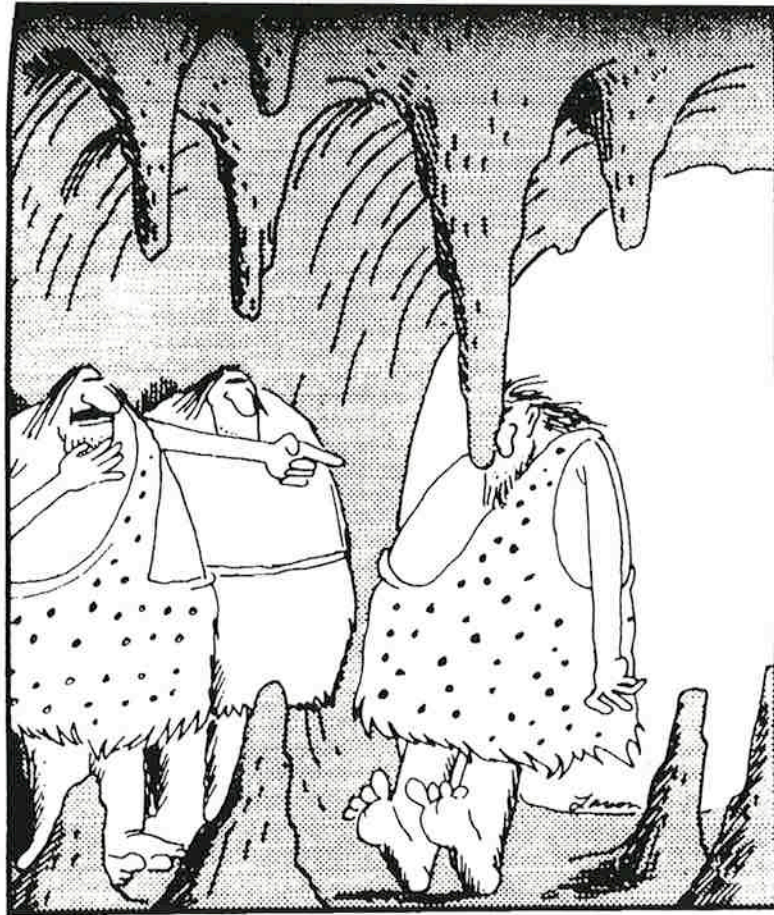


F U S S I



"Oo! Grog run into a ... a ... Dang! Now which kind stick up and which kind hang down?"

Vol. 10 No. 2 1998

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Flinders University Speleological Society Incorporated

Who is Who in FUSSI

President.

Liam Dwyer.
(Address secret.
In hiding from Mavis.)

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Meeting Time and Place:
Tuesday before arranged trips.
Contact office bearer or trip
organiser for details.
Kelly Morris Room.
Union Building.
Flinders University.

Mavis' Shenanigans at Naracoorte

Keven Cocks

Attended: Keven (the old man) Cocks, Glenys Crane, Paul and Deb, Marie (Sleeping Beauty) Choi, Cheryl (welcome Back) and Brendon (a newie to FUSS caving), on Sunday Dave Trethewey(now local to Naracoorte).

It all began with 3 cars and 8 people at the last minute Nick had to pull out and Sam rang too late to be included. Glenys, FUSS gear and Keven crammed into Marie's machine as we headed towards the S.E. at about 3 PM. Paul, Deb, Cheryl and Brendon in Paul and Deb's vehicle followed later that day.

During the Tintinara stopover Mavis caught up with us and snatched my wallet and hid it until we reached Naracoorte. We waited at the scout hall for the scouts to finish their activities. Marie slept while Glenys and I enjoyed the local impromptu musicals societies rendition of the choreographed section of Brave Heart; Brown Eyes with accompanying 3 (or was that 6 cheek) part harmonies in buttock slapping. We would have asked for a request of "Moon River" but no encores were forthcoming. They had to make room for the police care to make its entrance (fashionably late).

Dave dropped by shortly before Deb and Paul etc arrived at about 11pm later it was off to bed with the sound of dead insect life dropping to the linoleum floor. It reminded me of the drips from the ceiling of the main chamber in S102. Oh what a blissful noise to go to sleep by, if only I didn't sleep on my back!!!

An early start (for FUSS) but not Marie saw us at Echidna around 10.30. With much banter about over rigged caves and woozy, or was that fussy cavers, we entered the solution tube. The cave had the usual solution tube configuration ie. It opens out to a ledge prior to the squeezey bit. S102 and Beekeepers show the same phenomena. However the significant feature of this entrance is the height or lack of it as you come out ---- about 18 inches from floor to ceiling. Exiting the tube into the cave required significant flexibility and dexterity to do it while avoiding the Crickets engaging in procreational activities. (It was assumed, as I for one know how privacy can be important at times like this. However the copulating couple seemed to be ringed by interested juveniles.)

