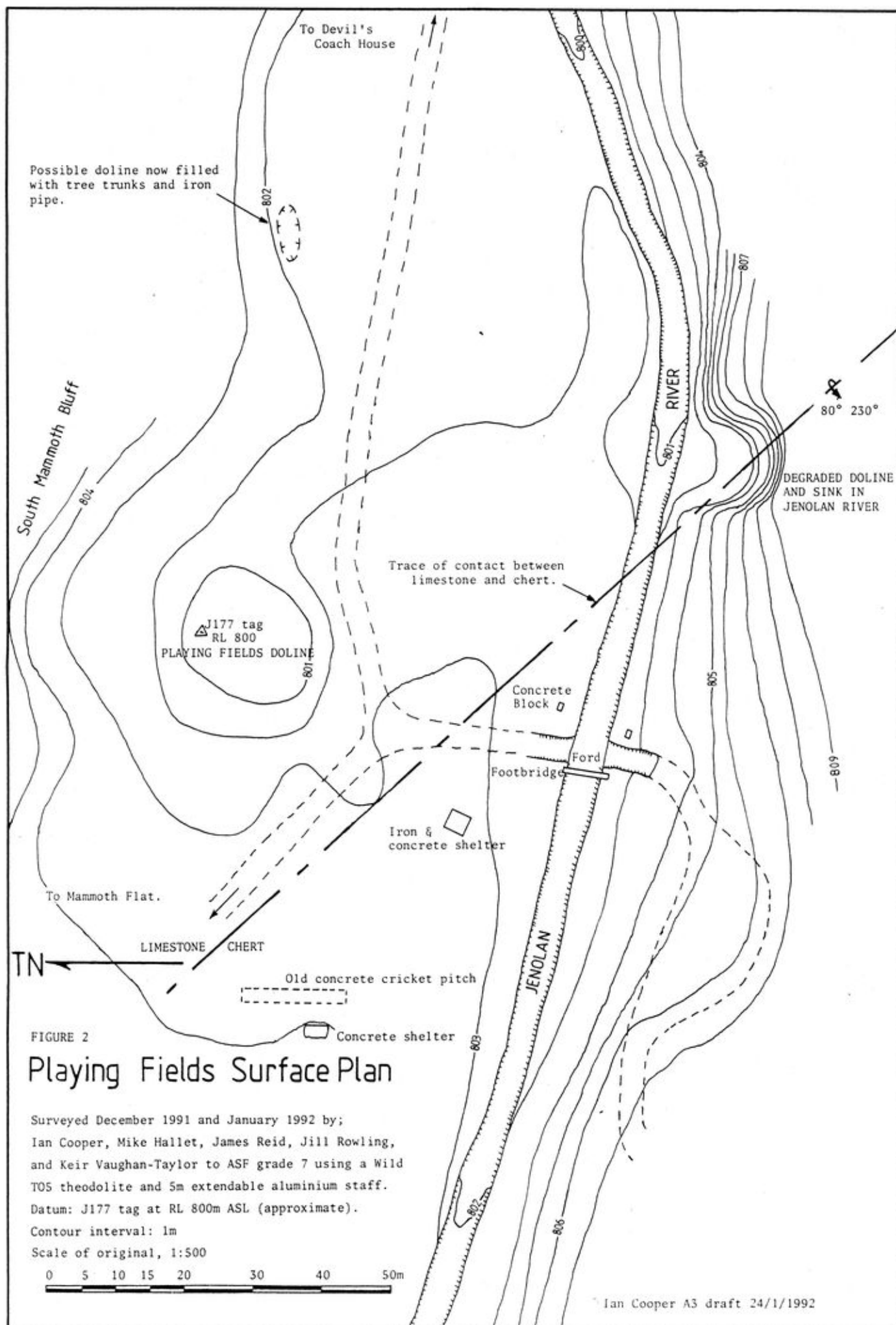
## SOME SAGE MUSINGS

The first obvious conclusion is that the capacity of the Dillons Creek sink is about 80 l/s. By comparison the capacity of Central River is around 300 l/s, (Shannon, 1976). This gives an idea of the restricted size of any cave associated with this sink. Another guide to the size of cave associated with this sink is the catchment area of the sink. Examination of the Jenolan topographic map shows the Dillons Creek catchment to cover 0.8 square kilometres, small, but big enough for negotiable cave.

An examination of the Northern Limestone book, (Welch, 1976) and the Mammoth book, (Dunkley, 1978), shows that the Dillons Creek sink lies 150m W.N.W. of the upstream sump of Lower River in Mammoth Cave. The inference from all this is that there is about 100m of small side stream passage joining the Jenolan Underground River just upstream of where it is last seen in Mammoth Cave. Since Dillons Creek is perennial this theory is easily tested by dye tracing.

The major observation from these events is that there is a sizeable sink, (capable of taking 120 l/s), 40m downstream of the ford at Playing Fields. The Jenolan River has previously been reported sinking in this location by Staraj, (1987). This sink is coincident with a degraded doline and is where the Jenolan River crosses back onto limestone after running over cherts for the previous 400m. The catchment area that drains directly into this sink, (the unnamed tributary referred to above), is 1.1 square kilometres. Of course during larger floods this sink takes water from farther up McKeown's Valley. The sink appears to be able to cope with the flood overflow from Dillons Creek as shown in stage 4 of Shannon, (1976), and as commented on by Scott, (1991). Any additional flow and the sink is overwhelmed and surface flow progresses to Spider Cave. Again the presence of this sink presents the probability of a short branch stream being encountered in or beyond the upstream sump of Spider Cave.





The small sink shown in figure 2 of Shannon, (1976), close to, but upstream of Playing Fields doline, did not take water during either flood. The author considers that this area is not a sink but a zone through which the Playing Fields alluvium is recharged. During the recent floods the alluvium was already saturated hence there was no loss of water between the unnamed tributary and the Playing Fields sink. It is true that during the waning stages of the January flood that the river was "sinking" in this area but it was doing so gradually over a distance of 100m in a manner consistent with recharge of the alluvium. Note that in both floods only 35mm of rainfall was needed over 2 days to cause this section of the Jenolan River to run.

Finally a look at Playing Fields doline. This doline covers an area of 600 square metres and is 3m deep. Survey data shows that the base of the doline is the lowest point on Playing Fields, being up to 2m lower than the bed of the Jenolan River. Playing Fields doline has long been known for its ability to fill and drain with "remarkable rapidity", (p57, Welch, 1976). Welch also contends that water levels in the doline reflect the levels of saturation of the alluvium. This appears to be true for major floods only when the river passes it's sink at Playing Fields. For lesser floods, such as those described above, the doline remains dry, even though the river is running only 50m away and 1.5m higher.

Playing Fields doline lies only 30m from the contact between limestone and cherts and I consider that Playing Fields doline was formerly a stream sink of the Jenolan river that acted in the same way as the current stream sink does. To account for the doline remaining dry during minor floods I suggest that it has some residual capacity to take water even though it is choked with alluvium. An adequate capacity for this purpose is 5 l/s which would usually be drawn directly from the alluvial storage.

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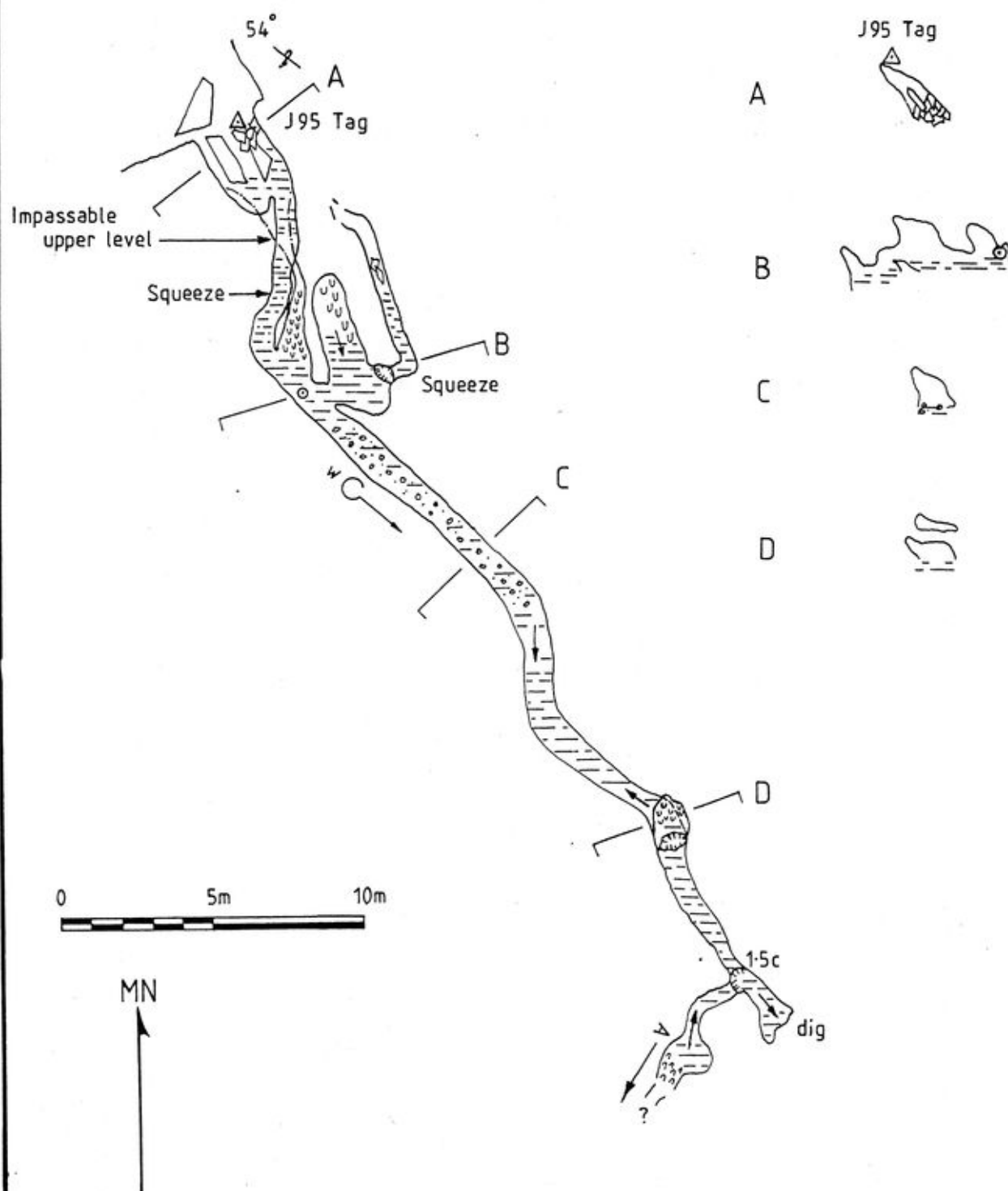
J95

KIA - ORA BLUFF, JENOLAN

LENGTH: 59m DEPTH: 5m

Surveyed 15/9/1990 using SUSS Suuntos & fibreglass tape by

I. Cooper, A. Fenton, J. Rowling to ASF grade 5.4



# J95 - MAP & SURVEY DATA

AREA: JEXOLAN, KIA - ORA BLUFF

CAVE: J95

DATE: 15/9/1990

SURVEYORS: IAN COOPER, ALLISON FENTON, JILL ROWLING

ASF GRADE: 5.4

INSTRUMENTS: SUSS SUUNTO - BY COMPASS & CLINOMETER & FIBREGLASS TAPE

STATION & COMMENTS	TAPE	COMPASS	CLINO	LEFT	RIGHT	UP	DOWN	STATION COORDINATES		
								EAST	NORTH	R.L.
1 J95 TAG				----	----	----	----	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	0.70	0	-90	----	----	----	----	0.00	0.00	-0.70
3	2.67	162	-7					0.82	-2.52	-1.03
4	1.25	16	-39	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.5	1.09	-1.59	-1.81
5	3.95	172	-10	0.7	1	0.2	0	1.63	-5.44	-2.50
6 START OF STRAIGHT TUBE	2.35	215	-11	0	1	0.1	0.3	0.30	-7.33	-2.95
7 TIP OF SHARP BEDROCK PENDANT	2.30	132	0	1	0	0.2	0.2	2.01	-8.87	-2.95
8 EDGE OF ROOF HOLLOW	10.59	133	1	1.2	0.4	0.8	0.2	9.76	-16.09	-2.76
9	3.60	177	-24	0	1.1	0	1	9.93	-19.37	-4.23
10	3.03	142	0	0.3	0.7	0	0.3	11.80	-21.76	-4.23
11	1.72	117	21	0.8	0	0.4	0.1	13.23	-22.49	-3.61
12	1.63	161	29	0.7	0.2	0	0.4	13.69	-23.84	-2.82
13 MUD SPOT, MIDDLE OF ROOF	4.42	149	1	1	0.3	0	0.5	15.97	-27.63	-2.74
14 SOUTH END OF CAVE, DIG?	2.60	161	-46	0.3	0.3	0	0.7	16.55	-29.33	-4.61
13 MUD SPOT, MIDDLE OF ROOF	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	15.97	-27.63	-2.74
15 MUD SPOT, RIGHT WALL	0.62	200	-20	-----	-----	-----	-----	15.77	-28.17	-2.95
16	2.98	222	15	0.5	0	0.5	1.8	13.84	-30.31	-2.18
17 FLATTEMER FILLED WITH FLOWSTONE	1.10	200	44	1.2	0.3	0.4	0	13.57	-31.06	-1.42
7 TIP OF SHARP BEDROCK PENDANT	-----	-----	-----	0.3	0.3	0	0.2	2.01	-8.87	-2.95
18	2.46	95	1	-----	-----	-----	-----	4.46	-9.08	-2.90
19	4.56	338	20	0.5	1	0.5	0.2	2.86	-5.11	-1.34
18	-----	-----	-----	0.6	0.2	0	0.2	4.46	-9.08	-2.90
20 LEFT SIDE OF SQUEEZE	1.60	33	-9	-----	-----	-----	-----	5.33	-7.76	-3.15
21 CONTINUES, TOO TIGHT	5.00	343	12	0	0.6	0.2	0.1	3.90	-3.06	-2.11
SURVEY LENGTH:	59.13 m			0.2	0.3	0.3	1			

# HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

## Jenolan 'Wild Adventure' Weekend

Ever wanted to go caving? Witness the grandeur and adventure of the underground without the squealing babies and coloured lightglobes? Then SUSSTours has the trip for you! Enjoy a full long weekend mixing high-adrenalin adventure with true hedonism. Our easygoing schedule caters for all age levels and abilities - nothing beyond the capabilities of your average citizen. For your information, we print below a sample itinerary that is representative of what you may expect on a SUSSTours weekend:

### Participants

Pat (Barrister & Man-About-Bar)      Michelle (Pat-Tamer)  
Marcia (Publicist & Journo)      Ron (Technician & Water-Baby)  
Sue (Doctor & Resourceful Person)      Keir (Boffin & Professional Litigant)  
Kaye (Balmain supporter & Brendon-Tamer)  
Brendon (Eccentric engineer - for those who like Rococo-style bridges)  
Steve T (Engineering student - for those who like thinking about bridges)  
Steve K (Gung-ho engineer - for those who like bridges with a stunt-jump gap)  
Steve McC. (Resident of Tuglow)      Carol (Teacher & Everyone-Tamer)  
Kevin (Guide & thus to be treated with great respect)  
Chris (Author & thus immune from such insulting categorisations)

### Saturday October 5

10:30 AM: Advance party of Chris and Steve T. arrive at the luxuriously appointed Caver's Cottage (all mod.cons, 240v, garage, close to caves) and set to work doing all the boring things before everyone else arrives, such as:  
12:00 PM: Chris and Steve T. enter Rho Hole and remove digging bucket.  
2:00 PM: Chris and Steve T. enter Frenchman's Cave and clean dirty flowstone noticed September 90.  
4:15 PM: Chris and Steve T. climb hill above Frenchman's and are shocked to discover the fence at the top has been electrified.  
4:30 PM: Chris and Steve T. return to Caver's Cottage, have dinner and play card games.  
7:00 PM: Chris and Steve T. run out of card games and begin building card houses.  
8:00 PM: Carol and Steve K. arrive and describe a new card game. Some port is produced and much fun is had.  
12:00 PM: Brendon and Kaye arrive, complete with surf ski, seeking refuge from 'Westies' encountered at Upper Colo. Safe passage guaranteed. All go to bed.

## Sunday October 6

7:30 AM: Steve McC. arrives having driven post-haste from Tuglow in case the cavers wake up early and leave without him.

9:30 AM: Cavers wake up.

10:30 AM: Cavers finish fifth cup of coffee. Going caving is mentioned.

