

BULLETIN *of the*

S*ydney*

U*niversity*

S*peleological*



S*ociety*

SUSS Bulletin 32(2)
May-August

SUSS TRIP & MEETING LIST

AUGUST 1-2 Tarakuanna - Martin Scott ph 449 4092
 6 General Meeting - Courtyard Restaurant Holme Building,
 7:30pm.
 8-9 Tuglow - Martin Scott ph 449 4092 Push-High, Tuglow and
 now help find the Rest-in-the-Middle!
 15-16 Jenolan - Ian Cooper ph 682 6790
 22-23
 25 Committee Meeting - Forest Lodge Hotel, 6:30pm.
 29-30 Pigna Barney - Martin Scott ph 449 4092

SEPTEMBER 3 General Meeting - Holme Common Room, 7:30pm.
 5-6 Jenolan - Chris Norton ph 959 3613
 4-5-6 Spring Open Weekend - James Reid, Chris Norton ph 959
 3613 Help needed to man the stall, jump off buildings etc.
 12-13 Bungonia - Martin Scott ph 449 4092 warm up for Tassy.
 19-20
 26-27 Jenolan - Jill Rowling ph 888 2927
 26 - 5 Yessabah Area- Ian Cooper ph 682 6790 Some great
 exploration prospects on this trip.
 29 Committee Meeting - Forest Lodge Hotel, 6:30pm.

OCTOBER 3-4-5 Tuglow
 10 Spelo Sports - at Macquarie Uni
 17-18 Jenolan
 24-25 Cave Rescue Exercise at Wee Jasper - contact Jill Rowling
 for info. ph 888 2927
 31-1 First Aid Course - Mike Lake ph 888 2927

DECEMBER 12-13 Jenolan

SUSS TASTROG '92 ITINERARY

27 TASMANIA ! Fly down.
 28 Kazad-dum June Florentine- The Classic Tassy deep wet
 pot. Probably an exchange through trip with Dwarrowdelf.
 29 Niggly Cave A 190m abseil! Deepest underground pitch in
 the Southern Hemisphere!
 30 Ice Tube/Growling Swallet Through Trip or you haven't
 caved yet!
JANUARY 31 A Rest - not to be confused with the Rest! (Hobart)
 1 Hobart to Ida Bay
 2 Mini Martin/Exit Cave Yet another classic through trip. See
 Australia's 3rd (?) longest cave.
 3 Launceston
 4-8 Conference
 9 Genghis Khan/Kubla Khan Mole Creek See some of OZ's
 most spectacularly decorated caves.
 10 Croesus & Lynd's Caves Two fantastic horizontal
 streamway caves.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest edition of the SUSS Bulletin, out in time for the August meeting!!

As some of you will know, this is my first bulletin as editor. I was elected to the position earlier this year. I have been a member of the Society for 12 months, during which time, I have enjoyed numerous trips to karst areas in New South Wales. What this illustrates is that SUSS is a club that welcomes new members enthusiastically. In keeping with that spirit, I would like to extend an invitation to any member, new or not-so-new, to make a contribution to the bulletin.

Not to be forgotten are the people that did make a contribution to this issue. You have put up with my requests and/or nagging for trip reports and stories and your patience is to be admired!!

This issue contains many terrific articles. My favorite isn't "Do Cavers Play Games" (because I get a mention!) but "Notes on Personal Caving Gear", by Ian Cooper. I've wanted to see something like this in an issue for some time now and I'm sure it will be extremely useful to the newer members of the Society.

On a more serious note, our colleague, Rolf Adams, who passed away earlier this year in a tragic cave-diving accident in the U-S, was the subject of an article in The Bulletin, dated July 28, 1992. The story was a profile of University medal winners. In addition to his professional achievements, the article mentions Rolf's caving pursuits.

On behalf of SUSS, I would like to say a very big THANK YOU to the guides at Jenolan for providing rainfall data for the area. Forever hopeful, I predict this information will lead to a major breakthrough!!

Marcia Vagg
Editor



Diving in The Gaden at Wellington.

27 June 1992
Taylor

Armstrong Osborne, Greg Ryan, Keir Vaughan-

There is no water in Gaden Cave, which makes using scuba equipment difficult. Nevertheless it is essential caving gear since in the depths of the cave there is a deficit of breathable air. Gaden is a tourist cave which has long suffered problems with foul air. At certain times of the year, even in the upper sections of the cave, tourists enjoyed the CO₂ treatment and often the cave had to be closed. Redevelopment works in the cave relocated the entrance shaft near to where the old natural entrance was. Natural in as much as it was blasted open. Greg Middleton's book about Oliver Trickett shows some original maps locating Gaden's blasted entrance and annotated with a comment regarding limited exploration due to foul air. Ventilation is now greatly improved and there is very little foul air available for tourists. All the adventure is being lost for tourists.

Lower in the cave are two tunnels excavated by paleontologists searching for remains of monster marsupial Diprotodons. There are many bones still embedded in the cave sediment and here remain remains representing rich research for the bone specialists of the future.....work in the past on these digs would have been severely hampered by the carbon dioxide emanating from a nearby shaft called the CO₂ Pit. Years ago in an attempt to reduce the foul air in the cave the pit was sealed with a slab of concrete placed over the mouth of the pit. Even if the concrete could have sealed the gas into the lower part of the cave our investigations on the weekend revealed an upward aven connecting to a tunnel right near the entrance of the cave. The work was never a viable solution to the problem. Over the many years since the concrete was poured, the mouth of the pit eroded and now the slab is precariously perched on crumbly sediment by two of its edges. It's launching date is imminent but I hope to miss the occasion and will urge the authorities to remove it. If it goes down the pit it will contribute to its blockage.

Armstrong Osborne (mega SUSS scientist) theorises that the CO₂ is cause by the precipitation of calcite rafts on a large lake (big enough to float a Manly Ferry) somewhere deep in the pit. This sounds like good science to me and a journey into the pit seemed like a fine undertaking. In years past Armstrong had ventured into the pit with an oxygen cylinder and found that it choked out with rubble crowding into an unobtainable lower section. He added however that since recent flooding a great deal of the material in the pit had subsided and perhaps like any good cave much of the fill had been swallowed.

The manager of the caves, David Hirne equipped us with a dragor carbon dioxide tester and we took two 90 cu foot scuba cylinders regulators to breath and a shovel to dig. (The EIS gave the go ahead). The tanks were placed inside cave packs so we could wear the tanks and climb and give some protection to the tank. The first stage pressure reducing valves were covered with a plastic bags to prevent dirt from entering the valve but the regulator took the onslaught from the mud and dirt and my dive shop reg service person will get even more employment. The air at the top of the pit was good. As we clambered down the pitch we heard Armstrong arrive. He was armed with his curiosity, a concern for our welfare and a bottle of pure oxygen. Our quest for the depths was postponed

while we had a quick lesson in the use of an oxygen revival kit. Nothing like good planning on these technical trips.

At the bottom of the first major drop the air was still breathable but deteriorating and that familiar CO₂ tang to the air signaled the use of the scuba. The dragor CO₂ tester was dragged out of the pack. We broke the seals off the glass tube and watch the blue crystals turn saturated blue with one sampling of the air. It went completely off the scale so I think that means a cigarette lighter would have gone out also. Here we grovelled through a squeeze and immediately found ourselves in a garage sized chamber (with a very low roof) half filled with cascading rubble. The walls above the infilling rubble are clean and smooth from a previous large water flow with and in one or two of the sculpted alcoves are mud stained helictite patches. Parts of the uncovered floor showed recent signs that water had collected in the chamber and the dried cracks in the mud indicated that at that area of floor the water wasn't going anywhere. On the right was an aven rising 50 degrees some 5 meters to a blockage of large jammed rocks. Through the rocks I could see a passage beyond which I think is one of the paleontological dig passages but we didn't try for a voice connection at this time.

On the left of the chamber the rubble tumbled into a passage about 0.5m high and 2m wide. Smooth all around and perhaps phreatic. The passage proceeds steeply down. Returning backwards out of this slippery slide hauling a heavy scuba tank was a formidable undertaking so we commenced excavation of the descending debris from the downslope. We tried to work slowly and methodically. The air lasted more than an hour despite the exertion of digging. After a time the passage became a bit larger and less lubricated with avalanche material.