The less experienced cavers; Cheryl and Brendon acquitted themselves quite well with the handline and chimney techniques. Once all were in we began exploring the sand cone environment. The environment was greatly appreciated by these tired old knees, the lack of hard rock felt like bliss. What joy to crawl in large granular sand without any appreciable dust, even if the roof failed to reach 7 feet in height.

At the end of the chamber as it trended downhill there was a lower than low sandy based crawl. I tried it first and decided that my shoulder blade on my left side was jutting up too high with my left hand in front which precluded me from going any further. With the wonderful sandy base I had difficulty in reversing (alas alack I have to admit I got Paul to pull me out). Once I got out of the way the rest of the crew went in and down, excavating as they went.

June, 1998
Volume 10, No 2

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Flinders University Speleological
Society

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On their return, it was obvious that Brendon had a great time 'hugging' the sand as he pushed his helmet before him. Brendon's hair and sweat clad face was covered in a liberal coating of sand. Cheryl was less covered but acquitted herself well. Both 'newies' faced the physical and psychological challenge of the crawl uphill to be like a re-birthing experience. There were many sweaty and dazed looks after that experience.

Getting out of the solution tube proved almost as challenging as the "birth canal crawl". Once standing in the tube with hands above the head, the challenge was to raise your feet or knees high enough to gain purchase. It became apparent that experience in tight corners is an advantage. Much use of bodies and body parts to offer that last bolster were used. Human sand cones are a great tool down in that cave.

Once out watered and checked for psychological stability with comments like "wow that was amazing", "God I'm stuffed", "Why did I do that to myself?", we headed back to the cars, lunch and a short trip to Beekeepers. After lunch saw up rigging Beekeepers with much sideline comment from 'Sleeping Beauty' (in between naps). Yes there were alternative rigging possibilities, none the less for the pitch and experience of the party the choice was adequate. Paul belayed us down and we navigated and explored both the map and the 'real - cave world'. There is a great difference between the two 'realities'. After much tugging around we got out of there after about 3 and half hours. It was about 6.30 and time to clean up and make tea.

Deb the purveyor of 'toxic tofu' will never be trusted near the spice rack again. Who needs "lippy" when all that was needed was a couple of spoonfuls of the communal evening meal. Deb achieved gigantean heat in her spicing of the meal. After much dicing and chopping anything that stayed still long enough, a few of us left Deb to do the cooking while we relaxed and I downed pain killers and some red. In an attempt to stave off any stiffness and serious soreness we shared a variety of exercise we knew to be reasonable. They came from Hockey, yoga, physio visits and friends advice. There were common areas of tightness so we did some stretches for shoulders and backs. It was a great warming down prior to the chemical heat-up of the meal. No hot-water bottles were required that night.

Dave dropped round with his own pizza (very sensible) he promised to see us at S102 in the morning, provided we pick him up.

Dave rigged and belayed us in while Cheryl and Marie stayed on top. The bovine bits are almost consumed, as is the water level of the first pool. We noted the drop in the level of water in all areas of the cave which had supported large quantities of water in the past.

The drop in the levels enabled us to explore areas that had previously been inaccessible. After about 3 hours, of testing memories of past trips and navigation skills, we made our exit and returned to the scout hall to cleanup and leave for Adelaide.

The trip was both enjoyable and a test of 'grit and determination' on the part of many of the group.

Flinders Trip Report

Deborah Callison

Flinders Ranges 10th-13th April, 1998

Present: Kirsty Kitto, Deborah Callison, Paul Waclawik, Sofia Dodds, Cheryl Poynton, and Nick.

Friday 10th- arrived at Kirsty's at 7.30 am after picking up Nick. Enjoyed a breakfast of hot cross buns and tea while Kirsty talked about her plans to move to a new home.

Just when we thought we were ready to leave, Mavis struck early in the trip by making Sofia forget her sleeping bag. Once that was rescued, we set off.

Shortly before Clare, we stopped at a delightful teahouse for a toilet break and morning tea. We reached Orroroo about lunchtime and had a rather less interesting roadhouse meal before setting out for the campsite.

The dirt roads were a good test of memory for Paul and myself but eventually we found the site and struck camp. A fair portion of the afternoon was spent helping Nick erect his Taj Mahal of a tent (a friend's apparently). Many joking comments were passed but we would eat our words and be very grateful for this tent later! The usual magnificent FUSSI meal of pasta, sauce, salad and wine was prepared and devoured. A relaxing evening around the fire followed.