11:00 AM: Cavers decide they should really do something. They finish eighth cup of coffee and begin organising themselves.

11:05 AM: Pat and Michelle arrive. Cavers go inside again for a welcoming cup of coffee or three.

12:00 AM: WILD ADVENTURE CAVING: Ron and Marcia arrive and set off to Spider Cave. Chris, Steves T and McC, Brendon, Kaye and Kevin enter Mammoth Cave. They investigate Lower River, Oolite Cavern and Railway Tunnel. Carol and Steve K. poke around the entrance chamber of Mammoth. Pat and Michelle set out for Lower River but are beset by injury crossing Mammoth Flat and content themselves with joining Carol and Steve K.

4:00 PM: EVEN WILDER ADVENTURE CAVING: Kevin leads Chris & Steves T. and McC. into Playing Fields Cave. Brendon wisely decides to leave upon seeing foul-smelling liquid (blood-stained urine?) in entrance chamber. After lengthy exploration and much grunting and straining, lead discovered in Easter 1990 is pushed and passed, only to end in tight rockpile. Chris declares that PF Cave is dead as a Mammoth, no matter what a certain Mr. Staraj may think.

5:30 PM: Cavers stagger uphill from PF cave, dodging the electric fence.

6:00 PM: Cavers begin to cook dinner. Game of Giant Twister ensues in kitchen ("Left hand on fridge, right foot on frypan...").

8:00 PM: WILD ADVENTURE DRINKING - Cavers adjourn to Caves House Bar.

9:30 PM: Cavers stagger into Devils Coachhouse for impromptu singing performance by Domino. Coachhouse already occupied by unusual types playing strange swirly music on keyboards in the darkness, dancing on rocks and giggling a lot. Domino valiantly battles them for a few songs and they declare a truce.

12:00 PM: Cavers retire in preparation for a really active day tomorrow - promise.

## Monday October 7

9:30 AM: Cavers wake up and put the kettle on.

9:35 AM: WILD ADVENTURE COFFEE DRINKING

10:30 AM: Ron, Marcia, Steve K. and Carol set off for Kanangra for really wild things.

12:00 AM: Cavers decide they should really do something. They begin organising themselves for a push trip into Spider.

12:02 AM: Keir and Sue arrive. They are invited in for coffee.

12:05 AM: MORE WILD ADVENTURE COFFEE DRINKING

2:00 PM: Cavers decide they should really do something, and realise that it's perhaps a bit late to push Spider. Pat, Keir, Brendon, Kay, Steve T. and Chris wander up McKeown's Valley to check a lead of Keir's near Maiden Cave.

2:45 PM: REALLY, TRULY WILD ADVENTURE CAVING - Chris is stuffed into Keir's lead.

2:46 PM: Chris pronounces Keir's lead useless. It is a very tight cave about 6m long. Cave is christened "Starry Surprise".

2:55 PM: Chris finally manages to extract himself from Keir's lead.

2:56 PM: Brendon enters Maiden Cave for reconnaissance.

2:56:30 PM: Brendon exits Maiden Cave as he does not possess a ladder. He begins putting strange hoops into the ground on Hennings Flat.

3:00 PM: WILD ADVENTURE CROQUET - Donning caving gear, the cavers commence "one of the most aggressive games known to mankind" whilst sipping champagne.

5:30 PM: Brendon wins Croquet.

5:45 PM: WILD ADVENTURE DERIGGING - Chris and Steve T. enter Mammoth Cave at express speed to retrieve ladder left down 40'.

5:50 PM: Chris and Steve T. exit Mammoth Cave after the World's Quickest Mammoth Trip.

6:20 PM: Cavers return to Cavers Cottage to meet Steve K., whose lifeless vehicle has just been deposited in No.2 Carpark after a tow from Kanangra. He gets a lift back with Ron and Marcia. All but Chris, Keir, Sue and Carol depart to Sydney.

7:00 PM: WILD ADVENTURE COFFEE DRINKING

9:00 PM: WILD ADVENTURE CAR REPAIRS - Keir tries to nurse Steve K's car back to health. He decides it is very sick indeed and is in dire need of a tow.

10:00 PM: WILD ADVENTURE DREAMING - Bed (at last).

All specialist equipment provided except coffee. Would-be participants should note that this tour is not for those with intolerance of either caffeine or indolence. Wild Adventure activities are carried out under supervision from trained experts and should not be attempted at home or without a safety net (especially Wild Adventure Croquet).

Chris Norton

A three-year impasse over the future of Australia's largest cave system is soon to be resolved after testing the environmental credentials of the Keating-led federal government. The decision will also be the first indication of what kind of cooperation can be expected between the federal Labor government and the two-month-old Tasmanian Liberal government.

At issue is whether an 80-year-old limestone quarry in southern Tasmania should be closed because blasting and drilling is damaging the 17km-long Exit Cave, parts of which have yet to be explored and may lie under the quarry.

**Wilderness:** Eighty years ago, the quarry was dug in the middle of the wilderness. That wilderness was declared a world heritage area in December 1989. A year ago, the land around the quarry was made a national park. And so it became an industrial enclave in a mining no-go area.

The Exit Cave, which has long passages that break into cathedral-sized chambers, was listed as a world heritage area because of its rare fauna, including glowworms, and geological features described as being on a "grand scale".

Since the listing, which gave the federal government a reason to become involved, pressure has built from conservationists and cavers for the quarry to close. The historic Franklin Dam decision has already provided the government with the ability, even an obligation, to close the quarry if it were adversely affecting the terms of the listing.

Quarry operator Ray Benders describes the listing and subsequent attention as a "running sore". He has quarried limestone for Pasminco's big zinc refinery at Risdon near Hobart and for Huon Valley apple orchardists for 16 years, but the festering issue came to a head last year because he had to expand the quarry another 20 metres into the forest to supply more high-grade stone to Risdon.

"What I have said is that if we are materially damaging the Exit Cave, I'd close it myself... but no damage apart from a bit of turbidity [dirtying of the river running through the cave] has occurred," Benders says. "My problem is how emotive the issue has become. Until listing, nobody ever said anything about the quarry."

Now a lot of people and bodies are having something to say about its effect on

# Caving in to pressure

*Where there is limestone there are caves, which is the crux of a landmark dispute about to be settled in Tasmania. Andrew Fisher reports*



The limestone quarry in question: decision on future within weeks

the Exit Cave. According to a leaked Tasmanian Department of the Environment report, the federal Department of Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories believes even a new environment management plan would not protect the cave system. It says the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service favours relocating the quarry and the Australian Heritage Commission believes the quarry is having "a significant adverse effect".

All those departments advise federal Environment Minister Ros Kelly, who said last week that if the criteria by which the caves were world heritage-listed were adversely affected by the quarry, she would act to close it down.

**Leaked memo:** In Tasmania, the Environment Department says the cave system is being adversely affected; even the acting director of mines, Rod Hargraves, wrote a memo - later leaked - that said no one could contemplate a quarry continuing to exist in a world heritage area.

Kelly has told state Environment Minister John Cleary that she will approach Prime Minister Paul Keating regarding compensation for the quarry operator, estimated to run as high as \$5 million for a total closedown. Already, \$200,000 in federal compensation has been paid to

stop Benders' five-man workforce from mining new benches.

After remarkable cooperation between the two governments, it is the question of compensation that has snagged the issue. Despite conceding a number of times that it had a moral obligation to pay compensation, Canberra has got bogged down in deciding how little or how much. One suggestion was that compensation be drawn from world heritage funds that would normally be spent on the south-west wilderness. But this would bankrupt the area of federal funding for years.

The Wilderness Society (TWS), which is pressing for the quarry's closure, believes compensation should not be paid. "This is the first issue where Keating may have to override a state government," says TWS campaigner Bob Burton. He says that in light of the federal government's continuing support for resource security, the conservation movement is keeping a close watch on the federal attitude.

**Issue:** Although closing the quarry was part of the Labor-Green accord that gave Labor government in 1989, then Tasmanian Premier Michael Field

could not bring himself to close it. It was one of the many issues that destroyed the unique relationship. Labor would not move because it did not want to give another indication that it was anti-jobs and dictated to by the Greens.

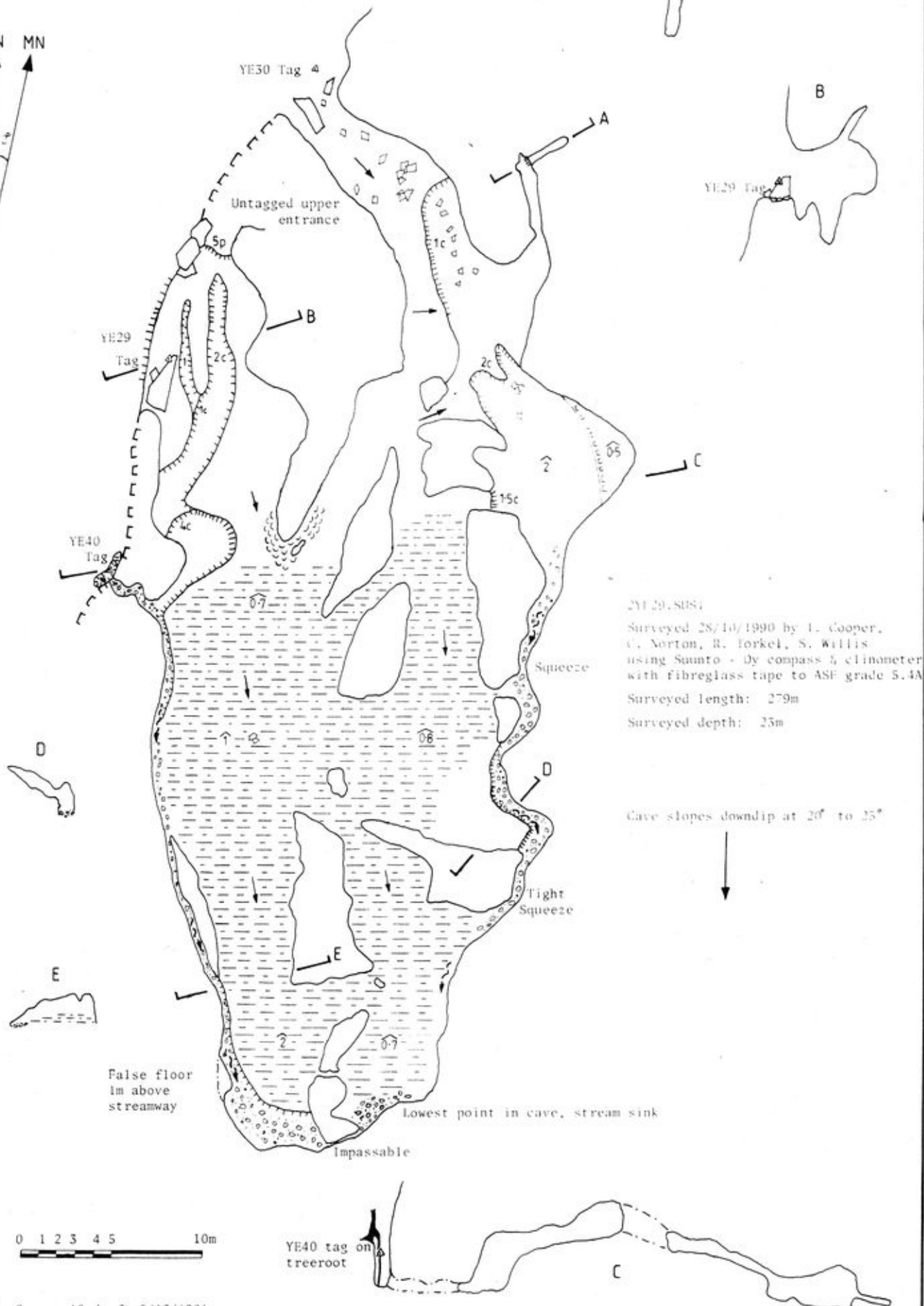
Now the Liberal Party, painted as environmental vandals in the latest state election campaign, may oversee a closure. Although the Liberals say they do not want to close the quarry, there is a feeling that it is a question of *if*, not *when*. Meanwhile the Mines Department has been instructed to speed up a search for an alternative limestone source for Benders.

But Cleary says the state will not countenance paying any compensation and would prefer to see the quarry relocated with no loss of jobs. He will not support the closure unless an alternative is found. He points to what he says is a simple fact - that where limestone occurs, so do cave systems, and there is no guarantee that any alternative area will not interfere with a cave system.

With a decision expected within weeks, the issue reveals a new relationship between the federal and Tasmanian governments - after the running feud that was a hallmark of the previous Gray Liberal and Hawke governments. ■

# YE29/30/40 DEEP SLIDE CAVE

YESSABAH N.S.W.



2YI 29, 30, 40

Surveyed 28/10/1990 by I. Cooper, C. Norton, R. Forkel, S. Willis using Suunto - Dy compass & clinometer with fibreglass tape to ASF grade 5.4A

Surveyed length: 279m

Surveyed depth: 23m

Cave slopes down dip at 20° to 25°

# DEEP SLIDE CAVE - MAP & SURVEY DATA

AREA:	VESSEMAN MSM		CAVE:		DEEP SLIDE CAVE (VE29/30/40)		DATE: 28/9/1990		AST SURVEY GRADE: 5.40								
INSTRUMENTS: SUUNTO - DY COMPASS & CLINOMETER & FIBREGLASS TAPE							SURVEYORS: I. COOPER, C. MORTON, R. TORRELL, S. WILLIS										
STATION	TAPE	COMPASS	CLINO.	PLAN LENGTH	EAST	CHANGE IN:- NORTH	HEIGHT	BOMDITCH LOOP CORRECTIONS	LEFT	RIGHT	UP	DOWN	STATION COORDINATES				
								EAST	NORTH	HEIGHT			EAST	NORTH	R.L.		
VE29 TAG	4.27	84	-9	4.217	4.194	0.441	-0.668	-0.021	0.009	0.022	6	3	1.5	2	0.00	0.00	0.00
815	8.57	192	-20	8.053	-1.674	-7.877	-2.931	-0.042	0.018	0.044	5/0	15/6	1/1	1.6/1.6	4.17	0.45	-0.65
816	5.43	119	-45	3.840	3.358	-1.861	-3.840	-0.026	0.011	0.028	6/10	1.8/2	0/2	5.5/0.5	2.46	-7.41	-3.53
817	3.27	219	-12	3.199	-2.013	-2.486	-0.680	-0.016	0.007	0.017	0.6/0	4/2	5/0.5	0.4/5	5.79	-9.26	-7.35
818	2.72	227	-30.5	2.344	-1.714	-1.598	-1.381	-0.013	0.006	0.014	0.2/3	1.2/1	1.4/2	1.1/1.2	3.76	-11.74	-8.01
819	5.55	85	46	3.855	3.841	0.336	3.992	-0.027	0.011	0.028	0.4/1.3	5/5	0.6/0.4	0.1/0.1	2.03	-13.33	-9.38
822 ON ROOF	21.59	164	-21	20.156	5.556	-19.375	-7.737	-0.105	0.045	0.110	6/4	12/1	0/0	0.9/0.9	5.85	-12.98	-5.36
823	10.47	80	-19.5	9.869	9.720	1.714	-3.495	-0.051	0.022	0.053	2.5/25	1.5/12	0.5/0	1.5/1.2	11.30	-32.31	-12.98
825	3.64	9	11	3.573	0.559	3.529	0.695	-0.018	0.008	0.018	15/5.5	10/1.5	0/0	0.4/0.4	20.97	-30.58	-16.42
829	4.11	54	-13	4.005	3.240	2.354	-0.925	-0.020	0.008	0.021	15/2.5	2/1.5	0/0	0.4/0.4	21.51	-27.04	-15.71
830	4.13	4	15	3.989	0.278	3.980	1.069	-0.020	0.009	0.021	0.3/0.3	0/0.2	0.6/0.6	0.1/0.1	24.73	-24.68	-16.62
831	3.04	283	31	2.606	-2.539	0.586	1.566	-0.015	0.006	0.015	3/1.5	1/1	0/0	0.8/0.8	24.99	-20.69	-15.53
832	13.58	335	25	12.308	-5.201	11.155	5.739	-0.066	0.028	0.069	2.8/4	3.2/1.3	0/0	0.7/0.7	22.43	-20.10	-13.94
833	4.92	16	9	4.859	1.339	4.671	0.770	-0.024	0.010	0.025	2/3.3	2.8/2.3	0.5/0.6	1.7/1.1	17.16	-8.92	-8.14
834	4.35	65	-25.5	3.926	3.558	1.659	-1.873	-0.021	0.009	0.022	2.5/12	6/1.3	0.1/0.2	0.3/0.2	18.48	-4.24	-7.34
835	10.71	314	29.5	9.322	-6.705	6.475	5.274	-0.052	0.022	0.054	15/2	5/11	0.8/0.4	0.7/0.3	22.02	-2.57	-9.19
836	5.89	217	17	5.633	-3.390	-4.498	1.722	-0.029	0.012	0.030	12/3.5	5/17	2.6/1.7	1.4/0.5	15.26	3.93	-3.86
841	6.28	194	-21	5.863	-1.418	-5.689	-2.251	-0.031	0.013	0.032	0.6/0.7	3/4.5	0/0	1.3/1.3	11.84	-0.56	-2.11
842	5.88	201	-1	5.879	-2.107	-5.489	-0.103	-0.029	0.012	0.030	0.8/0.9	5/4	0.6/0.7	0/0.2	10.39	-6.23	-4.33
843	17.60	327	18	16.739	-9.116	14.038	5.439	-0.086	0.036	0.089	2.5/7.5	6/5.5	0/0	0.8/0.6	8.26	-11.71	-4.40
847 ENTRANCE RIM	2.80	158	-24	2.558	0.958	-2.372	-1.139	-0.014	0.006	0.014	1/5.8	4/1	0/0	1.8/2.2	-0.94	2.37	1.12
VE29 TAG	7.90	11	34	6.549	1.250	6.429	4.418	-----	-----	-----	5/2	1/5	1.5/2.5	1/1	-0.00	0.00	0.00
848 DRAUGHT HOLE											1.5	1	0	0.8	1.25	6.43	4.42

