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Hon. Secretary

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EDITORIAL

In Nomine Speluncarum

For many years I used to believe the platitudes that they murmured when a cave was found to have been damaged; a stalactite broken, a crystal floor muddied by some clumsy oaf, or a wall with the initials of some individual with a basic feeling of insecurity. It was the scouts, as likely as not, or it was those Society X cave wreckers, or there was this hole, you see, with infinite possibilities and, well, we had to get there somehow, didn't we? I've done it, you've done it, we've all at one time or another put chalk or soot arrows on walls, injudiciously wrecked formation while trying to force a new passage, or walked across clean flowstone in muddy, tricounied boots. There will always be careless, albeit unintentional damage done to caves in the name of speleology.

But now complaints have reached my ears of two examples of what must be the acme, the *pièce de résistance* as it were, of irresponsibility; no unintentional carelessness this. It seems that on a recent trip, ostensibly held for the express purpose of taking steps to ensure that undesirables were kept out of a certain cave, one participant saw fit to tramp, in muddy boots and with careful deliberation, across formation which had a scarce few months before been cleaned in the wake of previous transgressors. Another person evidently remembered shortly after she entered the cave that she had omitted to give due reverence to the occasion of the birthday of Queen Victoria, and, just happening perchance to be carrying the necessary materials in her pocket, proceeded thereupon to celebrate in a manner quite literally likely to bring the roof down.

This childish behaviour might be not unexpected of the former member but the latter is old enough and, we hope, mature enough to know better. Behaviour like this makes the Society appear hypocritical with respect to cave conservation, and can only bring an unwarranted disrespect to the efforts of other members with more laudable intentions.

In a lighter vein, it is pleasing to see that two notable discoveries have been made on recent trips. At Wombeyan the elusive Bouverie Cave has finally been tracked down and pinpointed and at Jenolan scaling pole work has resulted in considerable extensions off Lower Level, Mammoth Cave. Significant discoveries in this cave appear to be the exclusive domain of this Society, the last advance being the 1960-1 "Northern River Extensions" (for want of a better name). Evidently Mammoth Cave still has some surprises in store.

55th GENERAL MEETING

The postponed 55th General Meeting of the Society will be held in the third floor lecture room, Griffith Taylor (Geography) Building, Sydney University, on Thursday 1st October, 1964 at 7.30pm.

Slides of the new discoveries at Jenolan and Wombeyan will be screened and members are also asked to bring any other recent slides with them. Supper is not likely to be served.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Although it is not necessary to give advance notice of proposed amendments to the By-Laws, it is considered that the following merits **consideration** by members before the meeting. Ted Anderson will move to amend By-Law D (Trips), Section 1 (Official Trips), by deleting the present clause (f) and replacing it by the following:

- (f) Before considering any person as a Trip Leader 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 is:
- (i) Sufficiently experienced in the practical aspects of caving to **capably** lead a party, under the variety of caving conditions likely to be encountered.
 - (ii) Familiar with the topics discussed in SUSS Journal (Volume 6 Number 3) pertaining to caving techniques, safety precautions, and design, choice, use, and care of caving equipment.
 - (iii) Proficient in the use of the knots listed in SUSS Journal (Volume 6 Number 3) and the Fishermans Knot, and is aware of the advantages and disadvantages of each.
 - (iv) Familiar with basic first-aid techniques and the procedures associated with caving emergencies.

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at this stage we pause for a word from our sponsor:

"The bigger, better (28% more) SUSS Journal Volume 6 Number 3 is now available, along with other back issues, at the below cost price of only 1/6 (15c) from John Steele or Secretary"

and now back to our programme:

X X X X X X X X X

Members contemplating leading trips are also hereby informed that By-Law D (Trips), Section 1 (Official Trips), subsection (a) relating to duties of trip-leaders, was amended as follows at the last Committee Meeting:

by inserting after the words "has been gained" the words "in writing; approval to be submitted to the Secretary and Publicity Officer not less than fourteen days in advance of the departure date".

This amendment is aimed at ensuring that trips are properly authorised, that someone knows who is going where, and when, and that a proper record is kept of trips to enable enquiries to be answered promptly. The first person that people ring to find out about the Society's activities is not the Publicity Officer but the Secretary. In case of accident or overdue trips it is essential that as many people as possible know where to start looking. This amendment therefore is designed in your own interest.