Both Greg and I had a go turning upside down in the passage and passing debris back to clear a way on. With some clearing of the passage I elected to give a serious try at reaching the lowest point. Greg positioned himself to haul on my flailing legs to aid in module recovery. (Me) At the extent of my bodylength the air became very hot and tasted very foul and the passage choked out. The bottom of the choke contained larger angular rocks and I could just see between the rocks that the passage continued down. Slowly I removed some of the rocks from the blockage with some of them tumbling into the hole with promising crashing noises. I worked enough rocks out of the way to put my head through and look. There was a narrow rift pitch dripping about 5m to a walkable passage. The air behind the rocks was very hot and I was sweating from the heat and exertion. More rocks were passed back to Greg who would attempt to recover the rock transport it somewhere above without letting go of my leg or drop the rock back in the hole on me. It was apparent that there is more preparatory digging was needed before proceeding and with air supplies dwindling we "called the dive". We backed out of the passage and climbed back up and out of the pit passing tentatively beneath the perched concrete slab and then up the pitch. After locking the cave and hitting the cool of the night air outside, I remembered that I had left my shovel at the bottom. There was air enough in the tanks for a another trip so we returned to recover our refuse. Just a short trip really and soon we were out again.

In future trips, to reach the bottom of the pitch will require scuba and the downward slope will have to be more thoroughly excavated for easy entrance and exit. This will involve about two hours of digging, breathing through a regulator. The pitch below may

be tight to start with and will require a caving ladder to descend probably using a hooker line. Full face mask would be best but who has a spare \$5000 to buy one. Next to the chamber there is another small room that we did not enter because of the squeeze but there may be another upward passage in here because this appears to be the main inflow point. There may also be another pitch to the rift beneath but to get in to the annexure requires digging and another EIS.

Keir Vaughan-Taylor

OH NO, NOT A PRICE INCREASE...

After much deliberation (and argument!!)
your committee has decided to clarify hut fees
for the Jenolan cottage, once and for all:

\$3/weekend* plus \$2 per additional night

*a weekend is Fri or Saturday night, or both.

The minimum charge is \$3 per person.

Day trips are free!!

THE GREAT SUSS BOOK SALE

Resulting from a recent clean up of the SUSS library we can now offer a wide range of publications for sale. So here's your chance to complete your collection of SUSS bulletins or acquire the 2 benchmark works on Jenolan Caves at never to be repeated prices!

Prices do not include postage. For further information and orders contact any committee member or write to:-

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

SUSS BULLETIN BACK ISSUES IN STOCK

YEAR	VOLUME	FEATURING ARTICLES ON:-	PRICE	No. IN STOCK
1968	7(2)	YARRANGOBILLY CAVES AND WOMBEYAN CAVES, N.S.W.	\$0.70	23
1971	11(1)		\$0.30	10
1971	11(3)	MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN, N.S.W.	\$0.30	10
1971	11(4)		\$0.30	8
1971	11(5)		\$0.30	5
1971	11(6)		\$0.30	2
1972	11(7)		\$0.30	3
1972	12(2)	NUDIST COLONIES DISCOVERY, JENOLAN, N.S.W.	\$0.30	3
1972	12(5)		\$0.30	8
1972	12(6)		\$0.30	8
1973	12(8)	TWIDDLEY - OM - POM DISCOVERY, JENOLAN, N.S.W.	\$0.30	5
1973	13(1)	SOUTHERN LIMESTONE, JENOLAN, N.S.W.	\$0.30	8
1973	13(2)	FRUSTRATION CAVE, COOLEMAN PLAINS, N.S.W.	\$0.30	8
1973	13(3)	BOTTOMLESS PIT, JENOLAN, N.S.W.	\$0.30	9
1973	13(4)		\$0.30	8
1973	13(5)		\$0.30	8
1974	13(9)	WOOLLOMIN CAVES, N.S.W.	\$0.30	5
1974	13(10)		\$0.30	5
1974	13(11)	KINGS CAVES, RAYMOND TERRACE, N.S.W.	\$0.30	8
1974	14(1)		\$0.30	9
1974	14(2)		\$0.30	9
1974	14(4)		\$0.30	8
1974	14(6)	THE JENOLAN CAVES LIMESTONE	\$0.40	10
1974	14(7)		\$0.40	9
1974	14(8)		\$0.40	8
1974	14(9)		\$0.30	10
1975	14(10)	BRITTLE BAZAAR, MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN	\$0.50	1
1975	14(11)	INTRODUCTION TO SUSS	\$0.30	4
1975	14(12)		\$0.50	1
1975	15(1)	BRITTLE BAZAAR, MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN	\$0.50	9
1975	15(3)		\$0.50	8
1975	15(4)	COOLEMAN PLAINS, N.S.W.	\$0.50	2
1975	15(5)	CHURCH CREEK CAVES, N.S.W.	\$0.50	10
1975	15(6)	CLIEFDEN CAVES, N.S.W.	\$0.50	10
1975	15(8)	THE JENOLAN FLOOD, 21/6/1975	\$1.00	9
1975	15(9)	SUSS JENOLAN DISCOVERIES 1974-75	\$1.00	9
1976	15(10)	SPECIAL JENOLAN ISSUE	\$1.00	8
1976	15(11)	JENOLAN RIVER FLOOD FLOW MEASUREMENTS	\$0.50	8

YEAR	VOLUME	FEATURING ARTICLES ON:-	PRICE	No. IN STOCK
1976	16(1)		\$0.50	3
1976	16(2)	A BREAKTHROUGH IN SPIDER CAVE, JENOLAN	\$1.00	7
1976	16(3)		\$0.50	12
1976	16(4)		\$0.50	12
1976	16(5)	EARLY SPIDER CAVE MAP, JENOLAN, N.S.W.	\$1.00	12
1977	16(6)		\$1.00	12
1977	16(7)		\$1.00	11
1977	16(8)	KNOCKERS CAVERN, ODYSSEY CAVE, BUNGONIA, N.S.W.	\$1.00	12
1977	17(1)	BOOMALAKKA WEE PASSAGE, JENOLAN	\$1.00	11
1977	17(2)	JENOLAN SOUTHERN LIMESTONE	\$1.00	10
1977	17(3)	U.K. AND N.Z. CAVING	\$1.00	8
1977	17(4)	NORTHERN SPAIN	\$1.00	12
1977	17(5)	CAVE CONSERVATION SPECIAL ISSUE	\$1.00	12
1978	17(6)	SPECIAL FRESHERS ISSUE	\$1.00	10
1978	17(7)	MT. ARTHUR & TAKAKA HILL, N.Z.	\$1.00	12
1978	18(1)	TAKAKA HILL, MT. OWEN & WAITOMO, N.Z.	\$1.00	13
1978	18(2)	ATEA 78, PAPUA NEW GUINEA.	\$1.00	6
1978	18(3)		\$1.00	9
1978	18(4)		\$1.00	5
1979	19(1)		\$1.00	12
1979	19(2)	CENTURY, SERPENTINE & CASTERET CAVES, JENOLAN	\$1.00	9
1979	19(3)	WATER TRACING PART 1	\$1.00	25
1979	19(4)	SPECIAL ISSUE, SPIDER CAVE, JENOLAN, WITH MAP	\$2.50	4
1980	19(5)	WATER TRACING PART 2	\$1.00	6
1980	19(6)	ELLIS BASIN - NETTLEBED EXPEDITION, N.Z.	\$1.00	8
1980	20(1)	WATER TRACING PART 3	\$1.00	10
1980	20(2)	TITANIUM BRAKEBAR PERFORMANCE, WATER TRACING PART 4	\$1.00	10
1980	20(3)		\$1.00	3
1980	20(5)	THE RUNNING KRAB TECHNIQUE	\$1.00	13
1980	20(6)		\$1.00	12
1980	20(7)		\$1.00	14
1980	20(8)		\$1.00	11
1981	20(9)		\$1.00	9
1981	20(10)	YELLOW PAGES GUIDE TO N.S.W. CAVES	\$1.00	6
1981	20(11)	TASSIE POT, TASMANIA	\$1.00	8
1981	21(1)		\$1.00	5
1981	21(4)		\$1.00	1
1981	21(5)		\$1.00	1
1981	21(7)		\$1.00	8
1981	21(8)		\$1.00	9
1982	22(1)		\$1.00	6
1982	22(2)		\$1.00	4
1982	22(3)	DISCOVERY OF ICE TUBE, TASMANIA	\$1.00	13
1982	22(4)		\$1.00	32
1982	22(5)		\$1.00	15
1982	22(6)		\$1.00	16
1982	22(7)		\$1.00	4
1982	22(8)		\$1.00	55
1983	23(1)	TASMANIAN CAVES	\$1.50	52
1983	23(2)		\$1.00	6
1983	23(3)	WEE JASPER CAVES	\$1.00	8