AREA:	VESSERBARK MSM	CAVE:	DEEP SLIDE CAVE (VE29/30/40)	DATE:	28/9/1990	ASF SURVEY GRADE:	5.44					
INSTRUMENTS: SUNTO - DY COMPASS & CLINOMETER & FIBREGLASS TAPE		SURVEYORS: I. COOPER, C. MORTON, R. TORKEL, S. WILLIS				PAGE 2 OF 3						
STATION	TAPE	COMPASS	CLINO.	PLAN LENGTH	EAST	CHANGE IN- NORTH	BONDITCH LOOP CORRECTIONS EAST NORTH HEIGHT	LEFT	RIGHT	UP	DOWN	STATION COORDINATES EAST NORTH R.L.
819	2.69	293	-3.5	2.685	-2.472	1.049	-0.164	0.4	5	0.6	0.1	2.03 -13.33 -9.38
820	1.25	240	28	1.104	-0.956	-0.552	0.587	2.2/2.5	0.5/1.5	0.2/0	0.5/0.6	-0.44 -12.28 -9.54
821	2.14	40	56	1.197	0.769	0.917	1.774	2/1.3	1/2.2	1.5/1	0.5/0.5	-1.39 -12.83 -8.95
VE29 TAG ON TREE												
								1	1	1	2	-0.62 -11.92 -7.18
823	9.26	162	-25	8.392	2.593	-7.982	-3.913	2.5	1.5	0	1.2	11.30 -32.31 -12.98
824								2.2	2.8	1.2	0.3	13.89 -40.30 -16.90
825	5.99	178	-21	5.592	0.195	-5.589	-2.147	1.2	8	0	0.4	20.97 -30.58 -16.42
826								3	2.5	0.1	0	21.16 -36.17 -18.57
825	6.43	214	-5	6.406	-3.582	-5.310	-0.560	4	15	0	0.4	20.97 -30.58 -16.42
827								1.8	0.4	0	0.1	17.38 -35.89 -16.99
836	17.77	318	28	15.690	-10.499	11.660	8.343	7	6	1.5	0.3	15.26 3.93 -3.86
837	1.50	350	0	1.500	-0.260	1.477	0.000	2.4/4	3/1.1	0.5/0.5	1.6/1.7	4.76 15.59 4.48
VE30 TAG												
								20	1.5	0.5	1.7	4.50 17.07 4.48
836	4.98	28	17	4.762	2.236	4.205	1.456	10	3	1.3	0.5	15.26 3.93 -3.86
838	2.76	22	-6	2.745	1.028	2.545	-0.288	8/6	1.8/2	0/0	0.6/0.6	17.50 8.13 -2.41
839	4.22	333	0	4.220	-1.916	3.760	0.000	0.6/0.8	0.8/0.2	0.5/0.4	0.5/0.7	18.52 10.68 -2.70
840								0.1	0.6	2.5	0.3	16.61 14.44 -2.70

AREA: YESSABAH MSW

CAVE: DEEP SLIDE CAVE (YE29/30/40)

DATE: 28/9/1990

ASF SURVEY GRADE: 5.44

**INSTRUMENTS: SUUNTO - DY COMPASS & CLINOMETER & FIBREGLASS TAPE**

**SURVEYORS: I. COOPER, C. MORTON, R. TORKEL, S. WILLIS**

PAGE 3 OF 3

[illegible]STATION COORDINATES  
EAST NORTH R.L..

ADJUDICATES  
R.L.

[illegible]

	1/3.3	0/4.3	0/10/0.0	0/30/0.4	0.04	-10.00	-1.00
894							
9.87	124	-24.5	8.981	7.446	-5.022	-4.093	0.087
					0.228	-0.070	

[illegible][illegible]

8.9/	79	-13	8.004	8.303	1.033	-2.372	0.019	0.100	-0.120	4.5/15	18/8	0/0	0.8/0.8	17.36	-16.96	-10.30
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	S/20	1.3/2.5	0.2/0.1	0.2/0.8	16.46	-4.24	-7.34
834	44.79	6.04E-7	0.47%	0.01%	0.017	0.44%	

846	352	279	-3	2.515	-3.472	0.550	-0.184	0.013	-0.048	0.036	4/4	0.8/1.6	0/0	0.6/0.7	11.72	-12.21	-4.26
-----	-----	-----	----	-------	--------	-------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-----	---------	-----	---------	-------	--------	-------

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	WIND	WAVE	SEA	TEMP	WIND	WAVE	SEA	TEMP
05-10	17-00	07-9	5.0	7.0	1.0	5.7				

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/00	OPENING BALANCE	100.00	100.00
1/15/00	PAYROLL	50.00	50.00
1/20/00	RECEIVED	25.00	75.00
1/25/00	PAYROLL	50.00	25.00
1/30/00	RECEIVED	25.00	0.00
2/1/00	OPENING BALANCE	0.00	0.00
2/15/00	PAYROLL	50.00	50.00
2/20/00	RECEIVED	25.00	75.00
2/25/00	PAYROLL	50.00	25.00
2/28/00	RECEIVED	25.00	0.00
3/1/00	OPENING BALANCE	0.00	0.00
3/15/00	PAYROLL	50.00	50.00
3/20/00	RECEIVED	25.00	75.00
3/25/00	PAYROLL	50.00	25.00
3/31/00	RECEIVED	25.00	0.00

BU-8281	TIME	LENGTH	27 W60	26
-0.242	-0.635	0.194	0.707	26

845 LINK LENGTH	21.890 ■	-0.047	-0.405	0.292	0.501 ■	2.3
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846 LINK LENGTH	14.310 ■	-0.054	0.195	-0.148	0.251 ■	1.8
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# THE JENOLAN CHRISTMAS MEGA-TRIP

THURSDAY 12/12/1991 TO SUNDAY 22/12/1991

*Ian Cooper*

PRESENT: Chris Barry, Ian Cooper (T.L.), Allison Fenton, Mike Hallet, Igor Jazbec, Mike Lake, Phil Manning (USGD), Chris Norton, James Reid, Jill Rowling, John Runcie and friend, Mark Staraj, Keir Vaughan-Taylor; Sue Bonar, Max Midlen, Andy Summerskill (Wessex Cave Club)

Fog, rain, and 13 degrees, that's Jenolan in December! I arrived at the cottage mid morning with Keir arriving shortly afterwards. It was 2p.m. before Mike Hallet, James, and Phil turned up with all the geology department equipment. We quickly got down to work on Playing Fields setting up a grid and starting the surveying for geophysics search for the underground river, (high tech. dowsing). At 6.30p.m. we gave up on the work and walked up the valley looking at a flood develop, (see "Jenolan Mini-Floods" article).

The next 2 days were spent surveying, taking magnetic, gravity and radiometric readings in the rain. Keir left Friday afternoon and Mike Lake and Jill arrived for the weekend. Mike was there with Jon Bonwick to teach the guides how to cave while Jill helped me survey. Saturday afternoon the geophysics team returned to Sydney and Sue, Max, and Andy from the Mendips arrived. Sunday the poms went out to Kanangra to experience the Australian bush while Jill and I looked at J94. Mike and Jill returned to Sydney for the working week.

Monday was spent touring in Mammoth, including Mammoth Squeeze, Lower River, Oolite Cavern, and Railway Tunnel. Lower River was slightly higher than usual. Then Max and I went up the valley and had a look in Hennings and Serpentine. Just at the start of the Upper Serpentine section we found a 8cm long unpigmented flatworm. Luckily Max had a camera with him so we got a couple of photos.

Tuesday 17/12/91 and it was time to do some more to the Serpentine survey. McKeown's Hole lies directly over northern Serpentine and I considered that a connection was likely. So Sue, Max, Andy, and I started the McKeown's survey. We did the main loop through the cave then went for a tourist through Serpentine and Hennings. In particular the squeeze entrance into the final chamber of Hennings was entertaining. We arrived back at the hut to be greeted by Allison. For their last night at Jenolan we decided to expose the poms to some Australian culture with a Chinese dinner at the Oberon RSL with wonderful views of the wood chip mill.

On Wednesday, Allison and I completed the McKeown's survey and thoroughly explored every lead we could find. Allison returned to Sydney that evening and I spent Thursday morning repairing the "death rattle" in the Kingswood. Just as I was going to go visiting in Bathurst, Chris Norton arrived so we went caving instead. Chris had arrived via the tourist bus from Blackheath which he will assure you is NOT the way to go. We spent the rest of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday surveying in Serpentine and managed to accomplish a great deal including the connection of Little Canyon and Diggins Diggins via Rambling Rockpile and Worm Turns. Alas for the foreseeable future this connection will be a handshake connection at best.

Saturday morning and there was a big influx of SUSS people such as Mike and Jill Rowlingske, Mark, Igor, John, and Chris Barry. Chris Norton and I had a great deal of amusement listening to John, Chris, and friend passing through a wet 180 degree squeeze before springing an ambush. True to form Mike and Jill did not go caving till mid afternoon but made up for their slack start by exploring the northern rockpile in Spider until 9p.m. Mark and Igor explored the Upper Serpentine area and found a very promising draughting lead at the southern end. Also Mark noticed an extreme flood level that is only 0.5m lower than the J72 entrance! Saturday night and we held our own Christmas party with copious quantities of alcohol. The engineers amongst us again proved that practice makes perfect when it comes to drinking.

After a slow start Sunday morning Igor and I went surveying between Serpentine and Little Canyon. This was a bit new cave for both of us so it was slow going looking for the way on and at the side passages. But because it was new it was fun. The rest of the group went into Mammoth to generally look around. All that remained was an early departure for dinner at the Blackheath Chinese on the way home.

There are still several avens to be examined in Serpentine with the prospect of more passage to be found including the mythical 'other upper entrance' mentioned by Welch (1976), (p78). The Serpentine survey stands at 650m after this trip with another 200m to do. The McKeowns survey is 170m long so if a connection can be forced the Serpentine system would be over 1km long! Thanks to all those who helped me with the survey.

## REFERENCE

Welch, B. (Ed.) 1976. *The caves of Jenolan 2: The Northern Limestone*, 131p, SUSS.

16 - THE CANBERRA TIMES, Friday, April 3, 1992

## Cavers find bones of 3 extinct species

PERTH: Cavers have found bones or teeth of three extinct animals in a Nullarbor cave that probably was opened by an earth tremor.

One is believed to have been a small species of short-nosed kangaroo, or *stenurus*, not recorded before, and another was a koala, indicating that the area was probably once lightly forested.

The third was part of a big extinct kangaroo, or *macropus*.

All are at least 30,000 years old.

Katherine Crisp, a former teacher studying science at university, and Wendy Binks, a potter, were part of a "plane-caving" team using motorised hang-gliders to spot cave openings from the air last Easter.

Ground crews with caving equipment were then brought in to explore further.

The discoveries have not been disclosed until now.

The cave is on the Hampton Tableland, toward the South Australian border, but its exact location remains a close secret for fear someone could loot it.

The two women found most of the bones when they returned for a thorough search in September.

They took the bones to the Western Australian Museum where a palaeontologist, Dr Alex Baynes, confirmed that they were of great scientific interest.

# From the Bearpit

ASF Council Meeting, Jindabyne, January 25-26 1990

## Delegates

Mike Lake	Carol Layton	Jill Rowling
Pat Larkin	Chris Norton	Keir Vaughan-Taylor

## Guest Appearances

Ron Allum	Marcia Vagg
Steve Keenlyside	Sue Willis

Getting up at 4am, then driving helter-skelter down the Hume Highway pursued by the ragged, Harley-mounted members of the Outcasts Motorcycle Gang isn't necessarily the best way to start a long weekend. Fortunately, I only had to get up at 4am - it was Mike and Jill who dodged the flailing bike chains and beards of the two-wheeled terrors as I reclined in the back pouring large quantities of antibiotics into my mouth in an attempt to combat a raging throat infection, hoping that SUSS would not be represented by a man clutching large boxes of Kleenex and sounding as if his nose had been permanently stoppered.

With Motorhead Mike keeping the pedal firmly on the floor, we reached Jindabyne just in time to have a hurried lunch in the Golden Nugget Shopping Centre, amidst the "authentic Australiana historical display" (a wooden cart and a mysterious piece of machinery) before speeding to Conferenceville, the Jindabyne Sport and Rec Camp. We timed our arrival to perfection, pulling up just two minutes before the scheduled start. Unfortunately, the effect was ruined by the fact that half the delegates still hadn't arrived, and starting time had been put back an hour. So we sat on the grass and listened to Pat's tales of New Zealand.

## Classic Lines:

(On meeting Kip Mandeno at the bottom of the Lost World entrance pitch amidst a group of children)

Pat: When he saw my gear, he could tell I wasn't one of the schoolkids...

An innovation at this conference was the introduction of proportional representation, so that rather than each club having only one vote, regardless of size (as has been the case in the past), the larger clubs have more votes - one for each 15 members. The consequence of this is that SUSS is now one of the most powerful clubs in the ASF, with the maximum number of six votes. SUSS was also the club with the most delegates - the other clubs with six votes electing to sent one representative loaded down with proxies. SUSS's high level of involvement was commented on with approval by many delegates.

The first day was mainly spent receiving reports from the seemingly interminable number of ASF officers, which we all had to read as well. This time-consuming and rather inefficient process is likely to be replaced by the sending to all clubs of an Annual Report well in advance of the meeting, so that explanatory material can be kept to a minimum and discussion can be more meaningful and directed. Ron and Marcia appeared briefly to deliver the Cave Diving report, before disappearing to do more interesting things. The report that perhaps is of most interest to our membership is that from Julia James, telling us of the International Union of Speleology's enthusiasm to hold its 2001 conference in Australia. This would be a major event, with cavers from all over the world converging on our humble caves for several weeks of caving talks, caving films, caving slides, caving games and maybe even some caving. When the time comes, it is to be hoped that SUSS will do its bit to make this event as successful as possible.

Saturday night was Barbeque Night. Expecting a rather tough strip of what passed for steak served with a splodge of watery tomato sauce on a thin bit of white bread, we were pleasantly surprised to find chunky, tender steaks, squillions of sausages, bread rolls and an exciting range of salads, topped off with beer and cheesecake. Out on the hilltop, under the stars, fuelled by good food and freed from their inhibitions by good drink, cavers from all states and territories were united by the simple aims of getting together, meeting one another, and lobbying like mad to win the best positions on the Executive the next morning.

That night, Carol, Keir and Sue retired to a nearby camping ground where they were sleeping in a converted bus. Mike, Jill, Pat and myself were staying on site in a cabin. As we sat around conversing, we were startled to see two of the Outcasts walk through the door. Amazed, we adjusted our vision - to discern not the fearsome, lock-up-your-daughters mob we first thought, but Steve Keenlyside, accompanied by his friend Garth, in full cycling clobber. Steve was keen to know where Carol was. He was highly suspicious when we told him she was in a bus at an undisclosed location. No more information was forthcoming, however, so he and Garth settled down to a night on the couches.