TRIP REPORTS

WOMBEGAN

4-5 July, 1964

Erik Halbert

The Wollondilly at Goodman's Ford was found to be running at just above miniminor level, in view of which John Diment was forced to make the frustrating decision to return to the Hume Highway and go to Wombeyan via Goulburn, thus adding 120 miles or so to the journey. the frustration of course was because at Goodman's Ford he was a mere 10 miles from Wombeyan. However the decision was well taken for on arrival at Wombeyan the travellers encountered one waterlogged Ford Anglia and a number of waterlogged bods the passengers therein. It transpired that the Anglia had made a valiant attempt at the Ford but had stalled midway across and had promptly filled with water; fortunately a Holden had been there to get it out before more exciting things happened. Moral: that warning noticeboard at the corner of Hume Highway might have to be taken more seriously in future.

The main object of the trip was to make a surface investigation of the area from the Basin Cave (see 1 on map) upstream to the Limestone quarry. At point (2) there is a semicircular cliff above the river, which at this point runs exactly along a discontinuity between the limestone and some granite. A number of openings in the cliff run in about 20-30ft. Most are dens. At the back of the cliff (7) is a small sink at the base of a pine tree. There is a small cave about 25 ft. down with all passages leading off blocked. The cave is so dry and dusty as to almost asphyxiate any occupants.

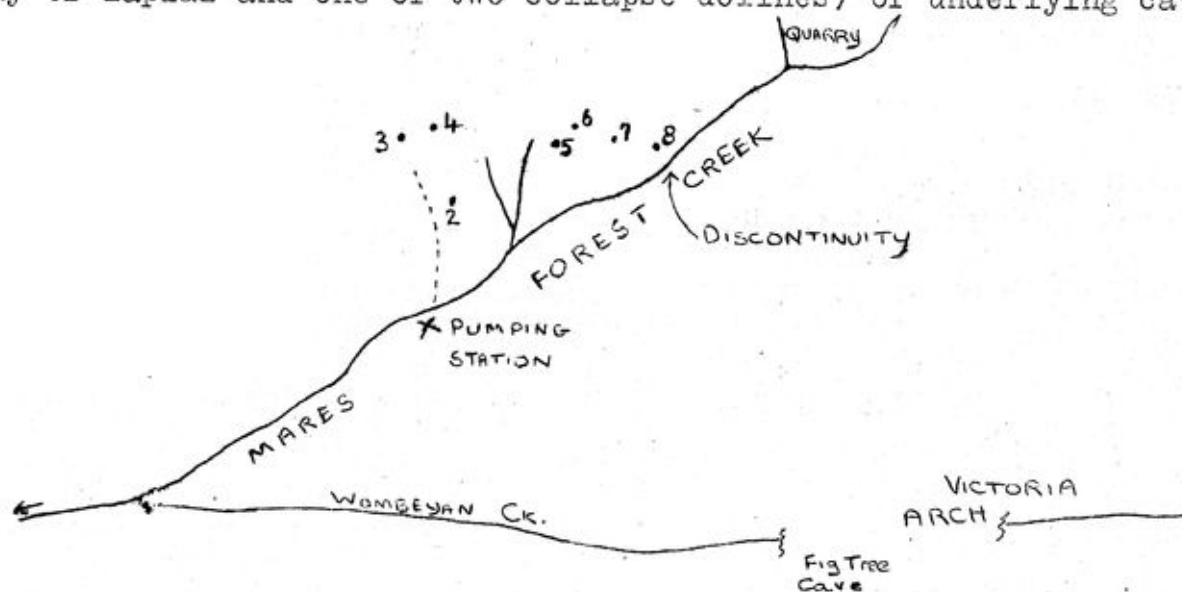
Caves (5) and (6) are in sinkholes 30ft. apart and 100ft. from (7). (5) is moist, 60-80ft. passages with live formation. (6) has an initial 12ft. drop to a small chamber, one of the passages off which has definite possibilities.

(3) and (4) lie over the ridge behind (5) and towards the Basin. (3) has an initial drop of 30-4ft requiring a ladder, and 80ft of passage with little possibility. (4) is in sink 100ft away and is simply a 30ft hole with a small room at the bottom.