YEAR	VOLUME	FEATURING ARTICLES ON:-	PRICE	No. IN STOCK
1984	24(1)		\$1.00	2
1984	24(2)		\$1.00	32
1984	24(3)	WIBURDS LAKE CAVE, JENOLAN	\$1.50	53
1985	25(1)		\$1.00	2
1985	25(2)	WAITOMO CAVES, NEW ZEALAND	\$1.50	41
1985	25(3)	GUIDE TO N.S.W. KARST AREAS	\$1.50	11
1986	26(1)		\$1.00	3
1986	26(2)	DWYERS CAVE, JENOLAN	\$1.50	12
1986	26(3)	CAVING INFORMATION SPECIAL EDITION	\$2.00	22
1987	27(2)	BAKERS SWAMP KARST AREA	\$1.00	9
1987	27(3)	THE DIRTY ELF, MOUNT ANNE, TASMANIA	\$1.00	1
1987	27(4)	MOLE CREEK, TASMANIA	\$1.00	53
1988	28(1)	LEWIS RIFT, MOUNT ANNE, TASMANIA	\$1.50	2
1989	29(1)	THE MOUNT ETNA STORY	\$1.50	2
1989	29(3)	FAR COUNTRY, JUBILEE CAVE, JENOLAN	\$2.00	1
1990	30(2)		\$1.50	3
1991	31(1)	GLOUCESTER KARST AREA	\$2.00	27
1991	31(2)	YESSABAH CASE & MAPS OF 8 YESSABAH CAVES JENOLAN SOUTHERN LIMESTONE CAVES	\$2.00	40
1991	31(3)	SUSS IN NEW ZEALAND SPECIAL ISSUE	\$2.50	2
1991	31(4)	YESSABAH CASE DECISION	\$2.00	10
1992	32(1)	CHURCH CREEK CAVES, JENOLAN FLOODS, JENOLAN EXTENSIONS, THE NEW SUSS CONSTITUTION	\$2.00	8

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

1975	WELCH, B.R. (Ed.)	"THE CAVES OF JENOLAN 2: THE NORTHERN LIMESTONE"	\$7.00
1978	DUNKLEY, J.R.	"THE EXPLORATION AND SPELEOGEOGRAPHY OF MAMMOTH CAVE, JENOLAN.", 2nd EDITION	\$7.00

SHOWING THEM HOW IT'S DONE

Wee Jasper, May 2-3 1992

Eager to Learn: Igor Kovac, Andrew Matthews, Don Matthews

Rather too Eager to Teach: Mike Lake, Chris Norton, Hilary O'Byrne, Jill Rowling

"Sorry, folks, but I forgot to bring the maps of the caves to show you."

"That's all right Chris. Do you want to stop somewhere for dinner?"

"Oh yes - but make sure it's somewhere with toilets. I forgot to bring toilet paper."

I settled back in my seat. Everything would be all right after all. I had forgotten my mug, too, but I decided that I wouldn't need that. Oh, and I hadn't secured the cord of my light to the back of my helmet, where the clip had come off - but Hilary had assured me that she had a piece of string for such emergencies.

It wasn't until I unrolled my sleeping bag inside Don's palatial 8-man (or, in this case, 4-man, 1-woman) tent, which Hilary was delighted to find emblazoned with her name, that I realised something was wrong. No therm-a-rest. Oh dear. Fortunately, Andrew had brought an air bed so I was able to use his Karrimat. Well, just as well I hadn't forgotten anything else. The gentle rumbles of Don's snores rocked us all to sleep.

The next morning, I discovered how difficult it is to keep your light on your helmet when you forget to pack the gaffer tape. I gave our three new members a confident grin and explained that the headpiece was supposed to fall off easily in case I needed to light up a clinometer for surveying.

Leaving a note for Mike and Jill, who were to arrive later that morning, we set off for the Punchbowl Cave entrance to teach Andrew, Don and Igor to abseil. As we walked down the hill from Norton's Top Secret Campsite, we saw another large group of cavers approaching from the direction of the main camp. "Oh no!" we cried, and raced down the hill, reaching the new improved stile over the fence at the same time as the others, from the Canberra-based Other Club. We started walking up the hill together, until we saw a group of some twenty children striding purposefully towards the caves. We ran to the cave entrance and threw a rope and ladder down the main pitch, where they accompanied another group's gear. The Other Club put their ladder, belay rope and SRT rope down the longer pitch on the left hand side

of the entrance chamber. The kids, however, were only going into Signature, so we were safe.

Up onto the cliffs around the entrance, where we took out our abseiling equipment. Oh, no 6m tape. Must be in the cave. No? Well, it must be still in my pack back at camp. Thank you Hilary - it's the purple one in the left hand corner of the tent.

Hilary returned with not only the tape but also Mike and Jill. Mike was feeling very frustrated as he had just come 400km to go caving and found he had forgotten his helmet. He cheered himself up by giggling at the Other Club's rigging as I rigged a rope from the roof down the SRT pitch, which must be some 80ft long.

"I don't suppose you brought any rope protectors, Mike?"

"No."

"H'm. I'll just use this cave pack tied back to the belay point then."

Jill: "I didn't realise there was a possible prussik, and didn't bring my lead ascender. Can I borrow yours, Mike?"

Hilary: "Oh no! My light's dead. I must have reversed the polarities on the charger accidentally."

As one can well imagine, the confidence of our new members in the so-called "experienced" members was rapidly diminishing. They set off in slight trepidation down the long pitch. Since there was one descender too few, I made the journey clipped on with my cowstail to Jill's seat maillon - an interesting experience, dangling 25m above the ground with no control over your descent.

We proceeded along the passage. Then we turned around and came back and waited whilst Hilary climbed the ladder to retrieve her cave pack from the top of the pitch. Much cursing as her SRT gear kept catching in the ladder rungs. She descended and we set off again.

Off into the crawly lower level. "Now I'm sure this joins up further into the cave." Needless to say, it didn't.

"Chris, we seem to be going round and round in circles." Time to restore my credibility by leading everyone straight to the Fossil Wall, which I did on only the second attempt.

Visits were paid to Edie's Grotto and the Mud Crack Chamber, where we admired the 'Art Show' in a small hole in the floor - someone has carefully modelled caving gear, cavers, dragons, other animals and an exquisite stone fortress complete with ramparts out of the plasticene-like mud. The Mud Crack Chamber itself, however, displayed the results of less creative use of mud - bright red streaks were daubed liberally around the walls, coating the

cave, so we descended unimpeded - however, as we pulled our rope down, another dropped through from above. We hurried off into the cave.

Highlight of the cave for me was finding the elusive Series 3 extension, hidden in a rockpile at the back of the cave. Having only been here once before, when 15 years old, and never having found it since, I was pleased to locate not only this chamber but also yet another route back through the rockpile to Series 4. Lowlight was the large quantity of broken glass lying at the bottom of the Rubbish Tip shaft into Series 2. Jill suggested that the removal of this glass would make a profitable project for someone.

We piled back into the car, where Hilary and I had to share the front seat. With an angry "I wish I got to sit on the gearstick" she slammed the door firmly on my little finger. I quickly relinquished the prized position to her.

Despite Don's best navigational efforts, we made it back to Sydney in good time, and our new members returned with a desire to do lots more caving, and a healthy disrespect for the affected knowledge of the so-called "technically proficient" members.

N.B. For those interested in such things:

Site Condition: The caves were dryer than I'd ever seen them in 9 years of WeeJ caving. There was no water at all in the initial section of Dog Leg Cave - unfortunately, I did not go any further as I was lacking in essential supplies of motivation. The traditionally gloopy mud of the Dip had hardened into a most agreeable hardened consistency, thus making for one of the cleanest caving trips I've ever experienced.