Next morning, before the meeting, everyone went to the non-meetings. These were top secret meetings to work out what everyone would say at the meeting, so as not to waste the meeting's time by having to actually thrash out a position. If everyone knows their position, all they have to do is tell everyone else what their position is. Unfortunately, since everybody has decided upon a position, they then find it hard to move from that position. Deadlock occurs. The solution? Form a committee which consists of only a couple of people, thus requiring synthesis of only two or three positions rather than thirty.

This method played a great part in the outcome of two of the three major issues of the day. The first was the proposed new Code of Conservation of Ethics, which contained several worrying clauses (e.g. total bans on camping in caves (ruling out penetration dives in Cocklebidy, major overseas expeditions), use of explosives anywhere on karst (putting paid to our seismic studies at Jenolan), and publication of cave locations (effectively preventing much valuable scientific work from being published)). Fortunately, SUSS seemed to be one of the only clubs who had actually bothered to formulate a position, so through sheer persistence we managed to get pretty well all of our suggested alterations through before anyone realised what had happened.

Classic Lines:

ACKMA Delegate (A.P.Spate): Name one cave in which you have to camp.

SUSS Delegate (P.W.Larkin): Well, there's this cave in the States which happens to be about 500km long...

ACKMA Delegate: ...And they explored the entire far section of that cave without having to camp once!

SUSS Delegate (J.Rowling): Only because they dug a massive shaft down from the property above!

The second major issue was that of Caver Accreditation. What this means, in practice, is that just as you need a driver's license to drive, if full accreditation comes in, you'll need a caver's license to cave, and will have to pass some sort of 'caving test' to get it. Not many people think that this is a very good idea. The problem is that the people who think it is a good idea are the cave managers - especially those in SA, WA and Tasmania. In fact, by the end of this year, you won't be able to go into a National Parks-controlled cave in SA unless you're accredited. Obviously, horrible though it sounds, accreditation is coming whether we like it or not. And if the cavers of Australia don't get together quick smart and devise a reasonable system, one will be forced on us (or, more correctly, lots of different systems will be forced on us). The discussion went more or less this way: once everyone stated their position that accreditation was evil, they then said that nevertheless we should introduce a scheme right away. No-one, however, wanted to suggest a scheme. So, of course, a committee was formed to invent one. This committee will consist of three ASF reps, and three members of the cave management association, ACKMA. The aim will be to push for a uniform national system of accreditation, which will probably require only the accreditation of trip leaders but at various levels. Everyone shook their heads and said what a pretty pass things were coming to, but when the motion to form the committee was voted upon there were no dissenters. And when you hear Keir speaking in favour of ASF-controlled accreditation, you know the alternative must be pretty bad.

The third issue was Ida Bay and Bender's Quarry. Much has been written on this elsewhere (viz. Australian Caver 129); suffice it to say that everyone was urged to write letters to the appropriate people urging Pasminco, the company buying the limestone from the quarry, to buy the cheaper Japanese limestone instead. Whilst \$1000 was pledged from ASF funds to be put towards lobbying, there is little that ASF as a body can do - this depends on YOU! So get your pens out and write away RIGHT AWAY to the addresses published at the end of this article.

Several SUSS members received new positions in ASF. Keir Vaughan-Taylor has been appointed NSW Conservation Officer, and also is convening the NSW Speleo Council's committee on cave diving. Mike Lake, in his capacity as Safety Convenor, is one of the three ASF representatives on the accreditation committee (lucky Mike!). Pat Larkin was re-elected to the executive, and was appointed as Senior Vice-President of ASF. Congratulations to these three.

#### Classic Lines

President (L.Robinson): Pat has assured me that he is content to be vice-president and does not want the presidential position...

SUSS Delegate (C.D.Norton): "There Will Be No Challenge."

All that was left now was the final night dinner. Shunning cheap Chinese, we chose even cheaper Mexican. The local Tex Mex was closing down for the off-season, and consequently tonight everything was half-price (or, as they wrote, half-prize). Mike, Jill and Keir were sent to persuade them that they really wanted to accommodate 20 ravenous cavers; and soon we were tucking into a 3-course banquet at the modest prize of \$12:50 a head. The highlight of the meal was the traditional production of one of Rauleigh Webb's much travelled gnomes - this one, Gnomadic, was placed in the hands of the South Australians, who have promised to take him diving in Picaninnie Ponds before he is passed on to Patrick to go to Waitomo at Easter. The gnome was skilfully moved around the table, much to the frustration of Rauleigh, whose attempts to repossess it were fruitless as ever.

An exuberant night of gnome-chasing followed, which involved many ambushes and deceptions. Sight of the evening was Patrick stuffing a garden gnome down his jeans ('Is that a gnome in your pocket...?'), then later being pursued by a desperate Rauleigh clawing at the bulge in his trousers...which turned out to be a soft drink bottle. Rauleigh mooched off, muttering "I'm sleeping in Spate's bed tonight." (Spate's hirsutism being akin to that of a garden gnome is a matter which shall not be commented upon here.)

And thus we departed, gnomes in hand.

Chris Norton

# COUP D'ETAT

Present: Mark Staraj, Chris Norton, Chris Young, Warren Cole, Heather Cole, Robert Dohrn, Stuart Dohrn, Phil Cole, Martin Scott, Nick Hume, Kevin Costa, Ian Cooper.

Date: 23-24th November 1991.

## Recent Injustices

The Black April Elections. Who can forget that inglorious hour when SUSS was plunged into its blackest year yet. C. Norton, El Presidente of SUSS, was elected on the third count by one vote to the highest caver office on the mainland, arisen like some latter day speleo-christ, and an upstart graduate in LAW - Laughable Antics and Words.

My brothers and sisters - no more the grand tradition in leadership of eccentric physicists, beer swilling engineers, jeans-hawking geologists and naked computer scientists. And the rot has set in. A new Constitution, By Laws, a report on incorporation and SUSS wins a court case.

One General Meeting I heard "notwithstanding" more often than cries of "Stuff the meeting. Let's go to the Pub!". More often even than an engineer holds a glass of beer.

It was too much. I like the pub. I'm an engineer. And I failed to make president by one vote.

Something had to be done.

## The Plot

I had not wasted my time. The subject was not discouraged by a little fame. And in pursuit of a little fame he pushed little places - really little places. Methinks he may enjoy a little fix.

The SUSS Liberation Front gathered at co-conspirators Warren and Heather Cole's place. Warren, a fellow engineer, had enlisted the help of mercenaries in the form of two giant lads - his brothers-in-law. This was most satisfactory. That the two Coles, the two man mountains, myself, caving pack, food hamper for a new nation, 3 large hiking packs, caving gear for five and one large birthday cake were required to fit simultaneously into a small Corolla required a formidable feat of organisation.

The SLF celebrated its pm arrival at Jenolan with lunch and welcomed Phil to its ranks - who had unfortunately been warned of an early strike and greeted us with small arms fire.

Today was to be reconnaissance, and tomorrow there was the unanimous expectation of a tragic accident.

## Reconnaissance

The first requirement was to find and set suitable traps. The SLF mobilised and set off for Mammoth Cave. A large and complex cave with good potential for numerous accidents.

The aim was to investigate various sections of Central River. The current drought should offer some good prospects for exploration.

First stop was the First Crossing of Central River reached via the Debouchement Detour. The intention was to push passages upstream

towards the Railway Tunnel Extension. A bypass might offer easier access to this interesting area, little visited and requiring ladders or SRT.

*Comment: I held high hopes for this section. The stream had first been recorded as pushed to a sump in 1977 by G.Cox and B.Welch of SUSS. They complained of "Boulders shifted and settled all around us. Be warned it is extremely unstable." Furthermore on my very first caving trip in 1985 Rolf Adams led a push up this passage. The attempt was aborted when a rock shifted and clawed Steve Keenlyside's shoulder, partially blocking his exit.*

We split up and searched the rockpile. I followed an abandoned stream passage but it went the wrong way. Meanwhile Phil pushed upstream past a low wet bit. He soon reported no prospects. Everyone headed back but curiosity got the better of me and I went abck to where Phil had stopped at a rock choke. However in the roof to the side was a tight vertical squeeze into a small room floored in broken rock. On the far side a blocked passage led back to the river. After carefully manhandling a large rock out of the road and dropping through I shortly reached the sump. At the base of the sump on the right was an obvious low passage. The left was obscured where the wall ended in a phreatic pendant. Soon I noticed that silt I had dislodged from the ceiling was drifting from left to right. The stream obviously came from under the pendant. Whether the low passage takes water as an anabranch would be worth checking. It could redefine the base flow of Central River.

Its not certain whether the route I took was that of 1977 or 1985. It seemed from the descriptions that those pushes remained at stream level. Certainly the current route is pretty stable although it was blocked. Pretty unfortunate. We obviously had to try harder.

Returning to the troops I found dissension had set in.

Warren: "Do you remember closing the front door?"

Heather: "No! Do you?"

Warren: "No!"

Brothers-in-arms: "No!"

The Coles decided that the trip had to be shortened so that they could contact the police to check for them. Their house was in Blacktown after all.

The next stop would be the so-called "second crossing", the unofficially named second appearance of Central River on this route. This is near The Junction and is not a crossing as such.

Before this we had a quick excursion along the North West Passage as far as the Guzova and had a quick peek at the start of the Infinite Crawl. I went for a brief trip down the Overflow but stayed too high and missed the way on. We went on to Central River and had lunch at the base of the 2m waterfall.

*Comment: Just above here the passage ended in a sump that I had seen for myself in 1987. Perhaps if I explored this a little in drought conditions there might be a possibility of luring Chris into a duck under, a freak wave at the critical moment...*

The troops were not keen but I persuaded them to wait until I had taken a quick look. I crawled onwards to where the passage got smaller and the water deeper. Within a couple of metres it went around a corner to where a flake hung down to a few centimetres above the water. The submerged passage I had seen in 1987 was open! My first

attempt was disconcerting. I pushed forward and my head sank under when it deflected off the bottom of the flake. Second time no problem and a few metres further the passage opened into a small room and a 1.5m waterfall. The squeeze at the top of the waterfall proved to be sporty and earned itself the name of "The Bathtard" after a sizable basin of water past the lip that one must thrash around in while passing a very tight squeeze over a rock bridge. Once through, the passage doubled in size and veered left into the gloom. I've cracked it me thinks! Excitement at the memory of lots of blank space on the map.

"C'mon!", I yelled over the noise of the waterfalls.

Nothing.

"I've broken through!" A sudden surge of voices and splashing. They heard that!

Well I had a bit of time to check out the major lead. I stooped onwards and within 10m I reached a rockfall. A small gap showed that the passage continued as a narrow rift on the other side of a small room. The whole length of this passage had a 30cm deep pool. It was not a simple case of pulling out rocks. One large block was suspended amongst a jumble of lesser rocks. Better leave it till Chris could have a look!

I returned to The Bathtard to find backup had not arrived. Splash, splash.. "I'm not going through that!" came Warren's voice from the other side of the open sump.

Exit was made via Abusive Intrusive where Heather made a good effort of crossing the numerous deep holes - not for those afraid of heights!

#### An Unfortunate Incident

Back at the hut the news spread. Sure enough Chris Norton penned himself in for the return survey/push trip. But so did Chris Young. The dreaded Double-Headed Chris Monster. To make matters worse all of my troops defected.

And indeed the Coles had left their front door open.

Considering that the drought made the discovery possible I was keen to survey it as soon as possible. I had all the gear but the tape. And Martin Scott wouldn't give it to me. Therefore I can only offer a Grade 1 map of "Risky Business". Since then floods have returned to Eastern Australia.

Again the three of us headed north via Debouchement Detour. At the First Crossing I sent Chris to examine the sump solo. He returned, but at least he would be saturated a couple of hours more than us. As I had said, it was too stable.

After an excursion to North West Passage Chris N. explored the Overflow finding more passage than had been mapped previously and a charcoal watcher which was put back (some long forgotten Shannon experiment I suppose). Then it was back to the Junction where Chris N. explored the supposed drain for flood waters. After digging out a constriction while we ate his chocolate he pushed on to explore still more virgin passage.

Then it was time to revisit yesterdays extensions. I led the way and soon realised that I must have been either mad or overmedicated. The appeal was certainly lacking. Even so we were soon through the Bathtard and Chris N. was peering intently through the hole. All of sudden he disappeared! He was neither stuck nor had the rocks

collapsed on him. Very disappointing. But I still had another chance. I set to work trimming the top off the rock over which he had crawled. Meantime Chris vanished into the rift.

Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang said the hammer.  
Tinkle, tinkle.  
Tinkle said the rockpile.  
The chips settled. A message from afar: "It sumps at a lake!"

Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang, Bang said the hammer.  
Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle. Tinkle, tinkle.  
Tinkle, tinkle. Tinkle, tinkle.

Tinkle. Tinkle.  
???

Tinkinletinkinktinkleytink thunk thunk THUNK.

????????

I've got a belly ache said the rockpile.

GRRRRROOOOANNNN!

The largest rock sagged a few centimetres downwards while all the rest shook like a jelly around it as I watched it in dismay. Too soon!

Chris Y. and I started piling rocks under the base of the choke to stabilise it. I had to call Chris N. back before the trap misfired.

"Chris, come back. Things are a bit serious."

"Oh - okay."

Chris came back through without incident. Chris has offered the name Damocles Lake for the sump he had found. It seems to me to be quite an appropriate name. Surprisingly it took some persuasion to get Chris to lead the way to the unvisited downstream section but in no time he was out of sight. We caught up with him where the small passage opened up into a small room. Chris was extricating himself as fast as he could from a formidable looking hole where the stream disappeared. He gave a feeble excuse about some really low roofed tiny chamber full of water. I decided to give him the benefit of the doubt. I've dubbed this obstacle "The Liquidator".

After this success we decided to have a look at downstream Central Lake. Most noticable was the sound of gurgling water. In spite of exploring a couple of short passages no progress was made.

See Chris' sub-trip report for descriptions of his solo exploits. Spurred on by Martin Scott the others busily pushed and surveyed Serpentine Cave.

The goal of the trip had not been attained but nevertheless I feel it wasn't such a complete waste.

P.S. Chris, you are cordially invited to lead the survey beyond Coup De Grace... I mean D'Etat of course!

Mark Staraj.

# Some Mammoth Extensions

Sub-trip report, Jenolan, November 23-24

This report is intended only as a supplement to Mark's main report, which appears elsewhere. The purpose is to report on certain areas that Mark did not enter (sensible chap) and thus provide a fuller picture of our activities.

When you set off into Mammoth Cave with Mark Staraj you're always in for something. When you take a hammer and chisel with you, and Mark has that wicked glint in his eyes, you know that something is likely to involve lots of exertion, muddiness and wetness. What I did not realise on this occasion was how contagious his enthusiasm for exploration on this day was - with the result that, despite horror stories from the party the day before of crawling through tight water-filled passageways and total immersion in 'bathtubs', Chris Young and myself (the Double-Headed Chris Monster) found ourselves picking our way over the boulders under the Skull and Crossbones in hot pursuit of our hammer-wielding leader.

On our way to Mark's lead at the northern end of Central River just past the Junction, there were several diversions. The first was when he sent me up river from Central Lake to investigate a small sump. It was a small sump. I returned. We continued.

As I had not been past the Dry Siphon before, Mark gave me a small tour of the North-West Passage area as far as the Infinite Crawl. Whilst returning, he pointed out the entrance to the Overflow, and suggested that I go and investigate it. Already, Starajitis was taking a firm hold, and so I dived obediently into the narrow tunnel. After continuing down to the furthest extremity marked on the map (where I did not explore, being unsure of how much further the passage went on) I returned, checking out the small side tunnel marked on the map as a postulated drain from the Junction.

One thing is clear - this passage is not a drain from the Junction. It becomes thinner and narrower until it turns into a rift, which appears to lead upwards as well as continuing to the north. Calling out from here, I was able to make contact with the others, who reported my voice to be coming from a small hole in the wall in the vicinity of the drop from the Sewer Slide. There was no visible passage leading north-east.

Our attentions now turned to the passage leading south-west from the Junction, suggested in the Mammoth book to connect to the Overflow. I crawled down, and discovered that rather than being a narrow crawlway, the passage soon opened up into a large chamber some 3m or so high. To gain access to this

chamber, however, would need a little bit of digging. I returned and reported this to the others.

"Well, would you like to dig it?"

"Uh, yes."

"Well, off you go then!"