(2) is visible from the neighbouring ridge as a black hole of promising dimensions. The entrance is 4ft wide, widening quickly to 20ft, and about 0ft deep and requires equipment. The first 25-30ft are in free space followed by 20ft or so in contact with a very rough wall. At the bottom a passage led to a bell-shaped room with a daylight hole which was subsequently found on the surface. Some impressive

formation was found which is, however, non-active. Several small passages were found to be blocked and a vertical cleft about 12ft. deep and 1ft. wide was not fully investigated. There were many other small holes in this area but these were either inaccessible due to rockfalls etc. or were less than 20ft. or so length.

On a future trip the area bounded by the Mares Forest Creek, Wombeyan River and the Wombeyan-Goulburn road will be more thoroughly looked at as this is the area containing the Oval Tea Room and the Bouverie Caves and in many places there is ample surface evidence (in the way of lapiaz and one or two collapse dolines) of underlying caves.



BATS, BUGS, BEASTIES, BIOLOGY, BASIN and BOUVERIE with BARBARA
or Some recent trips led by Barbara Dow

Wombeyan, 11-12 July: Light traps were set up in the Basin and FigTree caves. 110 male and 99 female bats were banded and 102 re-traps were taken, mostly with Wombeyan bands. However one recovery was subsequently found to have been banded some time previously by Peter Dwyer at Riverton in Queensland. This recovery over a distance of approximately 500 miles is believed to be world record; as far as is known the longest recorded distance over which a bat is known to have flown is about 280-300 miles.

Jenolan, 25-26 July: 22 male and 81 female bats were banded in the Nettle and Arch Cave and thereabouts. Recoveries from Jenolan numbered 32 and there was also one recovery from Bungonia. 2 specimens of Pipistrellus tasmaniensis were found among the usual Miniopterus.

Wombeyan, 22-23 August: The chief item of interest on this trip was the relocation of the Bouverie Cave. This cave was well known in the earlier days at Wombeyan and appears on Trickett's map. It was "lost" for many years, relocated by S.S.S. about 4 years ago, then "lost" again. (deliberately?) The cave was explored in the company of the caretaker Mr Stiff and found to have good formation and possibilities though a little unstable in places; to avoid accident or damage its exact location will not be made available.

SUNDRY DISCONNECTED SNIPPETS OF INFORMATION

The Department of Extramural Studies of the University of Keele, Staffordshire, England, is organising a weekend "extension" type course on speleology in association with the Caves Research Group of Great Britain, entitled "Origin and Development of Caves in British Limestone". In this interesting experiment lectures will be given not only by such renowned cavers as C. Lewis Railton, but by lecturers in Geology and Geography at the Universities of Leicester and Birmingham. No doubt we can confidently look forward to the establishment of a Chair of Speleology at our own hallowed institution as this new branch of learning is extended. A stunning possibility for disposal of excess funds of the Speleological Research Council Pty Ltd!!

The 'Koalatorium' being constructed on the Playing Fields at Jenolan is nearing completion. A recent addition to the scenery is a large concrete map of Australia. The project, organised jointly by the Department of Tourist Activities and the Fauna Preservation Panel, is designed to establish special breeding areas for koalas and to rehabilitate the rock wallaby, which species has (and I quote from a press release) "been affected by the large number of visitors to the reserve".

The Society recently received from the Fauna Preservation Panel some booklets explaining the theory, practice and purpose of wildlife conservation, together with information on the types of Fauna Reserve in New South Wales, their location and the Fauna which are being protected. Members with an interest in conservation (yes, there are some) can obtain copies of these publications from the Secretary. The connection with caving is quite close as many caving areas are also Fauna Reserves.

A rumour has reached my ears to the effect that the Bow Cave at Jenolan is once again open, thereby renewing an old dream of linking it with Mammoth. Water certainly flows from one to the other but to date nobody has succeeded in progressing between the two.

The Fourth International Congress of Speleology is to be held in Ljubljana, Dubrovnik and Postojna (the famous cave with the electric railway) in Yugoslavia, in September 1965. Anyone who may perchance happen to be in the area at the time and could represent this country would be welcome to make further enquiries.