Jill noticed a good deal of phosphate in the Dip Cave in the Series 3 extension and Series 1. Series 1 also contained fossils that were much more impressive than those in the more famous Fossil Wall in Punchbowl.

Rigging Details: Punchbowl entrance pitch can be rigged with a 50ft ladder if belayed from the jug on the ledge below the main entrance rather than the traditional large stal - it then hangs just a couple of feet above the bottom of the pitch. The SRT pitch (up the flowstone on the left) is best belayed from the small, less obvious jug behind the large one, and back-tied to the large stal thus providing a safety line for travel to the pitch top. Two rope protectors are advisable. A 10m handline would be helpful at a few points in the cave. If you manage to climb the Loxin Wall, you can abseil the 80ft drop to the bottom of the entrance pitch - note that a doubled 50m rope WILL NOT SUFFICE here and at least 70m should be carried.

One 50m rope is sufficient for the pull-through trip through the Dip - the Series 4 entrance shaft is 70ft deep. This rope is also used on the much shorter Rathole pitch from Series 3 to Series 2. An abseil down the impressive Series 2 Daylight Shaft requires 35m of rope.

Chris Norton

NOTES ON PERSONAL CAVING GEAR

Ian Cooper

The aim of this article is to outline basic equipment needed for caving with some costs. This article is based on a similar item by Graeme Kates which was published in the *NEWSLETTER OF THE HILLS SPELEOLOGY CLUB Ltd.*, Vol. 8, No. 1, July 1992.

CLOTHING

Overalls

T - shirt and shorts worn underneath. The material may be nylon, cotton, or cordura. This garment mostly provides protection and not warmth. Only use in dry or warm cave environments such as Nullabor, North Australia, Yessabah, or Cliefden in summer. (Wash regularly)

Thermal clothing

100% wool jumper or fibrepile jacket, (for long waits). Polypropylene or chlorofibre thermal underwear are good investments and worn beneath overalls are sufficient for all N.S.W. caving. If you do feel the cold a wool or chlorofibre balaclava is a big help.

FOOTWEAR

Must have grip. No metal hooks, or studs/nails permitted, as these damage decoration and are a safety hazard on ladders. A raised heel is an advantage, (eg. dairy boots). The traditional beginners footwear is a pair of Dunlop Volleys.

HELMET

Any type with "Australian Standards Association" or "UIAA" approval. Must have a chin strap.

LIGHT SOURCES

Main source:- Lead acid, Speleo Technics, Gel cell, Petzl Zoom or similar.

2nd source:- small torch, Petzl Zoom or similar - not big or heavy.

3rd source:- candles and waterproof matches

Lights must be checked prior to each trip. Spare globes, batteries etc. should be carried. Keep lenses clean for maximum efficiency. No carbide units to be used in N.S.W. or Victoria.

EMERGENCY AND RESCUE

First aid kit

Each party member should carry a small first aid kit, compressed into a small waterproof container. It should contain items to treat minor cuts and abrasions, triangular bandage, cotton bandage, tape, safety pins, etc. Maintain your first aid kit, replace items used as soon as possible.

Whistle

Pealess, waterproof type. Used for signalling on pitches, or in areas of loud noise, (eg. waterfalls), or in case of emergencies, (lost).

Knife

A penknife worn on a loop of cord around the neck is useful, (used to remove jammed hair or clothing from equipment). A pencil and waterproof paper can also be included to write emergency notes.

Rescue blanket

A rescue blanket, (silvered plastic), survival bag, or a jumbo garbage bag, (the orange garden type) can be taped inside your helmet for use in cases of hypothermia, shock, or for prolonged waits in cold places. Recent studies by the BCRA have shown that rescue blankets are only partially effective in maintaining body warmth and survival bags are recommended.

Pulleys

On major trips a caver should carry 2 rescue pulleys so that rocks may be lifted off trapped cavers and injured cavers hauled up pitches.

WATER BOTTLE

A one litre sealable bottle for drinking water.

WEBBING TAPE

A 7 metre length of seatbelt webbing, (50mm). Can be used as a harness or handline. Keep clean, (wash regularly). When purchasing ensure that there are no welded seams in its length!

KARABINERS

At least 3 screw gated karabiners of differing size and composition, (steel, alloy, large, small). Used for abseiling, anchors, belaying (Italian hitch).

DESCENDERS

Rappel rack, Petzl stop, Whaletail, cross karabiners. Figure 8s, Robots, Harpoons are NOT permitted on club ropes.

ASCENDERS

Mechanical ascenders or prussik loops. Several mechanical systems can be set up, (preference is towards the "Frog system"). Consult trip leaders, safety or equipment officer for further details and advice.

HARNESS

Range from 50mm tape to custom made climbing harnesses. Consult trip leaders, safety or equipment officer for further details and advice.

PACK

Small, robust pack that can hold all of the above. Should have a strong attachment point, (handle, loop), on top. Not too many loops, buckles, straps as these only tend to jam in things. Some long vertical caves require 100m+ of 9mm rope be hauled through in a pack, specialised rope packs are available for this purpose.

THE BAD BIT - THE COSTS!

The following costs have been calculated using new gear prices current at 1/6/92 from Sydney suppliers. Shopping around the various outdoor shops, (if only by phone), can reduce the overall cost by 10%. If you band together with some friends to create a large order, (>\$1000), then some shops provide a 10% to 15% discount. Don't overlook the fact that second hand gear, (with a known history), can provide service for several years and reduce the initial outlay considerably.

If there seems to be a preponderance of Petzl equipment it is because it supplies some of the best specialised equipment and is readily available in Australia. Similar items in the same price range are available from other local and overseas manufacturers, (SRT, CMI, Edelrid, etc.).

The following two books are recommended reading for further information:-

"VERTICAL, A Technical Manual for Cavers." by Alan Warild.
Published by The Speleological Research Council Ltd., Sydney, 1988.

"SINGLE ROPE TECHNIQUES, a guide for vertical cavers" by Neil R. Montgomery
Published by The Sydney Speleological Society, 1977.

Both books are available from the SUSS library. Further information and advice may be obtained from any trip leader or from the equipment or safety officers.

	BEGINNER	\$	INTO CAVING	\$	LOVE CAVING	\$
CLOTHING	Overalls	25	Cordura overalls	45	Custom made suit	140+
			Thermal underwear	100	Thermal underwear	114
					Fibrepile jacket	100
FOOTWEAR	Dunlop Volleys	18	Dairy Boots	25	High Dairy Boots	30
LIGHTS	Petzl Zoom	60	Home made lead/acid	120	Speleo technics	270
	Tekna lite	16	Petzl Zoom	60	Petzl Zoom	60
	Candles	1	Candles	1	Tekna lite	16
HELMETS	Safety	30	Petzl Vertical	60	Petzl Ecrin	83
ABSEIL	Cross Krabs	55	Rappel rack	95	Petzl Stop	98
KRABS	included above		4 krabs	70	5 krabs	90
PRUSSIK	Prussik loops	22	CMI Asc. system	150	Petzl Asc. system	160
HARNESS	6m x 50mm tape	12	Simple harness	40	Petzl Fractio	137
PACK	Day pack	40	Med. rope pack	85	Large rope pack	89
MISC.	Whistle	1	Whistle	1	Whistle	1
	First aid kit	20	First aid kit	20	First aid kit	20
	Survival bag	5	Survival bag	5	Survival bag	5
			7m x 50mm tape	14	7m x 50mm tape	14
			Penknife	15	Penknife	15
					2 rescue pulleys	50
TOTALS		\$305		\$906		\$1492

SPELEO SPORTS 92

Saturday, 10th October

At 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 leisurely evening B.B.Q.

And of course if you don't want to compete just come along and spectate.

So come along, enjoy the day and represent or cheer for your club. Don't let the same clubs win year after year - give them some competition.

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

***MORE DETAILS WILL BE SENT TO YOU LATER
FOR NOW - SPREAD THE WORD and KEEP THE DATE FREE***

Organised by the NSW Cave Rescue Squad - Hosted by Macquarie University



Wet Poms at Tuglow

Sue Bonar, Ian Cooper, Hugh Comens, Alan Downes, Willow Forsyth, Nick Hawkes,
Martin Scott, Hywel & Jane, Wes & Rose. 26-28th June 1991.

