

FUSSI

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"Food and water three times
a day and I'll be fine"

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINDERS UNIVERSITY SPELEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY INCORPORATED.

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of Fussi with me in the driver's seat. As you have probably noticed, the Society has had its elections for the year, and there are some new faces on the block. For all those newly elected, and those who were re-elected, I have obtained group discount for the therapy.

A big thanks to all the past members of the executive, for all their work and untiring efforts to enable us to get away from it all, up to our armpits in dust, darkness, and decoration.

The lack of a green cover does not mean the Society has changed its ideology, just that we no longer have access to a colour photocopier.

Please note that the Fuss library is in the process of being moved to Heiko's office, more info in Trog Delights.

Any articles that anyone would care to scribble on the back of a Weeties packet would be greatly appreciated, so drop them into the Clubs and Societies office.

Speaking of which, thanks to Sue and Marilyn in the office, for their help with the mag.

Many thanks also go to Clare for her untiring efforts in scanning, typing and correcting.



Well at last the raffle has been drawn, and the winners are:

- 1st: Day pack from Mountain Designs
Craig Williams
- 2nd: Camping goods from Mountain Designs
Ceridwen Lloyd
- 3rd: \$10 Book voucher
Jenny Laidlaw

Many thanks to all those who sold tickets, and especially to Mountain Designs for their kind donation of the prizes.

bits 'n' pieces

The Nullabor Plain, covering about ten million hectares of South Australia and Western Australia, is being assessed for World Heritage listing.

The Investigation was announced in Adelaide on 11 January by Federal Environment Minister, Mrs Ros Kelly, South Australia's Environment Minister, Ms Susan Lenahan, and Western Australia's Environment Minister, Mr Bob Pearce.

This is the first time that two state governments and the Commonwealth have undertaken a joint assessment for World Heritage nomination of an area which crosses state borders.

If successful, it would be the first area in South Australia to attain World Heritage status.

Shark Bay in Western Australia and Heard and McDonald islands between Tasmania and the Antarctic are the most recent areas in Australia to be nominated for World Heritage listing.

Mrs Kelly said the investigation would assess the area's outstanding aspects, including features of geological, archaeological and natural significance.

The investigation and nomination process would take up to two years.

The Nullabor Plain has international significance as the world's largest arid limestone landscape.

Offshore is the Great Australian Bight - Breeding ground of the endangered Southern Right whale.

The South Australian Government has already added its portion of the Plain to the national park system.

The Nullabor regional reserve covers 2.28 million hectares.

It is north of the 583 000-hectare Nullabor National Park which includes the world famous Koonalda cave system.

Ms Lenahan said that the Koonalda cave site was the oldest evidence of prehistoric art in Australia and among the oldest in the world.

The cave is a very large cavern, including three lakes, which contain Aboriginal art dating back about 20 000 years.

Mr Pearce said that as both South Australian and Western Australian interests were involved, the joint approach was the appropriate course of action and the Commonwealth input was welcome.

ECOFILE
Vol. 7 No. 4
Summer 1991

I saw a very nice report the other day about the nice things that are happening at Naracoorte. They have got nice lights so people don't need torches, and for the really nice caves, there are nice Adventure Tour guides to show all the nice people who go there all the nice and delicate things, and to stop the not so nice people from doing not so nice things. Isn't that nice...?

The Savage River Caving Club (Tas) is to be soon official. Their recognition by A.S.F to Associate status has prompted the club to formalize themselves. Well done Folks!

Front cover:
John Callison, in Maires Cave,
Easter 1991.

TROG DELIGHTS

LIBRARY NEWS

Nargun. Vol. 23, No. 8. March 1991. The newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association.

Programme for the next few months. Rescue of a party of five from Labertouche Cave, no injuries group became disoriented. Note on getting back together the VSA slide set which consisted of numerous subjects from SRT to survey, to expeditions and decoration. Report on Professor Zhu Xuewen slide and talk night presented in January at Nick Whites house. Dave Smith's write up of the ASF council Meeting in Jan.