Persons who have, especially during winter when the fire is on, become accustomed to using the SUSS Secretarial Stronghold at the University as a conveniently cosy place to waste a spare hour or two, are informed that defenses are being strengthened and any further incursions may be violently and vigorously repelled.

This may be an obscure place to do it, but I would like to take the opportunity to thank Richard Roberts and Elizabeth de Burgh for their assistance in getting this Newsletter out. It is common knowledge that the typing is done in slack moments at my place of employment but I just don't have time to collate the pages, staple them, put them in envelopes and cart them down to the Post Office.

A NOTE FROM THE NORTH -- CAVING IN QUEENSLAND by Henry Shannon, UQSS

The main caving areas of Queensland may be grouped into the following regions:

Region	Distance from Brisbane	No. of caves	Total Length	Potential	Age
<u>"TEXAS"</u>					
Riverton	200m.	1	150ft.	poor	? Permian
Viator	200	7	500	slight	L. Carboniferous
Glen Lyon	200	1	2000	slight	L. Carboniferous
	(with many entrances)				
<u>"ROCKHAMPTON"</u>					
Mount Etna	450	15	10000	very good	L. Devonian
Johannson's	450	1	2000	slight	L. Devonian
Olsen's	450	1	1500	(Tourist Cave-no cooperation)	
<u>"CHILLAGOE"</u>	1200	?	?	very good	
<u>"CAMOOWEAL"</u>	1200	?	?	very good	
<u>Holy Jump Cave</u>	110 (nr. Warwick)		200	none	Tertiary Basalt
<u>Flagstone Ck.</u>	100 (nr. Toowoomba)		450	slight	Pleistocene

These constitute the areas where caves are known to exist, but not all have been visited by any speleologists. The best prospects appear to be in the Gladstone district and the Boyne valley and lava caves in Pleistocene basalt are also reported in the Gayndah area. Even better prospects exist in the hinterland of Cairns and the areas near Camooweal west of Mount Isa. The first speleological trip to the Chillagoe caves is being organised in September of this year. As well as limestone in this region there are also the lava caves of McBride. The geological maps show two extensive, partly collapsed tunnels 12 and 16 miles long respectively but these also have not yet been visited by any speleologists.

The cave at Riverton is rather uninteresting, its chief claims to fame being that it was the first cave visited by the University of Queensland Speleological Society, and also it was the cave in which was banded the bat subsequently recovered at Wombeyan, some 500 miles away.

Viator contains some bone breccia which though sparsely fossiliferous and present in only small quantities, is very well preserved and could throw some light on the problem of the smaller mammals of the Pleistocene period.

The most interesting cave in the Texas region is the Glen Lyon system which is an outstanding example of a creek which has been diverted so as to cut off a meander. The limestone above the cave is only 40ft. thick at best, decreasing to zero in several places.

The caves around Rockhampton are quite different from any encountered in New South Wales, or even elsewhere in Queensland for that matter. The only N.S.W. cave they resemble at all are the Timor

caves but even here the resemblance is superficial. The best thing about them is the climbing, as the caves are basically vertical and typically have two or more drops of the order of 100 feet or so. The caves are usually unornamented but there are one or two very attractive flowstone formations.

The insides of the caves are greatly affected by chalky weathering which has resulted in many more hand and foot-holds than one would expect even if some are rather portable. The caves are hot and humid as one would expect in the tropics but are nevertheless more comfortable than outside. The surface of the limestone is griked into channels 6 inches across with a sharpened egg-carton type relief superimposed. Care must be exercised when climbing or one's hands can become badly cut.

As in parts of New South Wales there is a threat of damage to or destruction of caves due to quarrying in the Mount Etna district. Johannsen's Cave nearby has already been damaged and if, as is feared, quarrying is continued at Mount Etna, no real hope is held that the "no damage to caves" clause of the lease will be observed. Another threat to the few caves in Queensland is the proposed Pike Creek Dam which if built will permanently submerge most of Viator and all of Glen Lyon.

Still these catastrophes are at least a year off and in the meantime it is easier to organise trips from Brisbane to Gladstone than from Sydney to Jenolan...

(there follows some further observations which I find it inexpedient to print in the circumstances--ed.)

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SPRING SELLEBRATION SPECIALS

The following items, which are at present cluttering up what little space I have, may be obtained free of charge from the Secretary:

S.U.S.S. Yearbook ---- 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964.