Saturday 11th- The morning dawned grey, gloomy and with much promise of rain. Undaunted, we headed off for Arcoota creek cave. Once we had found it, we had good fun trying to find our way through the maze like tunnels and coping with the rather dusty environment. Returning to the campsite, we found it was pouring with rain and our air mattress was wet! We adjourned to Nick's tent for lunch and decided a marquee should be the next essential item bought for FUSSI gear.

We then tackled Mt Sims cave – the lock and bolts are becoming very difficult to open. The water level in the cave was very low- we were able to walk (carefully) right through the calcite rafts area and had to look quite extensively to find water in the cave. Mavis struck yet again, giving Paul a kiss on the lips with a dislodged rock while he was attempting a crawl. Tea was a yummy stir-fry, but rain set in again afterwards, so Saturday was an early night- 9.30pm!

Sunday 12th-Another gloomy day dawned, so we quickly prepared our lunches and headed off for Mairs and Clare St Dora caves. The sun came out occasionally which was pleasant, but the wind near Mairs felt strong enough to blow us back down the hill! We set up a safety line and Paul belayed people down the Cegsa metal ladder installed in 1993. Mavis claimed Nick this time, he bowed out saying he had the flu and didn't feel the best. The remaining five of us continued to the rockpiles, and the first chamber.

A 'wedding cake' formation was spotted by Kirsty and provided a suitable photo for a married caving couple on their first anniversary! At this stage, Sofia complained of feeling under the weather also, so she headed back to the ladder. Paul, Kirsty, Cheryl and I proceeded to the tubes and the first main chamber, but couldn't find our way through to the next chamber, so we returned to the entrance and laddered out. (We had another case of map vs cave trouble here. Ed.)

We had our lunches by the cars and then Cheryl, Kirsty, Paul and I did Clare St Dora cave. (I had forgotten how wonderful the crawl at the start of this cave was, and added another selection of bruises). We got through to the final chamber and were very impressed by the cave coral decoration. Mavis played her last trick on us-after returning from the caves, she moved the campsite. After half an hour of fun in the pitch-black night, we eventually relocated the camp and cooked up a great meal of vegetable and egg Thai green curry. Due to the unceasing rain, bedtime was 10pm.

Monday 13th- Monday was a leisurely packing up of camp, and car boot cramming exercise to fit in all the gear and leave a space for Sofia (not the roof rack). An uneventful trip along the Wilmington-Clare-Quorn road bought us home. An enjoyable trip, although Mavis is becoming quite malicious and steps may need to be taken to reduce her sphere of influence next time.

WHAT IS ON FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS 1998

10-12 July
Lower South East Trip
Clare Organising 8353 6018

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE.
STUDENTS \$20.00
EVERYBODY ELSE \$30.00

FUSS President's Report 1997

The President of FUSS for 1997 was Liam Dwyer. He was very active for the first semester going to Speleo Council meetings and even caving. In July however, he was last seen by FUSS members in the Tavern expounding on the debilitating effects of the Howard Government's deconstruction of Australia's PostModern society. As a philosophy Phd student in need of collecting original data for his thesis, he left and went to Canberra. Sources close to his blue van, stated that he was last glimpsed attending a Cabinet meeting, dressed in a Mavis suit with a Gnome tucked under his arm.

The Australian Speleological Federation is investigating.

AAP.

Safety Officer's Report 1997

Clare Buswell, FUSS Safety Officer

What happened safety wise in FUSS this year? Not much except a few flat tyres on the way to caving locations; the odd headache from drinking to much fine wine on caving trips, a bit of embarrassment from not being able to find the cave and a bad case of hut disease on a certain trip interstate. After that there was a great acrobatic display resulting in a strained calf muscle and a couple of cold troglodytes resting up in Y1. The year was basically a safe one, if you caved, but a member did get hit in a hockey match and obtained a gash above an eyebrow. The club provided counselling and has taken away the member's hockey sticks.

On a more serious note, at the Australian Speleological Federation's biennial conference at Quorn, I chaired a workshop on cave safety issues. Although attended by a handful of participants, the training that clubs around the country undertake in terms of self rescue, first aid training and out side agency rescue was discussed. NSW has its own Cave Rescue Squad, but the local CFB or SES is the first group sent to an accident that requires an out side agency rescue. The NSW Cave Rescue squad is kept on call and is brought in if needed. Victoria also has a cave rescue group which works in close relation with police rescue groups. The rest of the country does it on its own.