Nargun. Vol. 23, No. 10 May. 1991.

Programme to the end of November. Elery Hamilton-Smith writing on the a re-assessment of the various cave bat maternity sites throughout Australia. A note on the discovery of Honeycomb cave, the verification of its location and subsequent vandalism. a report on a Management Visit to Limestone Creek with a history of what has happened to the caves in this area due to increased public usage resulting from the area being included in the Cobberas - Tingaringy section of the Alpine National Park and the subsequent publication of a number of guidebooks. The report makes for informative reading in particular the consultation that occurs between Management and the VSA which enables both groups to achieve their 'shared goal of cave conservation'. A Genealogical Examination of Horeshoe Cave, (provides some material for Aunty ABC's Oral History programme). Report on the VSA Rescue Practice 1990 in Honeycomb cave. It contains details of the haul system and belay system and an evaluation of how it all went. A note on the 'Alpine Clutch' a knot used by climbers to rescue people out of crevasses which has some application in cave rescue. A couple of trip reports and some VSA news.

Rimestone. The newsletter of the Top End Speleo Society. Report on a joint TESS, Conservation Commission, Police, numerous park rangers, and the SES cave rescue exercise;

Sackies report on the ASF Conference and ASF council Meeting at Margaret River. Survey work using the Global Positioning System and some trip reports. Notice of who is now on their executive, Sackie is President. Well done!

Troglodyte Newsletter of the Northern Cavekeepers Inc. April Vol. 2 No 10. 1991.

Trip reports. A note on the hydrology surrounding Mill Creek as well as details of some exploration going on in the area.

Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society.

Vol 35. No 2 Feb 1991.

Reports on the Chillagoe Caves Expedition 1988-9. Trip report to Wombeyan. Details of the what the Society is getting up to for the next month or so. Abstracts from incoming journals.

Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society.

Vol. 35 No 3. March 1991

More on the Chillagoe Caves Undara lava caves expedition 1989-1990. Trip reports to Jenolan, Wyanbene, Bungonia A press clipping of a cave tour at Cutta Cutta caves. Abstract of publications received, notably French and Japanese.

Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society.

Vol. 35 No 4. April 1991

Notes on digging in B11, SSS national anthem, couple of press releases on the caving accident in Lechuguilla Cave in New Mexico. One interesting note about the make up of the rescue team is that it contained people from the dept of Energy who are studying the burial of plutonium contaminated waste in salt beds south-east of Carlsbad.

Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association Newsletter. Vol. 7 May 1991. Details of the forthcoming conference in WA. News from N.Z. Guides reunion at Wombeyan Re opening of Jillibee-

nan after a re-wiring and the establishment of a path for wheel chair access. Andy Spate is no longer interested in things that fiz, (carbonated water), but is now into crystals. Must show him my collection from the seventies. Articles on Karst management on the Northern Territory and New Guinea. News from Tasi and North Qld.

The Cavers Chronicle Vol 18. No 1 April 1991. Newsletter of the Speleological Research Group W.A.

An editorial dealing with Tourists! (Should be put in a plane with George Bush, Sir Arvo Parvo, John Major, Bob Hawke and a few others and the Zia principle applied.) Notices of up and coming events and who is doing what where. Article on Cave Rights for Troglodites. (*definitely worth a read and some thought, ed.*) Trip reports to

Strong's cave, Jewel cave Crystal Cave, Bridges Cave, Wanneroo and Boranup. Press cuttings on the Heritage Plans for the Nullarbor and the rescue of a caver trapped in Lechuguilla.

SUSS Bulletin. Vol 31.

No 1. Newsletter of the Sydney Uni Speleo Society.

A literary supplement dealing with the story of Superted and the Pothole Rescue. Trip reports to Jenolan, Gloucester, Tuglow and a one act play on what happens when you put together a group of freshers and scaling poles and send them to Jenolan.