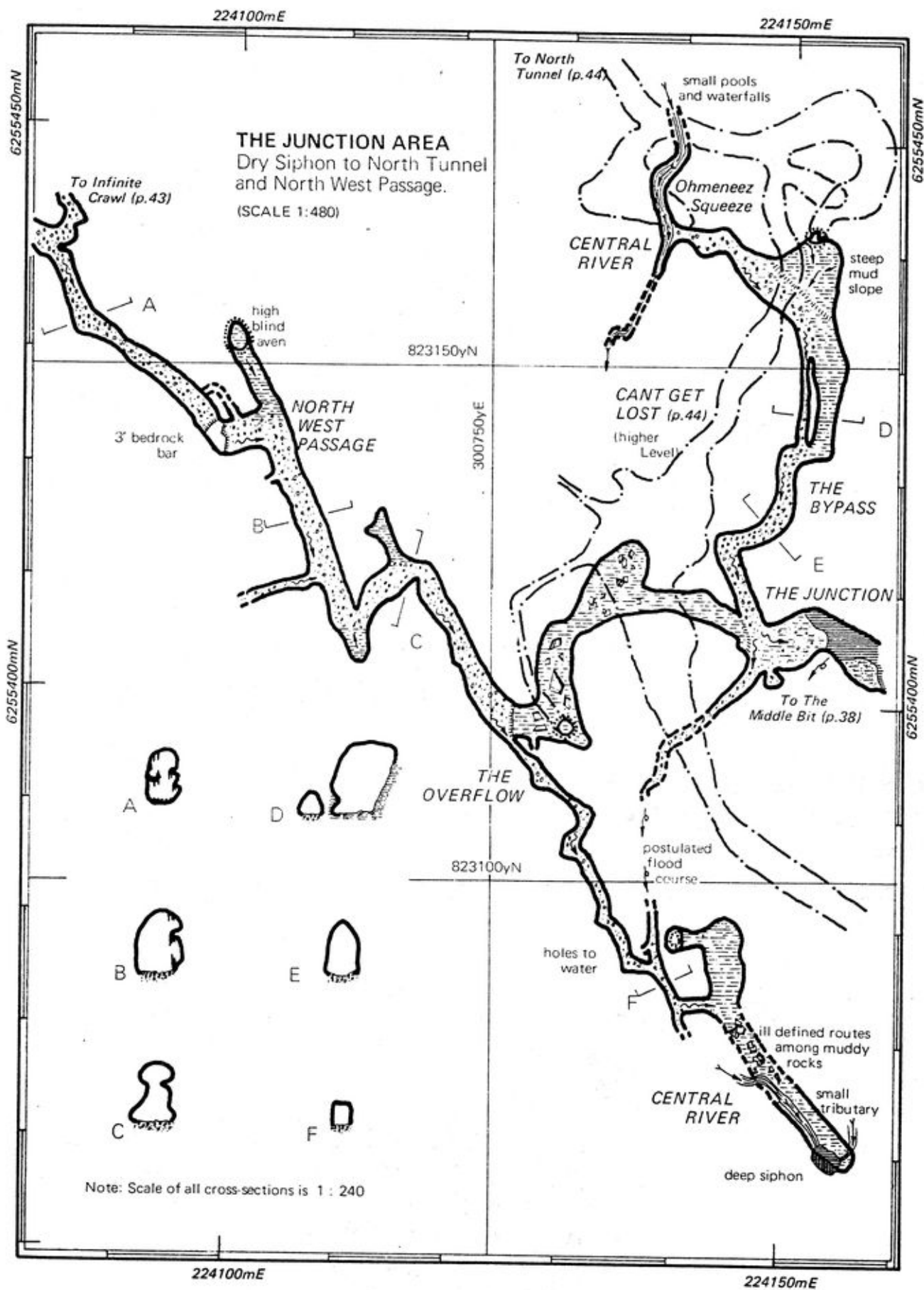
As the others unpacked the chocolate and started on an early lunch, I began the digging. It took a little longer than expected, partly because the passage was so tight at the end that before I could move dirt from the constricted part I had to dig a hole to put it in, and move that dirt somewhere else; and partly because Chris and Mark kept throwing mud at me down the tunnel.

Finally, I reached the chamber. It was liberally coated with mud, and characteristically I tackled the muddiest bit first - two chimneys leading into the roof to the South. Getting nowhere up there, I turned my attention to one of the two small tubes leading off from the chamber, this one to the west (approximately). I crawled along a twisting, draughting passageway - only to find myself popping out of the roof of a tall rift.

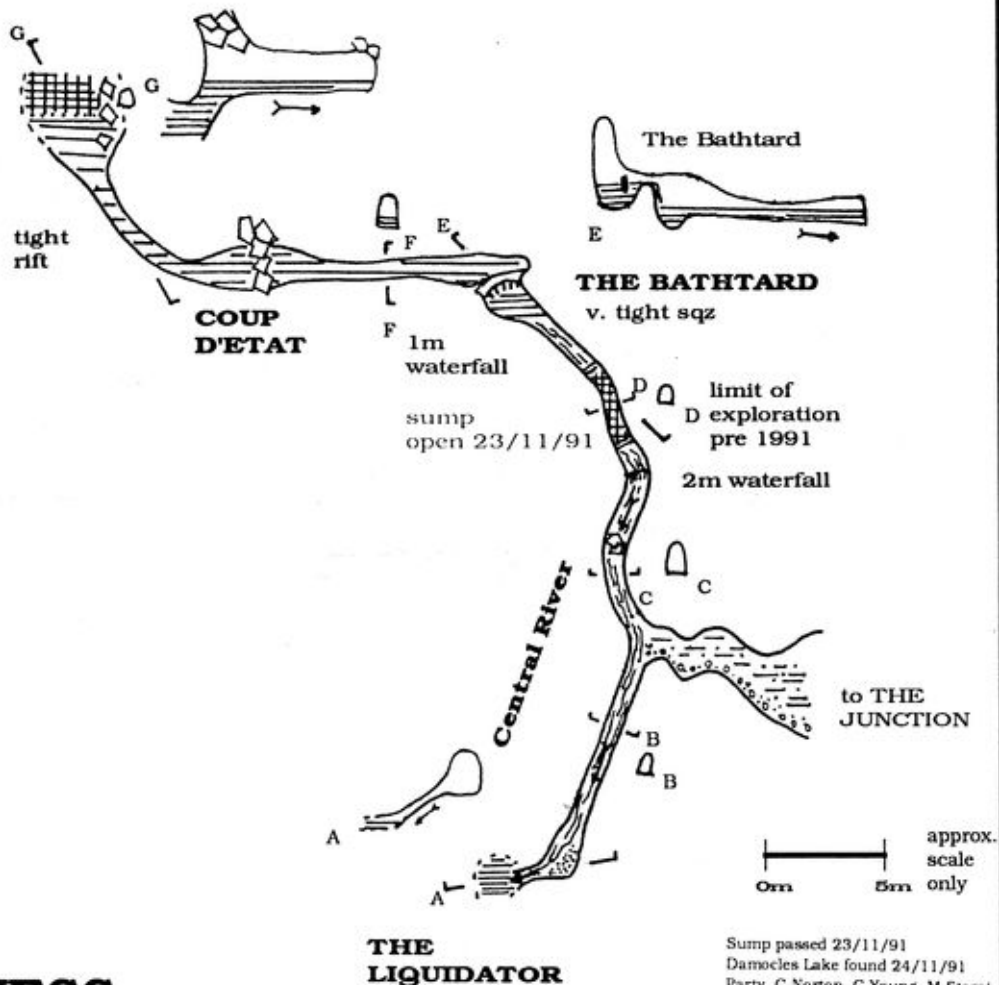
At first, this was very disappointing, as the rift looked like the Overflow. However, a little progress towards what I assumed to be the north was shortly impeded by a rockfall. Since this was likely only to lead back to known cave anyway, I headed in the other direction. I soon came through a crawlway into a tall, water-washed well of a chamber, with a small hole in the wall some 3m up. Even climbing up to this hole is quite hard work on the slippery rock (particularly when trying to tip yourself at 90° to fit yourself into a tiny chute in the wall) so climbing up into the roof is likely to be quite difficult.

Progress along the tube was extremely difficult due to its very tight nature. The only reason I persevered was that I was sure it would link up with the second hole in the wall of the first chamber - a guess which proved correct. I returned to Mark and Chris, who were just packing away the chocolate, and we continued up to Central River.

After a lunch break poised above the first waterfall, we continued along the confined and wet passages. The fact that this section was traversed at all, particularly as we were told it terminated in a very short distance, is proof of the complete control that Starajitis had assumed of our mental functions. Through a watercrawl tighter and deeper than that at Wyanbene, followed by complete immersion in the bathtub, we flopped and splashed along until we reached the rock blockage at the end. Mark pointed out a hole in the rocks, explaining that this was the window through which the river could be seen to continue. I crawled up close for a better look...closer...closer...until I suddenly popped out the other side. All three of us were rather surprised with



**DAMOCLES  
LAKE**



# **RISKY BUSINESS**

## **J13 MAMMOTH CAVE**

### **JENOLAN**

Sump passed 23/11/91  
Damocles Lake found 24/11/91  
Party C.Norton, C.Young, M.Staraj  
This draft 1/5/92  
Drawn C.Norton, M.Staraj.

ASF Grade 1,1  
S.U.S.S.

To  
North West  
Passage

↑ To Central River

The Junction

Dry  
Siphon

Discovered 24/11/91  
by C.Norton  
This draft 7/2/92  
Drawn C.Norton.

ASF Grade 1,1  
S.U.S.S.

this turn of events, and Mark immediately started work with his hammer in order to follow me.

I continued through a rather small rift through which the river flowed at the bottom, getting deeper and deeper until the rift opened out and became choked by rockpile. Under the water, my light revealed a deep pool receding under the walls, which terminated in phreatic pendants.

I contend that this discovery can be called a new lake in Mammoth. Sure, it's not huge, and certainly wouldn't warrant the tag on the surface, but it's certainly more lake-like than Central Lake, and is bigger than Grinning Monster Lake. It would certainly be worth a dive (although the thought of transporting diving gear to the site is thoroughly unappetising - much worse than Spider!). And it also needs a name. I decided to ponder that question whilst I explored the rockpile to see if there was a way past the lake.

After some scrabbling around and the shifting of several rocks, I had just about given up when I heard Mark calling me. He seemed rather keen for me to return, so I reluctantly turned back. He told me that he was a bit worried that the rockpile might not be very stable, and I should probably get out. As I began to crawl through, Mark became very solicitous - would I like to pass my light through? Would I like to be pulled? And, try not to touch that rock there, it may not be very well anchored... It was only when I was safe on the other side that he revealed to me that his frantic bashings had caused the rockpile to begin to readjust itself, and could have continued to do so at any time. One of the large rocks above the window had already moved some centimetres downwards - any further disturbance could have seen the passage sealed for good. Chris couldn't bear to watch - the thought of one of the Double-Headed Chris Monster's heads being amputated was too hideous to contemplate.

Well, with this deterrent to further exploration, it may be some time before the lake is properly explored. Still, it suggested a name for the find. Ian, Keir and Martin had scoffed at my suggestion of Damocles Cave for J-94 (due to the large boulder poised above the entrance); however, there is no reason why it should not be applied here. So, with Mark's agreement, Damocles Lake it shall be.

Despite our by-now bedraggled state, Mark led us on further explorations on the way back...but that's his story. All that should be added is that the maps that accompany this article (of the passage off the Junction and Damocles Lake) are, of course, very inaccurate, and someone is going to have to go and survey...but that will have to wait until the next outbreak of Starajitis at the cottage.

Chris Norton

# Explanatory Memorandum to the SUSS Constitution

The aim of the new SUSS Constitution (passed unanimously by the General Meeting of February 6, 1992) is really to allow SUSS to continue operating in its current successful manner. So, you may ask, why change the Constitution at all? The reason is that the practice of SUSS as it is now is different from that described in the old Constitution and By-Laws, and many of our activities have been contrary to these rules (for instance, did you know that it was forbidden to take alcohol on a trip unless permitted beforehand by the trip leader?).

What, then, is changing? Simply, the legitimacy of many of our activities. It should be noted that only those activities which are in line with our Constitution and By-Laws are recognised by the University, Sports Union and Student Union as being official activities of the Society - and it is only for such official activities that SUSS can obtain funding assistance, insurance cover and so forth. By redefining our official practice with reference to our current practice, we can be more sure of keeping within the bounds of our own self-imposed rules. The only real change in practice will be the new trip co-ordinator and supervisor system, which will be explained with the By-Laws.

What follows is a section-by-section explanation of the new Constitution as interpreted by myself. It is intended not only to help the members of today, but also to show the members of tomorrow what was intended when the Constitution was drafted. It is not intended, however, to provide an exhaustive description of the Constitution, nor to offer precise analysis and interpretation, and no person should rely solely on this explanation when making decisions that involve the Constitution.

- 
- 1) **Name**  
Gives the name of the Society.

- 2) **Aims and Objectives**  
The aims and objectives of the Society are very important as only those activities which can be shown to be fulfilling at least one of the aims and objectives can be recognised as official activities. Also, the aims and objectives show the priorities of the Society. These aims and objectives are broader than before as they refer to our interest in all natural wilderness areas (although caves and karst in particular) and implicitly includes overseas areas.

- 3) **Interpretation**  
Basically a technical provision. Note that the financial year of the Society runs from February 1-January 31.

#### 4) Membership

Note that whilst anyone is eligible for membership, persons associated with Sydney University form a separate class. This is to facilitate distinctions that need to be made between these two classes. The code of ethics, by which all members must abide, is set out in the By-Laws.

The old distinction between prospective/associate/full/subscribing members has been abolished. This served no good purpose constitutionally, and was not followed. All members of SUSS will have equal Constitutional rights.

#### 5) Setting of Annual Subscriptions

This allows the committee to determine the sum to be given as an annual subscription. It can provide discounts as it sees fit - for instance, to persons who pay their ASF subs through another club (the old class of subscribing member) or first-year University students (the old class of prospective member).

#### 6) Payment of Annual Subscriptions

All membership fees are due before the start of the AGM each year. If you haven't paid by then, you can't vote.

#### 7) Members of the Sydney University Sports Union

This section is required by SUSU as a condition of funding.

#### 8) Honorary Life Membership

It is now easier to become an HLM - previously, support of 90% rather than 75% of people voting at a meeting was needed before one could become an HLM.

If you wish to nominate someone for Honorary Life Membership, speak to the committee, who must approve the nomination. Our current HLMs are John Dunkley, Henry Shannon and Bruce Welch.

### Discipline

#### 9) & 10)

The following steps are to be taken in the case of disciplinary action being contemplated against a member:

i) Is it possible that the member has been guilty of any of the conduct set out in subsection 9)(1)? If yes, then...

ii) The committee decides to discuss the case at a committee meeting. The secretary must serve a notice on the member at least two weeks before that meeting advising of the rights given in subsection 9)(2) - that is, to speak and/or make written representations at the meeting, and to invite anyone else to speak and/or make written representations at the meeting or to help the member in making submissions.

iii) At the meeting, after hearing all representations, the committee must resolve what action to recommend against the member, if any. The action available is temporary or permanent suspension of any or all of the rights of membership. If action is recommended, then...

iv) Within one week, the secretary must inform the member in writing what action has been recommended and of the rest of the procedure; to wit:

v) At the next general meeting, the Committee's recommendation is read out to the members and voted on. A 75% majority of members voting is needed to give effect to the recommendation.

### The Committee

#### 11) Powers of the Committee

Most of these powers are general in nature. Note that the committee is empowered to appoint additional ASF counsellors in addition to the Senior Counsellor elected by the members to give effect to our proportional representation in the ASF.

12) **Constitution of the Committee**

The only change here is that the old ASF Councillor becomes Senior ASF Councillor. Provision is also made for filling of casual vacancies on the Committee at the next General Meeting.

Note that at least seven members of the committee, including the President, the President must be associated with the University in the way set out in section 4).

13) **Elections**

This procedure is set out more fully in Notes on Electoral Procedure; however it can be described briefly as follows:

- i) Outgoing president appoints electoral officer.
- ii) Nominations are called for office of President. Nominations must be seconded, and accepted by nominee, before nominee is eligible for election.
- iii) Vote held, if necessary. Electoral officer may not vote.
- iv) If no clear winner, vote is held again with only top-polling candidates standing.
- v) If no clear winner, electoral officer is allowed to vote (if electoral officer is a member).
- vi) If no clear winner, then position determined by lot.
- vii) Procedure repeated for next position on list.

Note that under normal circumstances, each person can hold only one position on the committee. The exception is when a casual vacancy is being filled and only other members of the committee are nominated for the position.

14) **Duties of Committee Members**

Set out in the By-Laws.

15) **Meetings of the Committee**

Meetings should where practicable be held at least eight times a year. All members of the committee should be given notice of a meeting at least 48 hours previously (for instance, in the Bulletin or at a general meeting). Quorum for committee meetings is five committee members.