Martin Scott

Something was odd, but I couldn't work it out. SUSS had a Tuglow permit for the weekend, and it seemed like only Poms were ringing me. Nick and Sue were coming along, and managed to convince their English friends, Wes & Rose to spend their only weekend in NSW at Tuglow. Jane, in Australia for just over a week, and boyfriend Hywel were also spending their last weekend together for some months at Tuglow. Wow, these Poms were dedicated. On previous trips I have been swamped by phone calls, so much so that I had to turn some cavers away. Maybe all the students were really busy, but no, this was the first weekend of the uni holidays. No students, but plenty of Poms. Something really was odd.

I woke early on Friday morning to watch the European Cup Soccer Final. Alas, at 4am there was only a fuzzy screen and noise on SBS. Wrong morning! This wasn't like me, something really was odd. Not too worry, plenty of time to pack and patch up the bum on my overalls. Dawn arrived and I was ready to go. Suddenly the clouds appeared and it started bucketing down. My enthusiasm started to wane. 8am at Granville Station and we were away. I had managed to rustle together an advance party of seriously under-employed professionals to take Friday off and set up camp beside the Kowmung River. The jobless, the jeans salesperson and the washing machine mechanic set off in the Kingswood up to the mountains.

Forever the optimist, I reckoned it was clearing over the mountains. First a pit stop at Katoomba to acquire drinking supplies. These Poms had quite a reputation, so we made sure we were prepared for the coming drinking binge. Next stop Jenolan Caves for some truly awful mildly warm chips, and a chat with Steve in the Guides Office. We continued along the Kanangra Walls Road, driving through last night's snow dump to the final car stop at Boss Peak. It was overcast, but the weather looked really good as it wasn't raining. We put our packs on and then added another one each to be sure we had enough gear, and slowly trudged down the ridge like overlaid packhorses. By midday we had reached the campsite, and quickly put up the tents and lit the fire that would burn continuously until Sunday afternoon.

Now set up, we headed over to Horse Gully Sinks to continue the survey of Pushhi (think about it), the new cave found earlier this year. Exploration here over the last couple of months has followed a dry streambed, down climbs and a 5m pitch, past a dyke and choked at a narrow draughting hole. A climb just past the dyke leads to an upper level with even higher chambers, avens and ended in a rockpile choke in the floor. On the last trip to Pushhi in May we broke through the rockpile into new passages leading to a second pitch. On the Friday, we surveyed up an aven to a sizable belfry, home to a couple of small grey horseshoe bats. Surveying continued along the new passages to the head of the second pitch. I climbed down the pitch to determine that it is not a pitch at all. We headed out to a starry night, promising a good-weathered weekend.

Hywel & Jane met us back at the fire, and the others arrived at Boss Peak late on Friday night. Next morning the others strolled into camp at a leisurely hour, complete with not one, but two video cameras. We quickly set about getting ready for the big caving trip into Tuglow Cave. A slow trip down the pitches followed, due to the poor caving properties of Reebok aerobic sandshoes. This rectified, we split into a touristy trip around the downstream end, and I led Willow and Nick on a quick geology tour upstream, inspecting the new upper level containing lots of passage needing surveying. We derigged to emerge into a miserably wet night, and thankfully a raging fire back at camp. The more mad amongst us, cleaned off in the rain with a skinny dip (although not full immersion) in the freezing cold Kowmung River. The Poms and the Aussies lived up to their drinking reputations around the fire on a drizzly Saturday night.

The rain and hangovers from the previous nights' revelry dampened any enthusiasm for going caving on Sunday. Almost everybody decided to pack up and head home, doing a cafe crawl via the tourist sights in the Blue Mountains, although now well and truly covered by clouds. The video cameras came into good use for filming Willow fishtailing her front-wheel drive Subaru along the Kowmung River Fire Trail.

Meanwhile Ian and I returned to Pushhi to survey down the pitch that was now a climb to the bottom of the cave. At the bottom are two strongly draughting phreatic tubes, partly filled with stream gravels. All the passages we have been able to get into have now been surveyed. Pushhi is presently 271m long, the second longest at Tuglow, and the bottom is 31m below the T10 entrance tag, and the total depth is 35m. There is still a climbing lead and a couple of draughting digs requiring pushing. We exited on Sunday afternoon and it was still raining.

After all the rain at Tuglow this weekend, it started to make sense. Maybe all the students knew the weather wouldn't be so good this weekend for camping. Maybe it wasn't so odd that only the Poms were keen to come along. They even brought their video cameras along to show their folks back home that Australia has weather just like it is in England all year round. However, maybe the Poms knew something after all, as Sydneysiders were treated to downpours all weekend anyway.

For cave savers, what's upstairs is vital

By PAUL BAILEY
Environment Writer

It is a sad fact that some of the world's most precious limestone caves have been used as mere garbage dumps.

Rubbish dropped carelessly by humans can block cave entrances and clog sinkholes. Underground rivers can become polluted by nutrient-rich agricultural run-off and silt.

The slightest alteration in the fragile subterranean environment can lead to the rapid deterioration of unique geological formations which have taken hundreds of millions of years to evolve.

For cave conservation scientists, what happens on the Earth's surface has now become almost as important as what goes on within these underground wilderness areas.

Careless land management upstream of caves or above cave systems can not only ruin the habitats of rare plants and animals but also destroy important clues to the natural history of a country, the National Parks and Wildlife Service caves officer, Mr Andy Spate, said.

At Jenolan Caves, near Sydney, bone fragments of extinct species such as the giant kangaroo are embedded in the walls of the caves.

At the moment scientists are examining ancient vomit from the rare sooty owls which are believed to have lived in the caves for thousands of years.

Some of it contains bones of small marsupials and from this it may be possible to piece together the environment of a past age.

Caves are very sensitive to

changes in the water which flows through them, to micro-climatic shifts and to human and animal traffic.

Because of this, their sediments and formations contain extremely important and long-term records of past environments, Mr Spate said.

"NSW has been relatively lucky so far because most of the caves are out of the way or difficult to get to," he said.

But he gave the example a cave system near Mt Gambier in South Australia where the pollution from the dairy and pig industries above severely contaminated the groundwater.

In NSW there have been some problems with farming upstream of Tuglow Caves in Kanangra Boyd National Park and in other areas where there are caves below private land.

The parks service oversees 30 of the 96 major caves in NSW; the rest are either controlled by the Lands Department or are in private hands.

While major cave systems under government control such as Jenolan have generally survived well, the Minister for the Environment, Mr Moore, is concerned about those under private land.

The traditional way of preserving caves has been to protect their entrances.

But Mr Moore said this was not effective because caves systems can extend for many kilometres.

As a result, State Cabinet has agreed to legislation which will establish underground national parks and wilderness areas in NSW, a move unprecedented in Australia.

Mr Moore said while most of

the country's surface had been trodden by people, there were still vast cave areas where few had ever gone.

Even people with the best intentions could damage fragile cave systems — their breath, oil from their fingers and movement through caves alone could cause irreparable damage, he said.

At present the title to a piece of land extends to the centre of the Earth, barring any government reservation for mines or mineral purposes.

Under the new legislation, the park's service would seek to purchase an interest in the title to give it control of the caves.

It will also provide for conservation agreements with landholders to ensure above-ground activities are compatible with the caves.

BOOK REVIEW

CAVES

Written and edited by Jenny Wood
DOUBLEDAY PRESS Rec Price \$6.95
Category - Childrens Literature
32 Pages

This booklet has been around since early 1990, but recently has appeared on the shelves of the numerous book discounters flourishing in Sydney's market places (Av. price \$2.50).

The first thing that strikes you as you flick through this book, is the outstanding quality of the photographs that have been carefully selected to illustrate this book. Reading this entire book takes about 30 minutes for the average adult, in that time learning simplistically how limestone caves form and their natural complexities (Lava, glacial and sea caves are also mentioned), cave decoration formation, Cave Fauna, Cave engravings and human inhabitants, Cave exploration techniques and Speleology.

The books format is one of a "activity book", it also includes a simple experiment (that actually works - too well!), a short true story of cave discovery, a test, and glossary.

If you don't have kids, find a copy anyway for your coffee table, its striking cover photo attracts every visitor, and answers all those questions you've forgotten how to answer!

Graeme Kates

Reprinted from "NEWSLETTER of the HILLS SPELEOLOGY CLUB Ltd."

Vol. 8, N° 1, July 1992.

Everything you always wanted to know about first aid, but were afraid to ask...