"Caves and Conservation"---Report of ASF Conservation Subcommittee, 1962

ASF Newsletter---sundry issues.

Also available at a special clearance price* (well below cost in fact) are back issues of the SUSS Journal. Among the more interesting are:

- J6.4 "Caves within 500 miles of Sydney", "Cave Animals", "Marsupial Fossils from Wellington", "Bone Deposits"
- J6.3 A Review of Caving--Foul Air, Ladders, Ropes, Methods of Climbing, Belaying, Ropes etc. etc.
- J6.2 More on Mammoth, Bats, Colong, Caves in the Macleay Valley, More on Foul Air, Geophysical methods in cavernous limestone.
- J5.2. "On digging", "Cave Fauna at Wombeyan", "More on Foul Air", "The Correct of Alpine Rope in Caves"
- J4.2 "Wombeyan", "Colong", "Use of Hydrogen Balloons in caves", "Water tracing by Spore Drift"

* 1/6 Or 15c. to be exact

REPORT ON SOME NEW DISCOVERIES AT JENOLAN

Saturday August 15th: The scaling pole kindly lent by John Bonwick of S.S.S.--the same one used to discover the Chevalier--was lugged into the Lower Level of Mammoth. After some preliminary tests it was set up on the flowstone on the eastern wall of the Oolite Chamber. Bill Crowle was first up it; at the top he found a large, muddy passage leading in a south-easterly direction which ended after 60ft in an overhang of flowstone which has yet to be fully investigated. An imported rock-climber then managed to scale the chimney at the end of Smirnoff's passage, which must be in the same general area as this new high level passage. Meanwhile Rick Crowle was discouraged from continuing a rather dangerous digging manoeuvre on the west wall of the Oolite. Back in the camp, thinks, if river channel in roof of Oolite leads to passage on east wall, perhaps there is a passage leading off western wall to correspond.

Sunday August 16th: While rest of party pushed off to J41 or to Kanangara Walls, Rick & Bill Crowle & Dick Heffernan returned to the Oolite, dug out Rick's chimney, and broke into several hundred feet of new cave. (Q.E.D.)

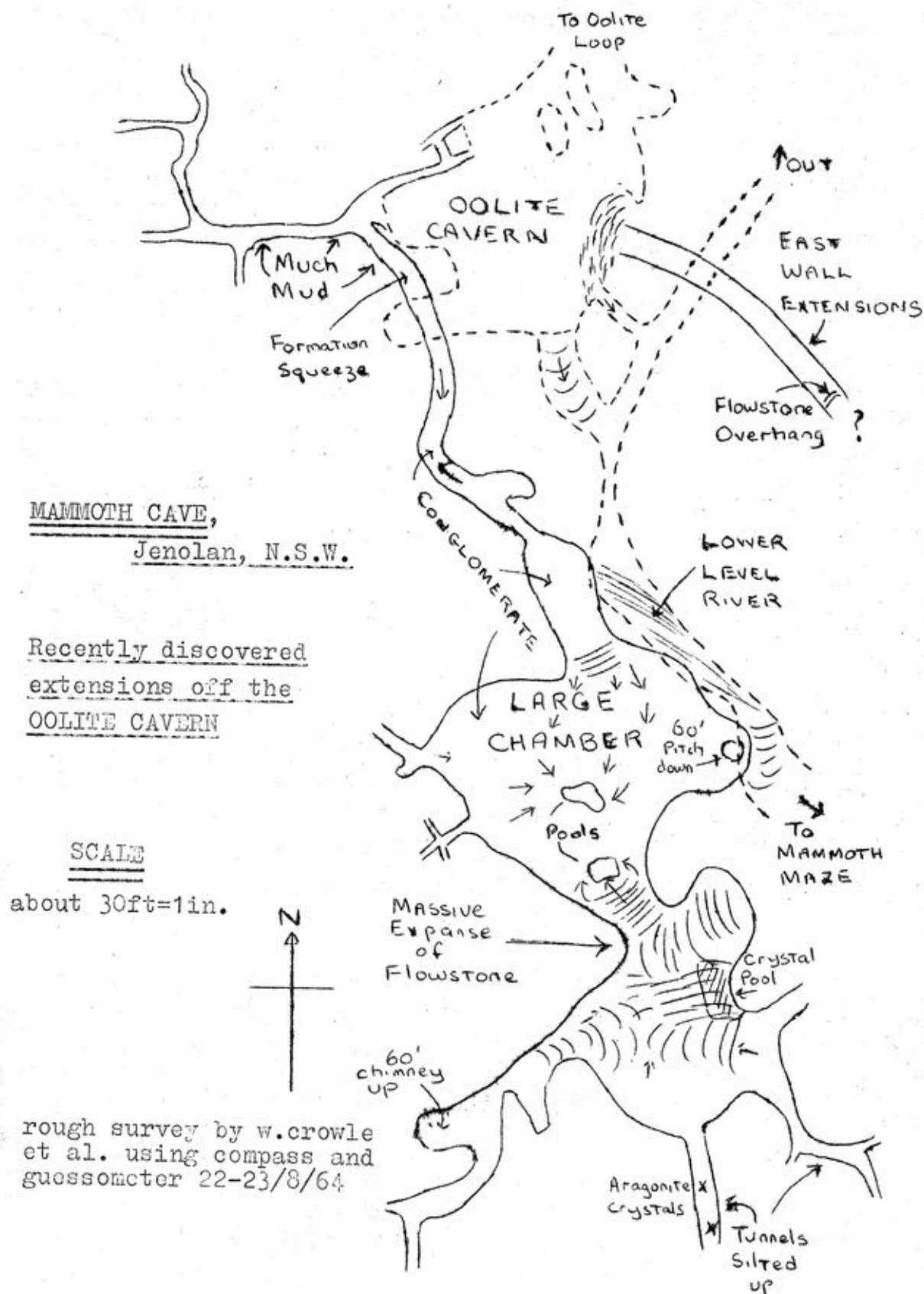
August 22-23: A hole at the bottom of the large chamber was descended 60ft. and was found, inter alia, to lead back to the mud-slope on the side of the L.L.River opposite where it is usually encountered. Some king-size oolites were found and photographed.