16) **Delegation by Committee to Sub-Committee**

This section allows the committee to delegate power to a subcommittee, and provides various rules governing the operation of a subcommittee.

17) **Voting and Decisions**

A provision governing resolutions of committees and subcommittees. Note that a resolution of the committee can be overturned by a simple majority of members voting at a general meeting, provided that the secretary is advised in advance of such an attempt. This keeps the committee accountable to members at all times.

**General Meetings and Annual General Meetings**

18) **Holding of Annual General Meetings**

An AGM is to be held every year before the end of May.

19) **Calling of and Business of Annual General Meetings**

Provides administrative details dealing with the convening and conduct of the AGM.

20) **Holding of General Meetings**

Provides for general meetings to be called.

21) **Notice of Meetings**

This section specifies the various kinds of notification needed for meetings. In general, notification at the previous meeting or in the Bulletin will be sufficient; save in the case of a constitutional amendment, notice of which must be sent to each member at least 21 days in advance (although publication in the Bulletin is sufficient).

22) **Quorum**

A quorum of either fifteen members or 20% of the total financial membership of the Society (whichever is greater) must be present within an hour of the advertised start of a meeting if any business is to be dealt with. Ordinarily, of course, no business is dealt with at SUSS GMs and this provision will not prevent meetings from being held.

23) **Procedure**

Provides for the President, Vice-President or elected member to preside at the meeting.

24) **Making of Decisions**

In general decisions will be made on the basis of a show of hands; however, either the chairman or five members may call for a secret poll either before a show of hands or on declaration of the result of a show of hands.

25) **Special Resolution**

A special resolution must be passed by a majority of 75% of members. If a special resolution is to be proposed, 21 days' notice must be given to all members. Note that under section 32, the Constitution can only be altered by special resolution.

26) **Voting**

Each member of the Society has one vote only at a meeting. The chairperson of the meeting may vote, and may also exercise a second and casting vote in case of a deadlock. Voting by proxy is allowed. A person in debt to the Society cannot vote.

27) **Procedure at Annual General Meetings**

Procedure at AGMs, except for election of office bearers, is the same as at a GM.

28) **Appointment of Proxies**

If you cannot attend a meeting, you can appoint another member as your proxy by specifying in writing the member who you are appointing as proxy. Make sure the member you are appointing has this notice at the meeting for which you are appointing him your proxy.

**Finance**

29) **Funds of the Society**

This section allows SUSS to raise funds through annual subscriptions of members, subscriptions to the Bulletin, and donations. The committee may permit funds to be raised in other ways so long as the members do not disapprove of the proposed method by passing a resolution to that effect. This will allow the members to prevent the committee from embarking on any fund-raising that they feel may be detrimental to SUSS overall.

30) **Publications Fund**

Money from the sale of SUSS publications, such as the Mammoth and Northern Limestone books, is deposited in the publications fund, which is only to be used to fund SUSS publications. The committee may deposit money from any source in this account, but not remove it unless for the purpose of funding publications.

31) **Management of Funds**

The committee may permit the spending of Society funds in ways it sees fit, and authorise its members to sign cheques and other such instruments on the Society's behalf.

**Miscellaneous**

32) **Alteration of Constitution**

The Constitution is altered only by special resolution; that is, in the manner set out in section 25.

33) **Serving of Notices**

Notice is served on people by either presenting them with the notice or posting it to them.

34) **Code of Ethics**

This section requires the committee to place a Code of Ethics in the By-Laws. Such a code should be constitutionally required, as it shows members what is and is not regarded as acceptable practice by the Society; however, it should not be enshrined in the Constitution as this would make it too difficult to alter the Code to adapt to changing values in speleology.

35) **Transitional Provision**

This allows any resolutions of the Society or committee under the former Constitution to remain in force until specifically altered or rescinded.

36) **Affiliation with Other Organisations**

This section permits SUSS to affiliate with the specified organisations and amend its constitution without need for special resolution if the SUSS constitution is in conflict with an affiliation requirement. Note that this is a matter on which the committee must pass a resolution, and if members are unhappy about the committee's decision they may attempt to overturn it by the method detailed in section 17.

Chris Norton

# CONSTITUTION

## OF THE

# Sydney University

# Speleological Society

### Preliminary

#### 1) Name

The society shall be known as the Sydney University Speleological Society.

#### 2) Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be:

- (a) to unite people who are interested in the exploration, study and recording of cave systems;
- (b) to foster speleology as a science and a recreational activity;
- (c) to develop interest in, and to encourage the preservation of, natural wilderness areas in general and natural subterranean areas in particular, and to protect the karst heritage of Australia;
- (d) to co-operate with other bodies in the furtherance of these aims.

#### 3) Interpretation

In this Constitution, except insofar as the context or subject-matter otherwise indicates or requires -

"Society" means the Sydney University Speleological Society;

"member" means a member of the Society, as set out in section 5;

"committee" means the committee of the Society, as detailed in section 12;

"general meeting" means any meeting of the Society other than a committee meeting, a subcommittee meeting or an annual general meeting;

"Society financial year" refers to the period from February 1 of each calendar year to January 31 of the following calendar year.

## Membership

### 4) Qualification for Membership

A person is qualified for membership if and only if -

- (a) (i) the person is a graduate, undergraduate, or member of the staff of the University of Sydney, or
- (ii) the person is a person who does not satisfy clause 4)(a)(i); and
- (b) the person agrees to subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Society and to abide by the code of ethics of the Society.

### 5) Setting of Annual Subscriptions

- (1) At the final committee meeting before the close of each Society financial year, the committee shall determine the sum payable by a member as annual subscription.
- (2) The committee may by resolution, at the time of determining the sum payable as annual subscription, permit discounts to be allowed for any person or class of persons the committee sees fit.

### 6) Payment of Annual Subscriptions

- (1) A member of the Society shall pay to the Society an annual subscription as determined under paragraph 5)(1) before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting in that financial year.
- (2) Any member not complying with paragraph (1) will be deemed to have resigned from the Society.

### 7) Members of the Sydney University Sports Union

Notwithstanding section 6) above, a member of the Sydney University Sports Union is entitled to membership of the Society without complying with paragraph 6)(1).

### 8) Honorary Life Membership

- (1) A person whom the Society decides to honour may be nominated as an Honorary Life Member of the Society by resolution of the committee.
- (2) A person will become an Honorary Life Member of the Society if the committee's nomination is supported by at least 75% of members voting at a general meeting.
- (3) Only a person satisfying section 4 may be nominated as an Honorary Life Member of the Society.

- (4) Section 6 does not apply to Honorary Life Members of the Society.

#### Discipline

##### 9) Recommendation of the Committee

(1) Where the committee is of the opinion that a member:

- (a) has allegedly breached the Constitution, By-Laws and/or Code of Ethics of the Society; or
- (b) has allegedly engaged in conduct prejudicial to any aims of the Society; or
- (c) has allegedly caused deliberate or reckless damage to Society equipment; or
- (d) has allegedly been guilty of conduct which may reflect unfavourably upon the Society; then -

the committee may call upon that member at a committee meeting to show cause why he should not be recommended for temporary or permanent suspension of any or all of the rights and privileges of membership of the Society.

(2) The committee has the right at a committee meeting to resolve to recommend the expulsion of a member or suspension or temporary or permanent suspension of any or all of the rights and privileges of membership of the Society for disciplinary purposes, provided that the secretary has caused a notice in writing to be served on the member setting out the nature of the allegations against that person at least 14 days before the meeting at which such a resolution is proposed, informing the member that the member may do any or all of the following:

- (i) attend and speak at that meeting;
- (ii) invite any person or persons who may assist the member in making submissions to the committee concerning the proposed resolution;
- (iii) submit to the committee at or prior to the date of that meeting written representations concerning the proposed resolution;
- (iv) invite any person or persons to submit to the committee at or prior to the date of that meeting written representations concerning the proposed resolution

(3) At any committee meeting considering a resolution under paragraph (2), the committee shall:

- (a) give to the member an opportunity to make oral representations concerning the proposed resolution;
  - (b) give to any person or persons at that meeting an opportunity to make oral representations concerning the proposed resolution;
  - (c) give due consideration to any written representations submitted to the committee by the member or another person concerning the proposed resolution at or prior to the meeting; and
  - (d) resolve whether or not to make recommendations in accordance with paragraph (2).
- (4) Where the committee makes a recommendation under paragraphs (2) and (3), the secretary shall, within 7 days after that recommendation is made, by notice in writing inform the member of the recommendation and of the provisions of section 10.

10) **Approval by General Meeting**

- (1) At the first general meeting after a recommendation under section 9 is made, the recommendation will be read to the general meeting and voted on by the members there present.
- (2) A recommendation under section 9 must be carried by a 75% majority of members present to be accepted.

**The Committee**

11) **Powers of the Committee**

The committee shall be called the Society Committee and subject to this Constitution and the Society By-Laws -

- (a) shall control and manage the affairs of the Society;
- (b) may exercise all such functions as may be exercised by the Society other than those functions that are required by this Constitution to be exercised by a general meeting of members of the Society;
- (c) may determine the rights of members or any class of members;
- (d) shall appoint councillors to the Australian Speleological Federation, in addition to the Senior Counsellor, in accordance with the Constitution of the Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated; and

(d) has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the committee to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the Society, including the making and amendment of By-Laws not inconsistent with this Constitution for the administration of the Society, the carrying into effect of this Constitution, or for any associated matter.

12) Constitution of the Committee

(1) The committee shall consist of -

- (a) the office bearers of the Society; and
- (b) three ordinary members,

each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Society pursuant to section 13.

(2) The office bearers of the Society shall be:

- (a) the president;
- (b) the vice-president;
- (c) the secretary;
- (d) the treasurer;
- (e) the minutes secretary;
- (f) the senior councillor of the Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated;
- (g) the editor of the Society bulletin;
- (h) the equipment officer;
- (i) the safety officer; and
- (j) the librarian.

(3) (a) Each member of the committee shall be a member of the Society; and

(b) at least seven positions on the committee, including the position of President, shall be held by members of the Society satisfying subsection 4)(a)(i).

(4) Each member of the committee shall, subject to these rules, hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's election, and be eligible for re-election.

(5) A position on the committee may be resigned at any time.

(6) If a nomination is not received for any position on the committee at an Annual General Meeting there shall be deemed to be a casual vacancy on the committee.

(7) Any casual vacancies on the committee will be filled by a member appointed at the next general meeting according to the procedures in section 13, and that member shall hold office until the next annual general meeting of the Society.

13) Elections

1) The ballot for the election of office bearers and ordinary members of the committee shall be conducted at the annual general meeting.

2) To be eligible to become a member of the committee, a person must:

(i) be nominated for election to the committee by another member;

(ii) have that nomination seconded by a member not being the member in (i) above; and

(iii) accept that nomination.

(3) Nominations shall be called for each office in the order given in subsection 11)(3).

(4) In the case of only one nomination being received for any individual committee position, then the member nominated will be declared elected unopposed to that position.

(5) In the case of -

(i) two or more members being nominated for election as an office bearer; or

(ii) four or more members being nominated for election as a general committee member,

then a ballot of members present shall be taken.

(6) (a) The outgoing president shall, before any nominations are called for under paragraph (3), appoint an electoral officer to oversee any ballots required by paragraph (5).

(b) The electoral officer's duty is to enforce the electoral procedures as laid out in this Constitution and be satisfied that they have been complied with in every respect, and to adjudicate on any disputes as to electoral procedure.

(c) The electoral officer may not be nominated for a position on the committee.

(d) The electoral officer may not vote for members of the committee.

- (7) In a ballot under -
- (i) clause (5)(i), each member shall be entitled to cast one vote only; and
  - (ii) clause (5)(i), each member shall be entitled to cast one vote for each of not more than three candidates.
- (8) At the conclusion of a ballot under paragraph (5), the position or positions in question shall be declared filled by -
- (i) in the case of a ballot under clause (5)(i), the candidate for whom the highest number of votes have been cast; or
  - (ii) in the case of a ballot under clause (5)(ii), the three candidates for whom the highest numbers of votes have been cast.
- (9) (a) In the event that, in a ballot conducted under clause (5)(i), more than one candidate receives the same number of votes, and that number is the highest number of votes polled for any candidate, then the ballot process detailed in paragraphs (5), (7) and (8) shall be repeated, with those candidates alone standing as nominees.
- (b) In the event that, in a ballot conducted under clause (5)(ii), more than one candidate is eligible under clause (8)(ii) for election to the position or positions, then the ballot process detailed in paragraphs (5), (7) and (8) shall be repeated, with only those candidates eligible under clause (8)(ii) for election to the position or positions standing as nominees.
- (10) In the event that, in a ballot conducted under paragraph (9), more than one candidate is eligible under clause (8)(i) or (8)(ii) for election to the position or positions, then notwithstanding clause (6)(d), the electoral officer is entitled to vote according to paragraph (7).
- (11) In the event that, following the electoral officer's rights being exercised under paragraph (10), more than one candidate is eligible under clause (8)(i) or (8)(ii) for election to the position or positions, then the position or positions will be determined by lot.
- (12) No member may occupy more than one position on the committee unless that member is filling a casual vacancy on the committee and there are no other nominees for that vacancy who are not also members of the committee.

14) Duties of Committee Members

The duties of committee members are as set out in the by-laws.

15) Meetings of the Committee

(1) The committee shall endeavour to meet at least eight times in each period of twelve months at such times and places as the committee may determine.

(2) (a) Reasonable endeavour must be made to give oral or written notice of a meeting of the committee to each member of the committee at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the holding of the meeting.

(b) Publication of the time and place of a committee meeting in the Society bulletin or at a general meeting or annual general meeting is deemed sufficient notice under paragraph (a) above.

(3) The time and place of the next committee meeting shall be agreed upon before the conclusion of each committee meeting, where practicable.

(4) Any five members of the committee will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of a meeting of the committee.

(5) No business shall be transacted by the committee unless a quorum is present.

(6) At a meeting of the committee -

(a) the president or, in the president's absence, the vice-president shall preside; or

(b) if the president and the vice-president are absent such one of the remaining members of the committee as may be chosen by the members present at the meeting shall preside.

16) Delegation by Committee to Sub-Committee

(1) The committee may by resolution delegate to one or more subcommittees (consisting of such member or members of the Society as the committee thinks fit) the exercise of such of the functions of the committee as are specified in the resolution other than this power of delegation.

(2) A function the exercise of which has been delegated to a subcommittee under this section may, while the delegation remains unrevoked, be exercised from time to time by the subcommittee in accordance with the terms of the delegation.

(3) A delegation under this section may be made subject to such conditions or limitations as to the exercise of any function the subject thereof, or as to time or circumstances, as may be specified in the instrument of delegation.

(4) Notwithstanding any delegation under this section, the committee may continue to exercise any function delegated.

(5) Any act or thing done or suffered by a subcommittee acting in the exercise of a delegation under this rule has the same force and effect as it would have if it had been done or suffered by the committee.

(6) The committee may, by instrument in writing, revoke wholly or in part any delegation under this section.

(7) A subcommittee may not act unless a number of members of the subcommittee not less than 50% of the total number of members of the subcommittee is present at a meeting.

(8) A subcommittee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper.

17) Voting and decisions

(1) Questions arising at a meeting of the committee or of any subcommittee appointed by the committee shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members of the committee or subcommittee present at the meeting.

(2) Each member present at a meeting of the committee or of any subcommittee appointed by the committee (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote but, in the event of an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.

(3) Subject to subsections 15)(4) and 15)(5), the committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the committee.

(4) (a) Each member of the committee or subcommittee shall be entitled to appoint another member of the committee or the same subcommittee as proxy by notice in writing signed by the appointing member specifying the member whom that member is appointing as proxy.

(b) The notice appointing the proxy must be produced by the appointed member on demand by the chairperson or the appointed member shall have no right to hold the proxy of the appointing member.

(5) Any decision of the committee may be overturned by a resolution passed at a general meeting of the Society.

- (6) No member may move a motion to overturn a decision of the committee unless seven days notice has been given to the secretary.

#### General Meetings and Annual General Meetings

##### 18) Holding of Annual General Meetings

The Society shall, at least once in each calendar year and within the period of four months after the expiration of each financial year of the Society, convene an annual general meeting.

##### 19) Calling of and Business of Annual General Meetings

(1) The annual general meeting of the Society shall, subject to section 18, be convened on such date and at such place and time as the committee thinks fit.

(2) In addition to any other business which may be transacted at an annual general meeting, the business of an annual general meeting shall be -

- (a) to receive from the committee reports upon the activities of the Society during the last preceding financial year; and
- (b) to elect office bearers of the Society.

(3) An annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.