Safety officer, Mike Lake, has arranged
a St John's Ambulance certificate course for SUSS
members. The course will provide basic, but vital skills,
and is also being tailored to suit the club's outdoor pursuits. It
is being held on Saturday October 31 and Sunday November 1.

**Remember, a current first-aid certificate is mandatory for
trip leaders!**

For more information, contact Mike

Do Cavers Play Games?

The answer: Yes

The place: Jenolan Cottage.

The date: 11th and 12th of July 1992.

SUSS Members: Ian Cooper (TL), Michel de Leeuwe (reporting), Dan, Steven, Jhon, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, Marcia, Sonia Stace, Vanessa Larymore

Other Clubs: Matthew Anderson, Cameron Bird, Tony, Troy, Glen Robertson, Aaron, Scott, Matthew

It's 11pm on Friday night as we arrived at the cottage. As we approached the smell of alcohol wafted past. Out of the black of night appeared an ill looking caver, who was not to well but who will remain nameless.

The cottage was full, and not a single SUSS member in sight. The cottage was full of drunk cavers from other clubs. Had we stuffed up? Wrong weekend? Had Ian stuffed up? Did we have a permit? Answer - The guides stuffed up, and double booked the permit. So Sonia, Vanessa, and myself decided to sleep in the garage. Just as we were getting our own party going Steven and John joined in. Then a little later Keir, Ian and Dan arrived. We then stayed up talk, ate and drank until it was time for beddy bobos.

As we rose from our state of slumber, a discovery was made. Sonia and Vanessa had been taken by the cold night air. As we speculated what had happened. (An hour passes) Appearing through the door come a cold and tired Sonia and Vanessa. As the cold of night set in Vanessa and Sonia got a little cold in their Kmart special sleeping bags. Stealing Steven's doona they departed for the number two car park. To keep warm Sonia would drive around the car park with the heater on for ten minutes to warm up the car. Then they would go to sleep. When Sonia awoke again from the cold she would drive around again. This continued all night. Should we suggest warmer sleeping bags next time? No it gave us all a great laugh in the morning.

On Saturday some people went up to Wyabirdes. The SUSS members when into Mammoth. And later Keir and Troy went up to the Southern Limestone, to look around. 'The Mammoth Story'. We went for an easy trip into Mammoth this being Sonia's and Vanessa's first time caving. It was a really nice tourist trip. Going in the lower entrance, we went down into Mammoth squeeze and onto grinning Monster Lake. Due to the low rain fall recently the level of the lake was very low, and the cave in general was drier than normal. Going back up the rock pile, Keir left us up the forty footer to go meet Troy and go to the southern limestone. The rest of us went to the Railway Tunnel. As we continued we all slipped and fell down a slope into a muddy puddle. As we tried to climb up the slope again we all slipped and fell. It took us about 20 minutes to realise that the way onto the rock pile was at the bottom of the slope.

We continued along the railway tunnel until we reached the rock pile. We searched for a way through the rock pile, which we did not find. But we did find a big hole. As you go into the rock pile, and little way on to your right a hole descends to the

right. A few rocks were thrown down the hole, and it was estimated at about 40m. We might just have to go back there with a ladder.

Sonia was chosen to lead us back out. We made it back to the start of the railway tunnel without too much trouble. It was then that we would have been in real trouble if Sonia was the only one who knew the way out. She decided to go on a little stroll to the end of Sand Passage before she noticed that she went the wrong way. Most of us were smart and decided to sit down and talk about how 'Little Peter Rabbit' had sexual connotations. When Sonia returned we found the way back to the entrance without any hassle.

Then the games began. That night after a few drinks Ian says let's play a game of 'Where are you Moriarty?' This started a series of games which lasted all night. These included getting the coat hanger out. We tried to get as far as we could with two cans. And a lot of skill puzzles like picking up a match box between your legs with your teeth and picking up a lighter from under a chair without falling off. The worst was one where you had to lay your head and ankles on two chairs and pass a helmet around your body as many times as you could before falling off the chair. Tony has all of this on video. For the next bull I'll tell you how to play these games and a lot more.

The next day Troy and Keir went back up to the Southern Limestone. Dan, Ian, and I went for a through trip in Serpentine so Ian could have just one more look before he draws the map. Vanessa and Sonia went for a bush walk. When we returned the kitchen was nice and clean and every thing was washed up compliments of Vanessa. I think we will all agree Vanessa can come on all the trips.

We all said good bye and went home

Apocrypha

7 — THE DAILY TELEGRAPH MIRROR, Friday, June 19, 1992 7

NATIONAL Parks and Wildlife Service officers murdered people and put their bodies through mincers, according to sensational documents tabled in Federal Parliament last night.

They quote a senior Aboriginal leader as admitting he saw a man's body minced up with pet food.

It is also alleged NPWS officers and directors took bribes to allow some people to stay in the kangaroo meat industry and to keep others out.

Democrat Senator Meg Lees, who tabled the documents, told Parliament they linked senior NPWS officers with bird trapping and smuggling, meat substitution and several murders.

The documents include:
AN alleged transcript of a taped conversation between the NSW western region commissioner for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Steve Gordon, and a man called Raymond Hoser

AN interview between Steve Gordon and a journalist

A CONFIDENTIAL note from senior NSW Government official Gary Sturgess.

In the transcripts Mr Gordon allegedly admits to a shady past, saying he was a middle-man in bird smuggling.

The conversation alleging offic-

By CINDY WOCKNER

ers put people through mincers occurred on March 27 this year.

Mr Gordon is quoted alleging that NPWS staff put one person through a pet food mincer in St George, Queensland, and drowned two brothers in Bourke.

The events are alleged to have occurred about 1980.

Missing "Kangaroo King" Andy Komarnicki, 60, who has not been seen since January 1980, was named in the papers. Mr Komarnicki, who owned a pet food company in St George, was found in a coronial inquest to have been murdered by persons unknown. His body was never found.

Mr Gordon had said people were paying the NPWS up to \$20,000 to keep new players out of the kangaroo industry.

Mr Gordon had said he saw someone go through a mincer and thought he was next in line, so he "shut up".

"I come to St George and see where they put a mate of mine through the mincer and I see that happen," he is quoted as saying. "I didn't see the bloke, but parts were human... they were mixing it up with other meat, see?"

"I got real sick, you know. I stopped dead in my tracks and I just walked off."

Bungonia: The handing over of control of the Bungonia State Recreation Area to the Director of the National Parks and Wildlife Service was completed today with a cave gating ceremony attended by the Minister for the Environment, Tim Moore, and the newly appointed cave warden, Dr. Terry Metherell.

Dr. Metherell's controversial appointment was defended strongly by Mr. Moore: "Although Terry has no previous karst management experience, we feel he is just what is needed to solve Bungonia's problem of overuse. If he can have the same effect on speleo groups that he had on teachers, we feel visitation levels will drop to a much more manageable figure. This can only be good for the caves."

As they posed in full SRT gear at the entrance to the Mass Cave before taking a tour of inspection of this treacherous cave (closed to the media for safety reasons), Mr. Moore confirmed that the introduction of NPWS control would mean alterations in management practice.

A permit system is to be introduced and strictly policed, with inspectors randomly entering caves to examine the permits of cavers. Although refusing to elaborate on the specifics, Dr. Metherell said that any cavers found in breach of permit conditions, or caving without permits, would be dealt with severely "in a manner to ensure they did not offend again".

Confirming the proposed replacement of communal cooking facilities with a take-away food bar, and the conversion of B44 into a five-star restaurant to be called the Bungonia Grill, Metherell would not be drawn on the reason behind the NPWS's sudden move into catering. "All I will say at this stage is that it is part of a unique form of cave management that we have been experimenting with recently, with great success. Our facilities will be under the stewardship of my deputy, Mr. Ken A. Bull, who is a well-known exponent of exotic cuisine in his home country of Haiti."

ROCK FALL INVENTORY

DATA IS BEING COLLECTED FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT, AND PART OF THIS IS CONCERNED WITH ROCK FALLS AND ROCK AVALANCHES AND THEIR MAGNITUDE, LOCATION, AND FREQUENCY, IN MT. COOK NATIONAL PARK.