September 5th: The L.L.survey was continued into the new extensions as far as the large chamber. A number of photographs were taken and these will be shown at the next G.M. The scaling pole was rather painfully dragged out of the cave and the party emerged at 11.40pm after 14 hours in the cave.

Description: The large chamber about half-way along the extension is of a similar size to the Oolite; a little wider and with a lower roof. There has been considerable deposition of mud throughout--at the Oolite end the mud is thick and of a similar consistency to that in Central Level of Mammoth; it is rather old as in several places flowstone and stalagmites are observed to be forming on top of the mud. In this passage leading to the large chamber and in the large chamber itself there is ample evidence that since the passages were first formed they have been filled with mud and stones at least once, and subsequently washed out again; the appearance is similar in places to the Conglomerate Cavern at the bottom of the entrance cavern to Mammoth.

This additional evidence to support the theory that Mammoth Cave has, since its initial evolution, been silted up and subsequently emptied, loses some of its credence further into the extension, where mud overlies the formation to a depth of up to six inches. At the same time the formation appears to be fairly recent and could have completely covered any trace of deposition and removal of material. Passages at the very end of the extension are still silted to the roof.

The formation is the best in Mammoth and rivals that in the Chevalier. It consists of a very large expanse of flowstone, a number of shawls, numerous stalactites, straws up to six feet in length, some crystal pools and gours, and some magnificent aragonite crystals. Great care is needed to avoid damage--no boots and preferably no trog-suit.



AUSTRALIAN STAR MOUNTAINS EXPEDITION

Since Gordon Bain several months ago addressed the Society on the proposed British Expedition to New Guinea, it has been decided to postpone the British Expedition until 1966 at least and in lieu thereof in 1965 a wholly Australian expedition will be conducted.

The Chief Justice of New Guinea, Mr Justice Mann, has agreed to lend his patronage to the expedition and the Administrator of the Territory, Sir Donald Cleland, has given his formal approval and qualified support (no straying over the border etc.). A Committee has been formed in Melbourne with a view to arranging publicity and it is hoped to obtain space in the nation-wide daily "The Australian".

The following communique has been received from the N.S.W. representative of the A.S.M.E.:-

"The name A.S.M.E. means AUSTRALIAN STAR MOUNTAINS EXPEDITION and stands for the strong endeavour of six young Australians to reach an unknown limestone area in New Guinea.