##### 20) Holding of General Meetings

The committee may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a general meeting of the Society.

##### 21) Notice of Meetings

(1) Where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at an annual general meeting or general meeting requires a special resolution, the secretary shall, at least 21 days before the date fixed for the holding of the general meeting,

(a) cause to be sent by pre-paid post to each member at the member's address; or

(b) publish in the Society Bulletin;

a notice specifying the place, date and time of the meeting and the full text of the resolution proposed as a special resolution and specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution.

(2) Where an annual general meeting or a general meeting not covered by paragraph (1) is to be called, publication of the date, place and time of the meeting in the Society bulletin or at the preceding general meeting or annual general meeting shall be considered adequate notice of the meeting.

(3) Except in the case of paragraph (1) above, no notice need be given to members of business to be raised at a general meeting.

22) **Quorum**

(1) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under this Constitution to vote is present in person or by proxy during the time the meeting is considering that item.

(2) Fifteen members, or 20% of the total financial membership of the Society, whichever is the less, present in person or by proxy (being members entitled under this constitution to vote at a general meeting or annual general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.

(3) If within one hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting a quorum is not present in person or by proxy, the meeting shall be dissolved.

23) **Procedure**

(1) At any general meeting -

(a) the president (or, if the president is absent or unwilling to act, the vice-president) will preside; or

(b) if the president and vice-president are both absent or unwilling to act, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as a chairperson at the meeting.

24) **Making of decisions**

(1) A question arising at a general meeting of the Society shall, subject to this Constitution, be determined on a show of hands and, unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a secret poll is demanded, a declaration by the chairperson that a resolution has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, or an entry to that effect in the minute book of the Society, is evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against that resolution.

(2) At a general meeting of the Society, a secret poll may be demanded by the chairperson or by not less than five members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

(3) Where a secret poll is demanded at a general meeting, the poll should be taken immediately, and the resolution of the poll on that matter shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting on the matter.

**25) Special Resolution**

A resolution of the Society is a special resolution if it is passed by a majority which comprises not less than 75% of such members of the Society as, being entitled under this Constitution so to do, vote in person or by proxy at a general meeting of which not less than 21 days' written notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution was given in accordance with this Constitution.

**26) Voting**

(1) Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the Society a member has one vote only.

(2) All votes shall be given personally or by proxy.

(3) In the case of an equality of votes on a question at a general meeting, the chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.

(4) A member or proxy is not entitled to vote at any general meeting of the Society unless all money due and payable by the member or proxy to the Society has been paid.

**27) Procedure at Annual General Meetings**

Subject to section 13, procedure at an annual general meeting will be as for a general meeting.

**28) Appointment of Proxies**

(1) Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice in writing signed by the appointing member specifying the member whom that member is appointing as proxy.

(2) The notice appointing the proxy must be produced by the appointed member on demand by the chairperson or the appointed member shall have no right to hold the proxy of the appointing member.

## Finance

### 29) Funds of the Society

(1) The funds of the Society shall be derived from annual subscriptions of members, subscriptions, donations and, subject to any resolution passed by the Society in general meeting or annual general meeting, such other sources as the committee determines.

(2) All money received by the Society shall be deposited as soon as practicable and without deduction to the credit of the Society's bank account.

(3) The Society shall, as soon as practicable after receiving any money, issue an appropriate receipt.

### 30) Publications Fund

(1) A special fund is to be maintained called the Publications Fund.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection 29)(2), any money received by the Society from the sale of publications shall be paid into the Publications Fund, along with any money the committee designates for this purpose.

(3) Money within the Publications Fund may only be used for the purpose of production, publication and distribution of publications authorised by the committee.

### 31) Management of Funds

(1) Subject to any resolution passed by the Society in general meeting or annual general meeting, and to this Constitution, the funds of the Society shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the Society in such manner as the committee determines.

(2) All cheques, drafts and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by the treasurer or any other member of the committee that the committee authorises.

## Miscellaneous

### 32) Alteration of Constitution

This constitution may be altered, rescinded or added to only by a special resolution of the Society.

33) **Serving of Notices**

(1) For the purpose of this Constitution, a notice may be served by or on behalf of the Society upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member at the member's given address.

(2) Where a document is sent to a person by properly addressing, prepaying and posting to the person a letter containing the document, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed for the purposes of these rules to have been served on the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

34) **Code of Ethics**

(1) The committee shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this Constitution, pass a By-Law or series of By-Laws containing the Society Code of Ethics, comprising such provisions as the Committee deems appropriate.

(2) The Code of Ethics may be altered in the same manner as any By-Law.

35) **Transitional Provision**

Any by-law or resolution of the Society which is in effect immediately before the adoption of this Constitution shall remain in force and effective unless it is inconsistent with:

- (a) a provision of this Constitution; or
- (b) a by-law or resolution made at or after the adoption of this Constitution.

36) **Affiliation with Other Organisations**

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution, the committee may resolve to make the Society be recognised by, or be a member or affiliate of:

- (a) the Sydney University Sports Union;
- (b) the Sydney University Women's Sports Association;
- (c) the University of Sydney Union; or
- (d) the University of Sydney;

or to revoke any such resolution.

(2) Whilst such a resolution is in force, and notwithstanding section 32), if the Committee so resolves, the Constitution or rules or any part thereof of the organisation referred to in paragraph 1) shall, only if necessary, operate to amend, or take priority over, any provision of this Constitution.

# Notes on the SUSS By-Laws

The SUSS By-Laws (passed unanimously by the Committee meeting of February 25, 1992) contain the information about the standard administrative procedures within the Club that do not need to be enshrined in the Constitution. Since the By-Laws may be altered at any time by the committee, they are the place for any matter that may need to be altered to reflect changes in the Society's attitudes or methods of operation.

The By-Laws are divided into four basic sections, and the information below is intended to outline the basic intent and import of these sections. Note that it is not an exhaustive discussion, and does not attempt to explain any matter in depth.

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## Section One The Committee

This section outlines the duties of the 13 members of the SUSS committee. Most of the material is self-explanatory, and in any case more detailed descriptions of the various tasks to be performed by each officer are provided in the SUSS Handbook.

Sections 12 and 13 act to incorporate Constitutional duties into the job descriptions, and to empower the committee as a whole to direct the performance of any officer, respectively.

## Section Two Trips

This section is perhaps the most radical departure from the previous official practice of SUSS, and it is most important that all members understand its operation. Its purpose is to provide a system of organisation of trips that is strictly defined, and yet easy to comply with.

The aim of the new trip system is essentially to provide more freedom - freedom for members to run trips to the areas of their choice rather than wait for a trip leader to decide to go there; and, once at a caving area, freedom for different groups to enter different caves or undertake separate activities and yet be classified as part of the same trip. In granting this additional freedom, however, the issue of safety has not been overlooked.

### What has happened to trip leaders?

There is no longer such a thing as a trip leader. This is because any member will be able to lead a trip. People with the technical and safety expertise that was previously needed by a trip leader are now referred to as trip supervisors. Trip supervisors are accredited by the committee and must fulfil a certain number of criteria. A trip supervisor must be in attendance on each official trip, to ensure that nothing unsafe happens and to provide assistance and guidance, where required, for the person co-ordinating the trip.

The other key person on the trip is the trip co-ordinator. This is the person named on the triplist as the contact person. The trip co-ordinator decides where the trip will be and which areas will be visited, arranges for access to the area and co-ordinates transport, ensures the right equipment is being taken, and is effectively in charge of what goes on during a trip.

### So, what is the trip supervisor for?

As mentioned above, the trip supervisor is there to make sure nothing goes wrong. If it looks like the trip co-ordinator is making a mistake in something that might affect the safety of the trip, or people's enjoyment of the trip, then the supervisor should tell the co-ordinator what is being done incorrectly. The supervisor's opinion is to be preferred to that of the co-ordinator in any dispute that arises on the matter of safety or the Constitution and By-Laws. The supervisor takes over completely from the co-ordinator when someone needs first aid, or there is a rescue situation.

In most situations encountered on trips, however, the supervisor will not need to interfere at all, and things are left to the co-ordinator.

### If I want to run a trip, what do I do?

All you need is the approval of two committee members, and the definite attendance of a trip supervisor. The committee will advertise the trip in the triplist. The rest is up to you - get permission to visit the area, if required (the secretary will help you in this), arrange accommodation (such as the Jenolan Cottage), work out what gear you need to bring, and arrange transport for as many people as you can. During the trip, you should make sure any fees are collected, and pay them to the appropriate person.

You should try and take as many people as you can on a trip, subject to permit and safety restrictions. You should always give priority to members when selecting. If non-members want to come, and there is room on the trip, it's up to you if they come or not.

Make sure that the person you want to act as trip supervisor is advised before the trip. If there are several accredited supervisors, appoint one and only one. If the trip supervisor has to leave, then you must appoint another accredited person in their place or the trip is officially over. If you have to leave, then the trip supervisor is in charge.

Of course, if you are an accredited trip supervisor, then there is no need for another one to attend the trip. You can perform both roles. However, you may wish to ask someone else to act as supervisor anyway, to back up your judgment.

The committee also has the power to appoint someone as a trip supervisor for a specific time and purpose, if it thinks that person has the necessary skills. For instance, if you wanted to conduct a detailed study of parts of McKeown's Hole, Jenolan then the committee would probably allow you to supervise trips to that cave alone without satisfying the requirements of knowing about rigging, SRT, belaying and so forth. This provision is designed primarily to assist people who only want to visit horizontal caving areas.

### Who do I speak to if I want to know more?

The safety officer is nominally in charge of administering the trip supervisor programme, and can give you details of who is already a supervisor and how you can become one. Otherwise, anyone on the committee should be able to tell you about running a trip.

## Section Three Caves

This short section specifies procedures to be followed for cave (or surface) blasting and nomenclature.

If you want to blast, you need the committee's permission. Note that the ASF Code of Ethics requires you to get permission from the management authority also, and only allows you to blast in exceptional circumstances.

You can name a cave or section of cave either if you discover it, or if it is not already named (for instance, you might care to propose a name for the serpentinous meanders in Serpentine Cave). If you are naming a cave, you should follow any restrictions on nomenclature in the area, and your name can be withdrawn by the committee.

#### Section Four Code of Ethics

Why do we need a Society Code of Ethics, when ASF already provides one, and many of the provisions of our code are covered by the ASF code? The answer is that whereas the ASF code is a compromise position that is the synthesis of many different clubs' position, the SUSS code reflects solely our attitude. It provides a statement of the Society's stand on various matters of caving ethics.

The Code is fairly straightforward. It should be noticed that some provisions, such as By-Laws 25, 28, 30 and 31, are deliberately vague - this means that personal judgment must be used in determining what constitutes minimal impact camping, or what might detract from someone's enjoyment of a trip. Obviously, this will be different for each trip, depending on the nature of the area and trip and the people attending. The new Code of Ethics basically differs from the old in being much more general, leaving more to the interpretation of the individual the judgment of what would constitute a breach. This is to be expected when dealing with a subject so generally nebulous as ethical standards. However, when necessary, the code does address specific concerns such as damage to caves and harm to wildlife.

Chris Norton

**BY-LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**Sydney University**  
**Speleological Society**

**Committee Members**

**1) President**

The President shall be responsible for:

- (a) the convening of meetings;
- (b) the conduct of meetings according to the Constitution, and
- (c) officially representing the Society, or appointing a member of members to officially represent the Society, when required.

**2) Vice-President**

The Vice-President shall deputise for the President when the President is not available.

**3) Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- (a) handling of the official correspondence of the Society;
- (b) keeping records of the official correspondence of the Society;
- (c) notification of Society members of meetings, as required by the Constitution; and
- (d) applying for permits for any trip to a restricted access area and delivery of these permits to the relevant trip co-ordinators before the trip.

**4) Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

- (a) supervise the accounts of the Society, including the Publications Fund, and be satisfied that the money in those accounts is only spent in matters pertaining to the aims and objections of the Society;
- (b) ensure that any rules concerning management and expenditure of funds are complied with; and
- (c) submit the Society's accounts to the University of Sydney Union within two months of the conclusion of each calendar year for the purpose of auditing.

5) **Minutes Secretary**

The Minutes Secretary shall:

- (a) record all minutes at each committee Meeting, Annual General Meeting, and at any General Meeting at which a resolution is proposed;
- (b) provide on request copies of the minutes of past meetings or parts thereof.

6) **Senior Councillor of the Australian Speleological Federation**

The Senior Councillor of the Australian Speleological Federation shall deal with all matters pertaining to the society's relationship with the Australian Speleological Federation Incorporated.

7) **Editor of the Society Bulletin**

The Editor of the Society Bulletin shall:

- (a) organise the publication, so far as practicable, no less than four times a year, of a newsletter called the Bulletin of the Sydney University Speleological Society, which will contain:

- (i) reports of trips of the Society; and
- (ii) articles and any other items which the Editor considers related to the aims and objectives of the Society;

and

- (b) organise the distribution of the publication referred to in clause (a) to all those to whom the committee sees fit to distribute the publication.

8) **Equipment Officer**

The Equipment Officer shall:

- (a) ensure that any equipment owned by the Society is stored in a manner designed to protect it from damage;
- (b) maintain a register in which is recorded details of borrowing and return of equipment by members;
- (c) in conjunction with the Safety Officer, inspect all equipment at least once per twelve months and ensure that it is adequate for the purposes for which it is likely to be used, and report to the committee on the results of that inspection;
- (d) report to the committee any failure to return equipment; and
- (e) recommend to the committee the purchase of new equipment, when required.

9) **Safety Officer**

The Safety Officer shall:

- (a) compile a list of requirements for trip supervisors and, upon acceptance of those requirements by the committee, enforce those requirements;
- (b) compile a list of current trip supervisors and ensure that list is kept up to date;
- (c) make recommendations of safety practices and procedures to be followed on trips, and ensure that they are implemented;
- (d) organise Society field days at which caving techniques are to be practiced;
- (e) assist the Equipment Officer in inspections under By-Law 8(c); and
- (f) be familiar with current safety procedures in caving.

10) **Librarian**

The Librarian shall:

- (a) organise and maintain the Society library; and
- (b) assist Society members in research connected with the Society and its aims and objectives.

11) **General Committee Members**

The General Committee Members shall undertake any duties which the committee sees fit to assign to them.

12) **Duties imposed by Constitution**

In addition to any duties mentioned in the By-Laws, each member of the committee is required to perform any duties imposed by the Constitution.

13) **Officers Responsible to Committee**

In the performance or exercise of any duty, function or discretion imposed upon or given to any officer or agent of the Society, that officer or agent is responsible to, and subject to direction by, the Committee.

**Trips**

14) **Official Trips**

- (1) An official trip is defined as a trip fulfilling the criteria that:
  - (a) two or more members of the committee have given their approval to the trip as an official trip of the Society; and
  - (b) which includes as a participant a person fulfilling the requirements of a trip supervisor.

- (2) Only a member of the Society may convene an official trip.
- (3) The Society's name must not be used to gain any privileges on trips which are not official trips.

15) **Trip Co-Ordinators**

- (1) The person convening an official trip shall be called a trip co-ordinator.
- (2) All members who intend to participate in a trip shall give prior notification of that intention to the trip co-ordinator, and shall obey the reasonable requests of the trip co-ordinator whilst on that trip.
- (3) The trip co-ordinator of an official trip shall be responsible for:
  - (a) collection of any fees the Society may incur during the trip, and payment of those fees to the Treasurer; and
  - (b) ensuring no persons on the trip breach the Society Constitution and/or By-Laws.
- (4) Where the number of people who may participate in a particular official trip is restricted, and a number greater than that number apply to participate in the trip, selection of participants shall be at the trip co-ordinator's discretion.
- (5) When making a selection under paragraph (4), a trip co-ordinator shall:
  - (i) give preference to members of the society; and
  - (ii) endeavour not to select fewer people than the maximum number of participants permitted.
- (6) Subject to paragraph (5), non-members of the Society may attend trips at the discretion of the trip leader.

16) **Trip Reports**

(a) Trip co-ordinators are strongly encouraged to submit, within a period of three months from the conclusion of an official trip, a report of that trip to the Editor of the Society Bulletin, detailing any observations of speleological or practical interest made during the trip, and any additional information the trip co-ordinator desires to include.

(b) The committee may, if it so wishes, require a trip co-ordinator to submit a report as described in paragraph (a).

17) **Trip Supervisors**

- (1) The person ultimately responsible for enforcement of correct safety procedures and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society on an official trip shall be called the trip supervisor.

(2) Where the trip supervisor on an official trip believes a breach of safety or the Constitution or By-Laws has occurred or is likely to occur, the trip supervisor should notify the trip co-ordinator and, where appropriate, take steps to prevent any further such breach.