TO THIS END, PLEASE RECORD ANY OCCURENCES OF ROCK FALL, HOWEVER LARGE OR SMALL, WHICH YOU HEARD OR SAW DURING THE DAY OR NIGHT. BE BRIEF BUT CONCISE, AND FOLLOW THIS FORMAT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE:

DATE:

TIME:

WEATHER CONDITIONS AT TIME OF OBSERVATION:

LOCATION OF FALL:

DISTANCE OF FALL FROM OBSERVER(S)

DETAILS: a) SOURCE - ROCK FACE? GULLY? SCREE SLOPE?

(OMIT FALLS FROM MORaine WALLS)

b) WAS IT HEARD ONLY, OR SEEN AND HEARD?

c) SIZE - A FEW SMALL STONES?

A FEW LARGE BOULDERS? (> 50cm across)

MANY LARGE AND SMALL STONES AND BOULDERS?

OTHER INFORMATION:

THIS MAY INCLUDE DISTANCE OF FALL, EVIDENCE OF A SCAR RESULTING FROM AN OBSERVED FALL, FORMATION OF A PILE OF DEBRIS ON A GLACIER, ETC.....

A NOTEBOOK IS PROVIDED IN THIS HUT TO RECORD ANY OBSERVATIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

THANKYOU FOR YOUR HELP

Muriel Korbide

(UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

DEPT. OF GEOLOGY).

February 1992.

Found in Barren Saddle Hut, N.Z. (Mt Cook area).

Removed, with permission.

(Some people will do anything to go Mountaineering!)

THE SERPENTINE PROJECT:- AN UPDATE

Ian Cooper

Over the last 18 months SUSS, in particular Martin Scott and myself, have been working towards a complete remapping of the caves within Serpentine Bluff at Jenolan.

The first significant event was the April 1990 through trip between J37, Diggins Diggins Cave and J35, Right Nostril Cave by Pat Larkin, (Staraj 1991). In March 1991 Mike Lake and Chris Norton discovered extensions in the Rambling Rockpile area, (Norton 1991). These events inspired Martin Scott to take an interest in Serpentine Bluff. Easter 1991 saw the start of the current project with the excavation of the Resurrection Connection between J131 and J59, Little Canyon Cave, (Scott 1991a).

During June and July of 1991 a northerly heading passage was dug in Diggins Diggins Cave by numerous SUSS members including Nick Hawkes, Mike Lake, Pat Larkin, Chris Norton, Martin Scott, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, and Chris Young. This passage has become known as Woolly Wombat Way and Worm Turns, (Scott 1991b). In November 1991 I returned from overseas and became involved in the Serpentine mapping exercise.

In December J68/69/70/71, McKeowns Hole was surveyed with the intention of connecting it to Serpentine Cave. During the first half of 1992 the survey continued with the following notable events:-

- i) a "handshake" connection between Worm Turns and Rambling Rockpile by Chris Norton and myself. This provides a true underground connection between Little Canyon Cave and Diggins Diggins Cave.
- ii) minor extensions in the upper level near the J72 entrance by Chris Norton, Igor Jazbec, Mark Staraj, and myself.
- iii) excavation of a streamway connection between the end of the serpentine passage in J125 and the Little Canyon by Phil Maynard, Hillary O'Byrne, Keir Vaughan-Taylor, and myself. This means that the intermittent stream in Serpentine Cave can be followed continuously from J72 through to Little Canyon then through the Nibicon Dig and Rambling Rockpile to the current dig site. Most of these connections appear to have been discovered before, Vaughan-Taylor (pers. comm.), (Mann 1979).
- iv) examination of an old trip report, (Crook 1957), lead to the rediscovery of a large upper level passage and the long lost upper daylight hole. This area is very close to McKeowns Hole, (less than 10m separates the two caves on the map)!

The current situation is that all negotiable passage in Serpentine Cave has been surveyed, (see statistics), but three leads remain. These are:-

- a) a dig immediately below the J72 entrance which appears to lead to the upstream continuation of the intermittent stream.
- b) a long established dig in the southernmost part of Diggins Diggins Cave. There are leads both downwards and horizontally southwards. The downwards lead is completely mud choked and should be abandoned.
- c) a draughting dig in the lowermost parts of Rambling Rockpile. This dig requires a lot of work but is highly likely to lead to the Jenolan Underground River as it takes all the water from the Serpentine intermittent stream.

On a recent Jenolan trip, (11th and 12th of July), Michel Deleeuwe, Dan Dunkley, and the writer spent a sunny afternoon exploring the surface of Serpentine Bluff. It appears that the bluff has been well trogged with all obvious caves located and tagged. All of the caves are located less than 35m above the valley floor. The upper parts of the bluff are composed of shaly limestone and are lacking in karst features. Many of the smaller caves were looked at including J34/85, J62, J63, J64, J65, J124, J114, J115, and J81. It was found that the published J34/85 map contains some omissions and the cave needs a resurvey, as possibly does J120/121/122/123, Duodenum Cave.

The major accomplishment of the mapping project has been to write off a lot of potential leads and clarify the three quality leads remaining. Many thanks to all those who have helped with the survey, let your names now live on in the annals of SUSS!

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SERPENTINE/McKEOWNS SURVEY

Sue BONAR	113.05m	Chris NORTON	278.16m
Ian COOPER	1206.01m	Hilary O'BYRNE	31.56m
Kevin COSTA	22.36m	James REID	52.42m
Michel DELEEUE	65.18m	Martin SCOTT	941.67m
Allison FENTON	116.74m	Alan SKEA	26.95m
Willow FORSYTH	503.91m	Mark STARAJ	22.76m
Catherine GAUTIER	57.26m	Andy SUMMERSKILL (W.C.C.)	113.05m
Igor JAZBEC	98.37m	Keir VAUGHAN-TAYLOR	177.82m
Phil MAYNARD	32.61m	Micheal WHYTE	40.93m
Jenny MEE	26.95m	Sue WILLIS	71.39m
Max MIDLEN (W.C.C.)	113.05m		

SURVEY STATISTICS

SERPENTINE BLUFF SURFACE TRAVERSE:

Survey length:	503.91m
Loop length:	425.47m
Loop misclose:	1.67m
Percentage error:	0.4%

SERPENTINE CAVE:

Surveyed length:	826.37m
Highest point, (relative J72): 6003 (Daylight hole near J68 tag)	19.20m
Lowest point, (relative J72): 85 (Woolly Wombat Way)	-16.05m
Surveyed depth:	35.25m

McKEOWNS HOLE:

Surveyed length:	179.42m
Highest point, (relative J72): J70 tag	23.08m
Lowest point, (relative J72): 1036 (rear serpentinous section)	11.08m
Surveyed depth:	12.00m

Wyanbene? Why Not!

June 20-21, 1992

Well, why not? Darn good question, if you ask me. Better ask the 209 SUSS members who gave that answer, as the three who did go to this classic cave actually had a good time. With muttered excuses about weekends off to see the relatives, cases of flu and impending exams, people declined one by one to join me at Wyanbene. Even Ian Cooper could not be lured away by the promise of a visit to the Obscure Karst Area of Marble Arch.

Michel De Leeuwe and I sped southwards towards Braidwood. After a stop at the Family Eating House in Goulburn, where three families were consumed, we crept through the thick fog to the Berlang rest area, dodging suicidal wombats and the carcasses of their more successful cousins, serenaded by the dulcet tones of the Violent Femmes.

In the meantime, the same fog was causing not-so-dulcet curses and imprecations from that usually non-violent femme, Jill Rowling, as she drove back and forth down the Araluen road trying to find the Captain's Flat turnoff. Eventually, in desperation, she set off cross-country through Major's Creek and, on arrival, tumbled into her bivvy bag.

The next morning, as the magpies eyed greedily the plump grub in the big red log, I hopped out of my tent; then on both legs I set about trying to find fuel for the fire that Michel was trying to coax into being. The fire thought it was Far Too Cold and was telling us so with copious amounts of smoke. Unfortunately, there was no wood around the campsite - only lots and lots of long cylindrical blocks of ice. Undeterred, we piled the ice on the fire, and with the help of many obesiant gestures with our plates, flames deigned to appear.