SUSS Bulletin. Vol 31. No 2. 1991. Most of this issue is written by Mark Staraj! Keir Vaughan Taylor's article on Yessabah: digging and the making of a longer Serpentine cave. Notes on the Southern Limestone area of Jenolan and a rave on the fact that SUSS was the 1990 Sports Union Club of the Year.

The Western Caver. The Annual Journal of the Western Australian Speleological Society. Vol 30 1990. Reports of the years caving trips by the group. President's, librarian's, secretary's reports and an article on cave

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conservation by Rauleigh Webb asking cavers to be responsible in their actions in caving. Some discussion on the Proposed Leeuwin Permit System and a couple of articles by Lex Bastion on Yanchep. It all makes a good read.

Management of Victorian Caves and Karst. A Report to the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands. Prepared by Applied Natural Resource Management (Canberra 1986).

If only S.A. had anything like this document the problems we have now would probably never emerged. The document presents a preliminary classified catalogue of all known cave sites, with management recommendations. It also outlines a general management strategy for Victoria's cave heritage.

Flinders Uni library has recently obtained a copy of the proceedings of *the Cave Management in Australasia VIII Conference*. Ed by Kevan Wilde it contains the latest published collection of management thoughts on how the karst rescoures in Oz and New Zealand can be managed.

Note the Fuss Library has moved into Heiko Maurer's Office. Rm 1302 Information Science and Technology Discipline. Items are available for monthly loan.

Who has the Club copy of Speleo Vision Field notes? The last recorded loan was to Rick Jeuken.

Note that Librarians Dave Manual and Di Brinsley are having a records day. They would like a hand with the cate-

logging of books maps, press clippings, journals etc. A couple of hours of your time would go a long way in helping them crawl through the mountains of paper that we have collected. Also if you find anything on your travels around the place relevant to the library then bring it along to a meeting or send it to Di. David Manuel found a 1936 copy of a travel brochure for Carlsburg Caverns in an Op Shop recently!

Mavis.

Implications of the South Australian Speleological Council (SASC) for Fuss

Background

The SASC is a body that was formed to act on behalf of caving organisations in S.A. It effectively come into being on 18th April, 1991. All major caving groups have agreed to join. Member clubs of this council are: Flinders University Speleological Society (Fuss), Cave Exploration Group of S. A. (Cegsa), Scout Caving Committee (SCC), Cavex Inc, and the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA). There are other clubs that occasionally cave and invitations to these clubs may be made at a latter date.

Alan Jevons was elected as Chair. A charter, to be submitted to the ASF for consideration is currently being prepared. The charter committee comprises, Alan Jevons (SCC), Clare Buswell (FUSS), and Graham Pilkington, (CEGSA).

Why have a SASC?

Caving is being made subject to in-

creased regulation. We can more effectively influence government decision making if there is consensus amongst cavers. For example, making a single submission to a park management plan. The government would both prefer and take more notice of a single body representing S.A. Cavers. Until SASC was formed, Cegsa has generally acted on behalf of cavers in S.A, SASC will take over this role and consequently all caving groups will have input as well as be better informed. For example, though SASC we will all now have a representative on the initial study for the Nullarbor Park Plan, rather than just CEGSA.

A problem yet to be addressed, Cegsa has requested certain veto powers in council voting. Fuss should not agree to this - full membership of SASC must give equal voting rights. However, wet caving has self-regulation already in place and we should follow CDAA in matters relating to this

type of cave.

Advantages:

1. Cavers in S.A. will have one Voice.
2. Promotes regular contact with other caving groups.
3. Facilitates co-operation with trips (keys etc), sharing of information and expertise.
4. If required, uniform dry caver competence standards could be set by SASC. As has been done by CDAA for wet caves.

Disadvantages:

1. Cegsa may try and run things.
2. A membership fee is likely.
3. SASC could become bureaucratic.

In summary, SASC should be to our advantage and not change the nature of FUSS. We should give it a go, we can always pull out.