(3) In the event that a difference of opinion occurs between the trip co-ordinator and the trip supervisor on a matter of safety or the Society Constitution or By-Laws, the opinion of the trip supervisor shall prevail.

(4) In the event that a participant in an official trip requires other than minor first aid, or a rescue situation arises, the trip supervisor shall assume all responsibilities and powers of the trip co-ordinator until such time as the trip supervisor sees fit.

(5) In the event that the trip co-ordinator ceases to participate in an official trip, the trip supervisor shall assume all responsibilities and powers of the trip co-ordinator.

**18) Appointment of Trip Supervisors**

(1) A member will be appointed as a trip supervisor by the committee after approval by the safety officer only when the committee is satisfied that the member has fulfilled the trip supervisor requirements.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the committee may, from time to time, appoint a member who has not fulfilled the trip supervisor requirements for a specific time and purpose as a trip supervisor if the committee is satisfied that that person possesses the skills required to act as trip supervisor for the purposes of that activity.

(3) Only members of the Society may be admitted as trip supervisors.

(4) The committee may, at any time with just cause, withdraw a member's qualifications as a trip supervisor.

**19) Trip Supervisor Participation in Official Trips**

(1) It is the responsibility of the trip co-ordinator to ensure that a person with trip supervisor status is present at all times on an official trip, and to inform that person before the commencement of the official trip that that person will be acting as trip supervisor.

(2) Where more than one person with trip supervisor status is present on an official trip, the trip co-ordinator shall appoint one of these persons to act as trip supervisor, and inform that person of the appointment before the commencement of the official trip.

(3) A person's tenure as trip supervisor for a particular official trip will terminate when that person ceases to participate in that official trip.

(4) A trip co-ordinator may act as the trip supervisor on an official trip provided that person has been appointed as a trip supervisor by the committee in accordance with By-Law 18.

#### Equipment

##### 20) Use of Equipment

(1) The Equipment Officer shall make Society equipment available to trip co-ordinators for use on official trips, and otherwise at the discretion of the committee.

(2) The borrower of any Society equipment shall:

(a) be responsible for its return in an acceptable condition in a reasonable period of time after the conclusion of the trip; and

(b) shall report to the Equipment Officer at time of return any damage sustained to the equipment or any perceived fault in the equipment which is likely to affect its future safe or efficient use.

(3) The return of equipment by a member in a state rendering it unsafe or unsuitable for further use, or the non-return of equipment after a reasonable period of time after a trip, shall be reported to the committee by the Equipment Officer, upon which the committee may recommend that the cost of replacing the equipment be borne in whole or part by the member who borrowed the equipment.

##### 21) Purchase of Equipment

The committee may make grants of Society funds for the purpose of purchase of Society equipment.

#### Caves

##### 22) Blasting

No blasting is to be carried out in a karst area on an official trip without the approval of the committee.

##### 23) Nomenclature

(1) When a new cave or section of cave is discovered by a member, that member has the right to assign a name to that cave or section of cave, subject to any restrictions in force in the area in which the cave or section of cave is located.

(2) Any member may propose a name for a previously unnamed cave or section of cave, subject to any restrictions in force in the area in which the cave or section of cave is located.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), the committee has the right to order a member to withdraw a name for a cave or section of cave where it sees fit.

### Society Code of Ethics

#### Responsibilities to the Community

##### 24) Cave Conservation

(1) Members shall take care not to damage any cave or karst formation either accidentally or by design. In particular, they should not:

- (a) break or deface any cave formation;
- (b) leave any rubbish, including spent carbide, in any cave;
- (c) write on or otherwise mark the surfaces of any cave; or
- (d) harm any cave biota.

(2) The committee may, for any specific speleological or conservation purpose, temporarily dispense with the requirements of paragraph (1).

##### 25) Environmental Conservation

Members shall practice minimal impact camping.

##### 26) Private Property

(1) Members shall not enter private property without obtaining permission from the owner to do so.

(2) When permitted access to private property, members shall:

- (a) leave all gates as they found them (open or closed);
- (b) take care to avoid interfering with livestock, crops, equipment and structures; and
- (c) gratefully acknowledge any hospitality received.

##### 27) Access Restrictions

Where conditions are imposed on access to an area proposed to be entered by the Society on an official trip, participants shall comply with all such conditions.

#### Responsibilities to the Society

##### 28) Behaviour of Members

At all times, members must act in a way that does not detract from the reputation of the Society.

29) **Relations with Other Speleological Organisations**

Members shall endeavour to maintain good relations between the Society and other speleological organisations by co-operating with the projects of other organisations and taking reasonable steps to inform other organisations of any facts which may aid the activities or work of those organisations.

Responsibilities to Other Members

30) **Safety of Members**

No member shall intentionally commit an act or make an omission which may endanger the safety of others.

31) **Enjoyment of Members**

No member may act in a way which may interfere with another person's enjoyment of a trip.

Responsibilities to ASF

32) **ASF Code of Ethics**

Members shall follow the Australian Speleological Federation Code of Ethics.

# SYDNEY UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## TRIP SUPERVISOR REQUIREMENTS

24th March, 1992

### 1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Before considering any person as a Trip Supervisor the Committee shall be satisfied that the applicant has sufficient sense of responsibility and discipline to conduct the activities of a trip in a safe manner, and to ensure the conservation of any cave or cave reserve visited. In addition the Committee shall be satisfied that the applicant has fulfilled the following requirements:

- (a) To be sufficiently experienced in the practical aspects of caving to capably lead a party, under the variety of conditions likely to be encountered.
- (b) To be in possession of a current St. Johns Ambulance First Aid Certificate (or equivalent) and to be familiar with procedures associated with caving emergencies.
- (c) To have attended at least one SUSS trip.
- (d) To be aware of, and uphold the guidelines of, the Australian Speleological Federation.

### 2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Trip Supervisors must have demonstrated a working knowledge of the following:

- (a) General
  - (i) Rope choice: static versus dynamic.
  - (ii) Basic rope knots including the following:
    - Figure of eight knot,
    - Figure of 9.
    - Double fishermans knot,
    - Prusik knot,
    - Tape knot.
  - (iii) Assessment of the security of natural and artificial anchors.
  - (iv) Rigging in such a manner as to minimise the possibility of anchor or equipment failure.
  - (v) A.S.F. voice and whistle calls for laddering and S.R.T.

(b) Laddering

- (i) Setting up and operating a ladder and belay.
- (ii) Body belay methods.
- (iii) Mechanical belay methods.
- (iv) Self belay techniques.

(c) Single Rope Technique

- (i) Correct placement and security of rope protectors.
- (ii) Descending and ascending past rope protectors and knots.
- (iii) Setting up and negotiating rebelay and redirections.
- (iv) Changing from ascending to descending a rope and vice versa.
- (v) Assessment of the safety of personal S.R.T. systems.
- (vi) Abseiling down with an injured person after having ascended or descended to them on the same rope.

3. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- (a) The Committee may at its discretion require those wishing to be Trip Supervisors to coordinate a trip and attend the trip with one Trip Supervisor, appointed by the Committee, acting as an observer. The prospective Trip Supervisor's application will then be reviewed and put to the vote of the Committee.
- (b) The Committee shall, from time to time, and in any case at least once annually, re-examine the list of authorised Trip Supervisors with a view to appointing additional Trip Supervisors and revoking the appointment of those who have failed to fulfil their obligations under the By-Laws.

## COMMENTS ON A RECENT CANYONING TRIP

In February of this year SUSS ran a beginners' trip to Bell creek canyon. One of our experienced SUSS members was concerned about the way the trip was conducted and consequently wrote a fairly detailed report to the Committee.

Two specific problems were reported to the Committee.

1. "Most of the time the group was divided into two parts. One group, by far the larger, travelled at a speed that left the second group lagging behind." The slower group ended up being led by other experienced SUSS members, not the designated Trip Leader.
2. "At the exit point of the canyon most of the party left and started walking out before some people were ready. This left several people in the canyon to find their own way out with no maps and only a rough idea of the geography."

It is of concern to the Committee that such a problem has arisen. We have discussed how the trip was conducted with the Trip Leader and others on the trip and hopefully the same problem will not arise again.

The problems that can arise if people become separated from the group were highlighted during a Kalang Canyon trip that I was on last May (1991). Although it wasn't a SUSS trip most of the participants were SUSS members. There was no one who was directly responsible for the entire group and at the exit point everyone started to head out up Murdering Gully, except for one of our SUSS members who had not done this particular canyon before. He continued to head down Kanangra Creek and was not missed until everyone was at the top. We had to seek search and rescue assistance from the Jenolan Guides late at night. With their assistance he was found early the next morning.

So that others may learn from this occurrence some suggestions for Trip Supervisors and Trip Coordinators are given below.

### Suggestions for Trip Supervisors and Coordinators

On trips where there are slower people in the group try to place them in the front of the group. This controls the pace and keeps everybody together without unduly drawing attention to any disparity in abilities. I remember that when I was a beginner in SUSS I was occasionally the last in walking up that steep, endless hill that always seems to be there at the end of canyoning trips.

If this is not practicable ensure that experienced persons are placed at the rear of the party and make sure that they also know how and where to exit the cave or canyon.

If you have to split a party because the size is unwieldy then a Leader must be nominated for both groups. Arrange a suitable time and place to meet again.

Remember to consider the General Requirements for our Trip Supervisors (used to be called Trip Leaders):

Trip Supervisor Requirements  
24th March, 1992

**Paragraph 1. General Requirements**

Before considering any person as a Trip Supervisor the Committee shall be satisfied that the applicant has sufficient sense of responsibility and discipline to conduct the activities of a trip in a safe manner, ...

**Paragraph 3. Additional Requirements**

The Committee shall, from time to time, and in any case at least once annually, re-examine the list of authorised Trip Supervisors with a view to appointing additional Trip Supervisors and revoking the appointment of those who have failed to fulfil their obligations under the By-Laws.

Yours in safe and enjoyable caving, canyoning etc.,  
Michael Lake,  
SUSS Safety Officer.

# CANYONS

On a hot balmy day, there is nothing quite like abseiling down amongst the spray of a free-falling waterfall.

The Southern Highlands of NSW contain a range of spectacular waterfalls pouring down open canyons.

These canyons offer scenery ranging from panoramic vistas to soaring walls and huge free-falling flows of water that disappear down great abysses. These canyons are in sharp contrast to the confined restrictions of the central and northern Blue Mountains.

It is hard to compare the canyons of the Southern Highlands to any other - but they do bear semblance to those near Kanangra Walls in that they require advanced rope work and navigation, and therefore should only be attempted by experienced parties.

## **Planet Canyon**

Off The Edge Of The Planet Canyon has some spectacular drops down the major ravine west of Fitzroy Falls, culminating in a huge amphitheatre framed by two waterfalls dropping over 85 metres.

To get to Planet Canyon, take the first dirt road south-west after the Fitzroy Falls carpark and follow it around left and past a '4WD's only' sign. Park on the other side of a small causeway. Take plenty of tape with you for belays.

The initial 40m drop into the canyon is generally done from a tape tied around a tree on the western side of the amphitheatre. The rock platform and creek is then crossed (belayed) to a bolt and tree belay on the eastern side.

This drop is followed by a spectacular overhanging pitch of about 40m. The third pitch is a 10m drop off a tree (but if you have a 55m rope these two pitches can be combined).

The next pitch, from tape anchors around a big boulder, is about 35m to a small ledge, from which a double bolt belay provides another spectacular free hanging abseil.

At the bottom of this, follow the eastern bank of the creek to an old tourist track which winds down for several hundred metres to where the creek eventually drops off another ledge into a spectacular amphitheatre. This ledge overlooks the bottom section of Fitzroy Falls creek and requires 85m of rope to reach the bottom.

The way out from the bottom is via the gully on the south-west. Care must be taken that a handline is available to ascend two short climbs. Immediately above the climbs, saddle back to the top of the last pitch and follow the old tourist track back up and around north east to the Fitzroy Falls carpark and then around the Western Trail to your car.

## **Fitzroy Falls**

Fitzroy Falls is the most visited fall in the area, but also makes for a pleasant canyoning trip.

The top fall that inspires gasps from tourists is relatively plain when compared to the spectacular last pitch.

For those who must run the risk of irritating the ranges (who will try to confiscate your rope) a tree just east of the falls provides a belay point for the first 75m drop.

A scramble over rocks leads to a tree belay at the top of a slippery 30m pitch. More rocks lead to a large rock platform.

This is followed by a double bolt belayed pitch of about 40m, then a 20m tree belayed pitch into a shallow pool.

Eventually the creek plunges over a spectacular, mostly free hanging 75m drop. A tree on the western (right) side provides the best belay point and good views of the last pitch of planet canyon.

The way out is the same for planet canyon.

## **Carrington Falls**

The 110m drop of Carrington Falls is traversed in 3 pitches.

A 20m drop off a block lands you on a large rock platform which is followed to a large boulder. You can drop from either side of this boulder down a 50m pitch to the obvious large ledge next to the crashing waterfall.

A damp 40m free hanging drop from a bolt, piton and tree belay from this ledge lands you into the pool at the bottom.

Follow the creek downstream for several hundred metres between the soaring moss and fern covered walls. Exit up the marked track on the easter (left) side. If you reach another waterfall you have gone too far downstream.

## **Belmore Falls**

The awe-inspiring drop of Belmore Falls is just over 85m.

The old lookout provides the safest belay, but does not offer as good a free hang as the north side of the creek.

The first drop is followed by a 45m drop which provides a spectacular view looking back up at both waterfalls.

The next drop is about 15m, but it is easier to leave the canyon at this point, unless you want to walk along the creek for about a mile to a gully on the west. To leave the canyon, exit from the top of the third drop by heading north-west up the ridge until above the second drop and then follow an old track which disappears west around the cliff line for a kilometre to just past a saddle. A short 5m chimney provides a break through the cliffs and then a bush bash north east leads to a fire trail and eventually back to the road.

Other, more well known canyons in the Southern Highlands include the spectacular 8 pitches of Spring Creek, Gerrara Canyon, Fordham and some un-named, hostile canyons opposite Spring Creek leading into the Shoalhaven River.

NB: No liability is taken for canyon and route descriptions or the safety of belay points.

It is believed that Rangers in the Morton National Park stipulate that permission is obtained from the director of the NP & WS for the undertaking of dangerous activities, such as abseiling, in the Park.

## SPELEO SPORTS 92

Organised by the NSW Cave Rescue  
Squad

Hosted by Macquarie University

### ADVANCE INFORMATION

Date: 10th October

Place: Macquarie University

- Traverse narrow ledges, crawl through incredibly tight squeezes, climb swinging ladders and abseil down buildings !
- Partake of our scrumptious lunches, including hot dogs, steak sandwiches, sausages and pancakes helped down by liberal quantities of soft drinks, coffee and tea.
- Put yourself and your club in the running for some (or all) of the great prizes to be won !
- Afterwards enjoy a leisurly evening B.B.Q.
- And of course if you don't want to compete just come along and spectate.
- Most important though is to make sure that your club is represented. Don't let the same clubs win year after year. Give them some competition.

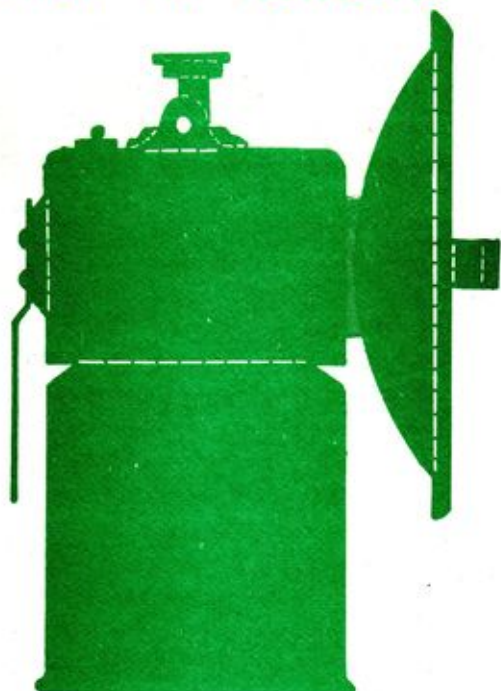
SEE YOU THERE - DON'T FORGET THE DATE NOW.

Date: 10th October

Place: Macquarie University

Contact: NSW Cave Rescue Squad  
P.O. Box 122, BANKSTOWN 2200  
or  
Mike Lake  
14/16 Cottonwood Cres.  
Nth. Ryde 2113  
(02) 888 2927

Lumen in Tenebris



# SUSS

BULLETIN  
of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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