After warming up with breakfast, we trotted straight through the Shoalhaven, where our feet were conveniently anaesthetised to the sharp rocks underfoot. Pausing only to apply a blowtorch to them on the other side, we trotted past the Big Hole (descent prohibited this trip due to the lyrebirds requesting privacy for their amorous doings) and on to Marble Arch. After looking at the visitors book at the top of the ridge above the arch (full of pithy comments such as "Radical, man!", "Groovy" and "More floodlighting in the caves, please") we somersaulted down the hill and picked our way delicately along the river.

We entered the arch and penetrated as far as seemed possible without lights. Ten minutes of kitting up ensued. We walked around the corner into sunlight.

We continued down the stream to Moodong Cave. Shunning the decidedly damp MA-4 entrance, we climbed up into MA-5 and set off along the rift, observing a dolphin in the streamway below (of the battery-powered, photon-emitting variety). Sieve-like, the rift began weeding out members of our party one by one, as its winding confines made progress more and more torturous. Jill pulled out when you had to somersault over a small projection. Michel pulled out at a peculiarly overall-destroying little corkscrew manoeuvre. And so I found myself squeezing solo down the rift...only to emerge in a large phreatic maze. Amazing! After chasing all the less obvious routes, I finally took the obvious route and continued through several piles of guano and an interesting triangular squeeze into a large decorated chamber. Unfortunately, the prime decoration was torpid bats, and so I hastened out (if such slow progress can possibly be called hasty). I continued out, picking up the others, who were just deciding that if I got into trouble then I'd jolly well have to rescue myself.

We set off downstream in search of Thermocline Cave. It wasn't until I was waist-deep in a pool of freezing water, and contemplating the necessary swim to get to the other side, that I remembered that last time I was here I didn't need to get even my feet wet. The more sensible members of the party were still ashore, and told me that as far as they were concerned this cave had better be upstream. I agreed, and the cave conveniently relocated itself as we paused for lunch.

Only the first twenty metres of this cave were visited, as it was jammed to the rafters (yes, very interesting geology here) with bats, who would have been rather upset to have their rest interrupted. Everyone agreed that this cave was much nicer than Moodong Cave, not least because you could actually breathe in without becoming wedged in the passageway.

Returning through the Shoalhaven gave us the impetus to build a really roaring fire. We were pleased to see that during the day, the blocks of ice we had left by the fireplace had turned into wood, and so in no time the National Parks fireplace was glowing a pleasant pale pink colour, fuelled in part by a whole packet of time-expired Vita-Weets. With the addition of several very large logs, we soon had a fine circle of warmth to shield us from the bitter cold outside. With the fireplace approaching meltdown, we retired to our sleeping bags.

Getting up the next morning was difficult - partly due to the crust of ice that had to be chipped through to open the zipper of the tent. I soon realised the extent of my folly in getting wet the day before - a crust of ice coating my overalls, and socks indistinguishable from the blocks of ice that we were once again building the fire with, right down to the delicate snapping sound when you bent them, were not greatly encouraging. Still, underground we had to go, and we made our way to WY-1.

After watching me push myself into a small cul-de-sac filled with water just inside the entrance, Jill and Michel decided that my leadership was on par with that of Dan Quayle, and they promptly took off up the streamway as I struggled to get free. They were stopped, however, by the gate, and I was able to catch up. After being belayed down the ladder with a rope more suited to use by a pole-vaulter, we splashed off into the cave, discovering the aptly named delights of the Wet Stretch (so named because one has to stretch out in the wet to get through), Aitcheson's Bypass (because anyone who doesn't take it is likely to need a bypass afterwards), Frustration Lake (named because we couldn't entice Mike onto the trip) and the Meanders (so called because Michel, me and 'Er went into them).

Aside from a brief bit of climbing of the aven in the Meanders (which only led to the upper section of meandering passage) little true exploration was done; however, we visited just about every part of the cave except for the tourist section, Aitcheson's Avens and the upper section of Rockfall Chamber.

We travelled home stopping at the Chiu Yor Fud Chinese Restaurant in Goulburn, where the decor of vinyl tablecloths adorned with decorative soy sauce bottles was admired by all.

So, if you were one of the ones who missed out, here's a summary of what you said no to:

- Thick fog
- A 5km walk to an Obscure Karst Area with caves that couldn't be entered due to either physical impossibility or torpid bats
- A swim in an icy creek
- A muddy, wet and slimy trip to Frustration Lake
- Grovelling in the Wet Stretch
- Sub-zero temperatures
- Sub-standard chinese food
- Subterranean squalor

Wyanbene in June? That's why not!

Chris Norton

BULLENTINS RECEIVED

These are the publications which have been received since the last bull. If you wish to give these or any thing else in the library a read, just give Michel a ring at home on 546-1277.

NARGUN (VSA)

vol 24 no 24 Mar '92
vol 25 no 1 Jul '92

vol 24 no 10 May '92

SPAR (UNSWSS)

no 106 Dec '91

no 107 Mar '92

The Bulletin (SASA)

vol 31 1990

Griff (HTG)

no 324 Apr '92

no 325 May '92

The Caver's Chronicle (SRGWA)

vol 18 no 3 Dec '91

Speleo Spiel (TasCC)

no 273 Jan '92
no 326 Jun '92

no 274 Apr '92

Helictite (Australian Cave Research)

vol 29 no 2 '91

Die Hohle (German)

vol 42 no 3 '91

vol 42 no 4 '91

The Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society

vol 26 no 11 Nov '82
vol 28 no 7 Jul '84
vol 29 no 3 Mar '85
vol 29 no 6 Jun '85
vol 29 no 8 Aug '85
vol 31 no 4 Apr '87
vol 36 no 5 May '92

vol 27 no 2 Feb '83
vol 29 no 2 Feb '85
vol 29 no 4 Apr '85
vol 29 no 7 Jul '85
vol 31 no 2 Feb '87
vol 32 no 7 Jul '88
vol 36 no 6 Jun '92

NSS News (American)

vol 49 no 12 Dec '91
vol 50 no 4 Apr '92

vol 50 no 3 Mar '92

TROG (KSS)

vol 27 no 9 Apr '92
vol 27 no 11 Jun '92

vol 27 no 10 May '92

TROGLODYTE (Northern Caverneers)

vol 2 no 15 Jun '92

Newsletter of the Hills Speleology Club

vol 8 no 1 Jul-Sep '92

UIS-BULLETIN (Union Internationale de Speleologie)

Mar '92

STALACITE (Organe de Societe suisse de speleologie)

no 1/90

no 2/90

no 1/91

no 2/91

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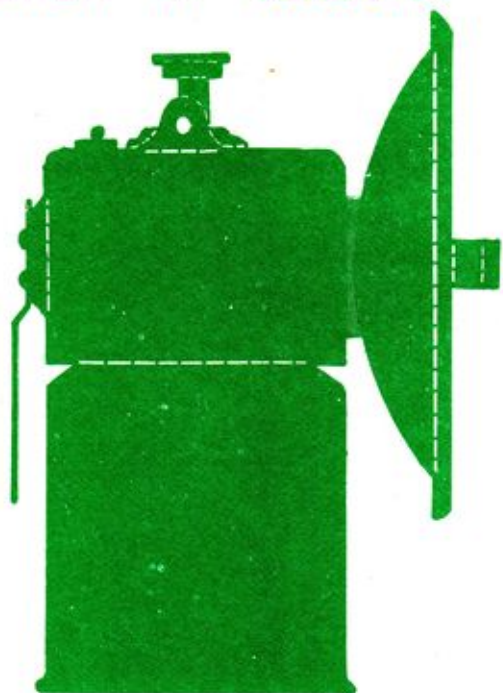
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- ▲ publishing periodicals Ochrana prírody (Nature Protection), Slovenský kras (Slovak Karst) and other professional literature, marketing or exchanging it for publications of the same kind

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Lumen in Tenebris



SUSS

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of the

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

BOX 35, HOLME BUILDING,
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THIS ISSUE:

- Trip List
- Editorial
- Diving in the Gaden at Wellington - Keir Vaughn-Taylor
- The Great SUSS Book Sale
- Wee Jasper Trip, May 92 - Chris Norton
- Notes on Personal Caving Gear - Ian Cooper
- Wet Poms at Tuglow - Martin Scott
- Do Cavers Play Games? - Michel de Leeuwe
- Notes on Bungonia
- Pigna Barney Trip notes - Michel de Leeuwe
- Mines v Caves - JD
- The Serpentine Project - Ian Cooper
- Wyanbene, Why Not? - Chris Norton
- Journals Received