Lee Coshell.

HYPOTHERMIA

HOW TO PREVENT IT.

The following appeared as a letter to the editor in the latest edition of Australian caver. We have decided to reprint it here as it gives an excellent account of how to manage a potentially fatal situation. We thank Alex Kariko for permission to print it in FUSSI.

Dear Editor,

It was with interest that I read Peter Ackroyds account of the flooding incident in Growling Swallet, (jf-36). The incident shows again that caving is a thought sport. That is, with preparation and carefully considered actions, potentially life threatening situations can be avoided.

Undoubtedly they made the right decision about not attempting to force the flooded route, but instead retiring to a safe area to wait out the flood. With a little more preparation and knowledge their actions could have been much more effective in conserving body heat and extending their endurance, not to mention making things much more comfortable.

The most disturbing part of the account of the incident was the comment that as the night wore on, they kept a careful watch for any signs of hypothermia developing among the group. If the groups heat management was as described in the article, then I think they would have found it very difficult to stabilise any of the party who may have become hypothermic. This is because their heat conservation measures were apparently ineffective. When stranded in a cold, wet and drafty place, body heat is too precious to be allowed to leak away unchecked.

It would be valuable to outline the principles involved in heat loss from the body and offer some practical suggestions in managing heat loss. There are four heat loss processes that must be understood by people who are exposed to cold. These are radiation, conduction, convection and evaporative cooling. The effect of each

one of these processes must be reduced. The ideal situation is where the heat lost does not exceed the heat generated by the body. The way to do this is to know the rates at which different parts of the body lose heat and how to stop body heat escaping to the environment.

Compared with its size, the head is the zone of highest heat loss. Hands and feet can lose proportionally as much heat as the head under normal circulation, but the body will reduce blood flow to these extremities to conserve heat. The brain must be kept at close to 37 celsius to function normally and requires large quantities of oxygen and nutrients. So under cold stress, the body will attempt to maintain normal blood flow to the head. Therefore as much care needs to be given to providing adequate cold protection for the head as to the hands and feet.

Radiative heat loss is the process by which a body loses energy by emitting electromagnetic radiation. For the human body, this is infra-red radiation or radiant heat. Fortunately radiant heat is reflected by shiny metallic surfaces. Therefore a reflective space blanket is essential equipment in the cold. Arguably the reflective layer is most effective next to the skin, (as used in hospitals), but the large heat loss that would be caused by removing all clothing to place the reflective foil next to the skin is unacceptable in a cold cave. So in practice the space blanket should be worn on top of other clothing.

Conduction is heat lost through physical contact. Therefore direct contact with cold materials must be minimised. Reduce the area of contact with the cold walls and floor of the cave. Cold water has the ability to remove vast quantities of heat so keeping out of water is essential. Of the substances normally encountered in caves, air is the poorest conductor of heat. It is readily warmed, requiring less than one hundredth the energy needed to warm an

equal weight of water. Wool and synthetic, thermal, fibres trap the air next to the skin producing an insulating layer. So adequate and preferably dry clothing is essential to minimise heat loss. Scavenging other peoples' lost heat through conduction and radiation is very effective. In practice this means that the group huddles close together. This reduces the effective heat loss from each person by reducing the body area exposed to the cold environment.

Convection is heat lost due to a warmed fluid moving, (usually vertically) by its buoyancy, to be replaced by colder fluid. The air next to the skin must be prevented from moving. The same clothing that insulates is also effective at preventing convective heat loss. Although such clothing may prevent the gentle convective air flow that body heat would produce, extra protection from drafts and strong air currents may be needed. A space blanket is also good wind protection.