The Star Mountains fold over the centre part of New Guinea, near the border with West Irian, and reach a height of 12000ft. There is every possibility that the world's greatest caverns may be found in these unexplored ridges and peaks.

The aim of the expedition is to make an entry march of about two weeks--with a carrying force of twenty porters supported by air drops--to the flanks of the Stars. After that we will have two months in which to traverse the mountains, survey the region's topography and geography (for the area is a blank space on the maps) and set up camps from which to base attempts on cave systems.

To add to the usefulness of the expedition, we intend to carry out preliminary scientific work in the fields of topography, geology, cave surveying, and, with the support of the South Australian Museum, a cave fauna collection.

While the expedition's final results will be invaluable to a major British scientific investigation of the Star Mountains now planned for 1966, the A.S.M.E. is solely Australian, privately organised, and a unique adventure in the tradition of Shipton's 'small expeditions'.

For these reasons the A.S.M.E. deserves your support with finances and equipment. The total costs of the expedition will not exceed £3000 but at a pinch we will run it for £1300 with all this sum contributed by the six members. However, whatever money is raised will be spent on the further addition of scientific equipment to our gear. This will greatly enhance the scientific value of the venture.

Please send all donations and enquiries to

Tom Hayllar,
23 Burrawang Rd.,
AVALON, N.S.W. "

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FRASER, Grahame	12 Nardoo St., Willoughby	952209	F
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HOPE, Roger	42 Arcadia Ave, Gympsea Bay		P
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HUNT, Ian	76 Roseberry Rd., Killara	495784	P
INNES, Margaret	120 McPherson St., Cremorne	902793	A
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PHILLIPS, Peter	3 Cyprion St., Mosman	966232	P
POLLARD, Toni	"Trees", Bossley Rd., Bossley Park	6045507	F
PORTER, Leigh	124 Queen's Pde. East, Newport Beach	991004	P
PRESNELL, Neville	39 Leichardt St., Glebe Point		P
ROBERTS, Richard	42 Grosvenor Rd., Wahroonga	484365	F
ROBERTSON, Ian	43 Lansdowne Pde., Oatley	574967	P
ROY, Mr D.	Caretaker, Yarrangobilly Caves via Tumut, N.S.W.		HC
RUBIE, Phillip	14 Montpellier St., Neutral Bay	906902	P
SCOTT, Donald	21 Wolgar Rd., Mosman	967058	P
SHANNON, Henry	c/o Water Supply & Irrigation Comm., Brisbane, Qld.		F
SHAW, Keith	24 Stafford St., Double Bay	323595	P
SHAW, Commander T.R.	HMS SULTAN, Gosport, Hamps., U.K.		HC
SHEPHERD, Michael	c/o Wesley College, Newtown	(coll) 512185	F
SMITH, Royce	60 Regent St., Ryde		F
STEELE, Alan	90 Eastern Valley Way, Willoughby	954203	A
STEELE, John	90 Eastern Valley Way, Willoughby	954203	A
STEWART, Venita	40 The Bulwark, Caslecrag	952288	A
SHIPWAY, Andrew	"Spring Hill", Old Northern Rd., Dural	Dural 287	P
STIFF, Mr C.	Caretaker, Wombeyan Caves via Taralga, N.S.W.		HC
STEVENS, Brian	22 Kitchener St., Oatley	574309	P
THOMAS, Susan	51 Parrawi Rd., Mosman	965628	F
THOMAS, Elizabeth	15 Berwick St., Coogee	6653170	F
WARD, Denis	293 Park Rd., Auburn	6442497	A
WATTS, Jane	3 Weaden Rd., French's Forest		F
WHISTLER, Judy	114 Central Rd., Avalon Beach	9182673	P
WILLIAMS, Ian	c/o Geological Survey of W.A., 26 Frances St, Perth		C
WILSON, Andrew	51 Boorea st., Blaxland		P
WRIGHT, Harley	42 Archbold Rd., Lindfield	461196	F

F	Full Member (40)	C	Corresponding (5)	P	Prospective (42)
A	Associate (14)	HC	Hon. Correspondent (11)	HLM	Hon. Life Member (3)