In South Australia, the police are the first port of call and they are in control of any rescue requiring out side help. Most clubs in SA make a point of being self sufficient in dealing with first aid needs and minor accidents. This is done because we often cave in remote locations which means that help is many hours away. Caving accidents among members of ASF clubs are rare, caving incidents perhaps are not. (Incidents range from getting lost, to having to wait for the flood waters to subside to falling over and cutting yourself).

To maintain first aid skill levels I would encourage all members of FUSS to do a first aid course and to practice the knowledge gained. Make sure that your in-cave first aid kit is always complete, that your three light sources are dependable with back up bulbs and are fully charged, that you have a good supply of high energy food: (Haigh's chocolate speckles being part of the mandatory caving equipment). Make sure that your space blanket or large orange garbo bags don't contain unnecessary holes or rips and if it looks as if you are going to be sitting around for a while put them on before you get cold.

The ASF has handed down the long awaited Leadership Accreditation scheme. It is a good Phd from the Social Sciences in thickness and about as user friendly as the phone queue for Centre Link. The second part of the scheme, the Instructor Standards are still being written. The Leadership Accreditation scheme outlines the skills needed for caving in a horizontal system and a system using ladders. Such skills no matter what process they are part of, are only as good as those practised. In other words gaining the drivers licence doesn't mean that you are a good driver. Basically safe caving practice doesn't just happen you have to plan and train for it.

Finally, I would like to thank all those members who have been caving over the past year and wish you well for the next. See you all at the end of a rope sometime.

Fussi Library Report 1998

Glenis Crane

During 1997 a number of improvements were made to the library, i.e.

1. We reorganized the order of the journals in the space available,
2. Updated information regarding journal issues, new books, maps, etc.
3. A library night and other gatherings were held in an attempt to update the library,
4. The book 'Cave minerals of the world' ??? was purchased.

More work needs to be done on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, the librarian became a bit too busy with other things in 1997. Nevertheless, things are in good order for the next librarian to take over!

Equipment Officer's Report

Sofia Dodds - Equipment Officer 1997

Over the last year the club purchased 5 sets of Helmet Clips, 5 Petzel Zooms, 10 new Karabiners and 3 brand new helmets.

The FUSS Equipment list has been tidied up a little to allow for easy accountability of important things like how many Karabiners we're meant to have and where they are stored.

Equipment lost. Found. Being mended. retired. waiting to be replaced. donated:

- First of all, 4 people who went on the Yagby '97/ '98 trip need to replace missing insert in Petzel Zoom. If no-one takes responsibility for the loss, the price of replacement will be divided by four. This is a standard caving equipment- borrowing and anything else-borrowing practise.

- Some parts of rope were found in May 1997 belonging to the Bluewater Static Rope that was cut into 1 x 26 and 1 x15 m lengths in 1995.

- A red rope protector needing mending on it's way to Marie (thanks Marie).

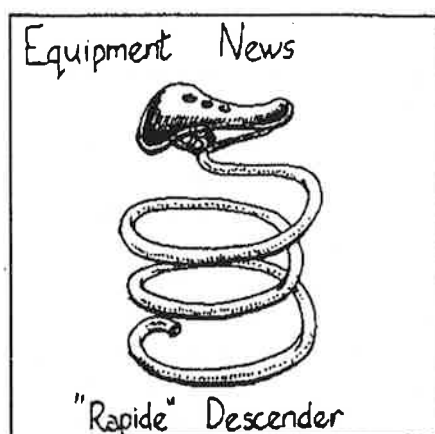
- 2 Rapide 6 mm wide mouth Maillons need to be engraved. Anybody able to volunteer?

- The Replacement Scheme for old gear has been recommended to take effect next with buying new harnesses when we can afford it.

- A Karabiner (S/G Alum. Alloy Cassin Red gate D bought 1992) was lost beginning of 1997 along with a purple tube tape (1" x 4 m.) during Fair Day. Clare found them in Lost Property beginning of 1998.

Thanks to Clare for doing heaps of equipment tallying and keeping track of stuff.

Given the rather well-off state of the bank balance, we have started by purchasing some much needed harnesses this year.



Tom Houghton

1997 Treasurer's Report

Paul Waclawik - Treasurer 1997

1997 was a good year for FUSFI financially. We spent less than we brought in. Probably mostly due to the cheque book being so hard to get hold of, and two people to autograph it!

Most of the expenditure was for equipment and trip support. Grants were mostly aquired for the equipment needed for trips and for membership of our major supporting Speleological body, the ASF, but a grant was used to support the interstate trip for the year.

	Opening balance	1,203.93
Income	Grants	1,086.00
	Memberships	400.00
	Interest	2.85
		1488.85
Expenditure		865.72
	Tax	4.23
	Closing Balance	869.95
		1822.83