Evaporative cooling occurs whenever a substance changes from a liquid to a gas. Water evaporating from clothes or off skin will remove large quantities of heat. The rate of evaporation depends on the dryness of the air; the drier the air, the more rapid the heat loss by evaporation. Evaporative heat loss can be reduced in two ways. Either by not having any water to evaporate, that is by getting into dry clothes and staying dry, or by increasing the water vapour content of the air to near 100%. At 100% relative humidity, no evaporative heat loss occurs. If mist or fog forms around you then the air is saturated with water vapour so evaporative heat loss is virtually nil.

Using the information outlined, the group's strategy should have been something like the following.

A. Put on gloves and balaclavas and adopt the foetal position to conserve body heat, but not on their backs. They should have rested on toes, knees and elbows, with pads made from packs and ropes to further

HYPOTHERMIA

HOW TO PREVENT IT.

reduce heat loss and ease the pressure.

Next thing should have been scavenging of leaking heat by the party huddling together. This reduces the exposed surface area of each member, therefore reducing heat loss. Social inhibitions associated with members of the same sex having close physical contact have no place when survival is at stake.

C. A reflective space blanket drawn over the group would have further reduced radiative and convective heat losses. It would have also produced a still zone of air that, when warmed by body heat, would have provided a temperate micro-climate. Evaporative losses would be reduced too, as the local relative humidity would have increased to nearer 100%, hence reducing evaporative heat loss.

D Exercise is an effective way of generating body heat, but the problem

with callisthenics is that you can lose a lot of warmth by moving about in chilled air. A better way is to use the stress/relaxation method, where you tense up your muscles for about five seconds then relax for about the same time. Three or four cycles of this is enough to warm one. Five or six can often start one sweating.

E. Artificial heat is effective too. A small candle, preferably in a candle holder, (or a carbide lantern), placed among the group huddled under the space blanket, will produce prodigious quantities of useful heat. The candle would be used for intermittent periods to top up the groups heat store if the stress/relaxation method was not producing sufficient warmth.

F. To be able to survive for long periods, the bodys fuel must be maintained. Each caver ought to carry a minimum of 24 hours supply of

concentrated high energy foods. Hungry cavers get chilled easier than well fed ones.

The above six strategies would have kept the group much warmer than they were. Not only warmer, but they would have maintained good physical condition for several days if they had sufficient food. With the addition of lightweight space blankets and several candle stubs or commercial candle lanterns, the group would have suffered much less from the cold.

Finally a large vote of thanks should go to this group for being so frank. They provided an opportunity for everyone to benefit by their experiences in preventing an inconvenient situation turning into a tragedy.

Alex Kariko.
Safety and Training Officer,
Victorian Speleological Association.

FUN AND FRIVOLITY AT MARGARET RIVER

After a week of fun and frivolity in the town of Margaret River, we left our cosy lodge accommodation and headed for a less comfortable but more rustic spot in the bush. We spent the next few days camping at a hut with fellow cavers from New South Wales and Tasmania. Although the hut, which belongs to the Speleological Research Group of Western Australia, was very basic (no water, no windows, no doors), it was in an ideal location and was an excellent place to camp.

During the course of our stay at this hut, Heiko, Clare, Tania, Sackie, Mavis and I visited, or attempted to visit, the following caves:

Old Kudardup Cave: Unfortunately, despite a long and enjoyable wander through the bush in search of this cave, we failed to locate it. (We have since been informed that it does exit,

although Clare who spent some considerable time looking for it, still doesn't believe the sources who reported its finding.)

Moondyne Cave: A former tourist cave, Moondyne has been undergoing restoration. Although there are still signs of its days as a tourist cave, most of the stairs have been removed and much of the formation has been cleaned by members of W.A.S.G. This cave, which comprises two large chambers, is well decorated and easy to walk through.

Jewel Cave: This is a richly decorated, very beautiful tourist cave. We tagged along at the end of a tourist group with Lloyd Robinson, the President of ASF and one of the original explorers of the cave when it was first discovered.

Wandering through this cave with Lloyd was a privilege as he was full of information and anecdotes regarding both the discovery and exploration of Jewel and its development as a tourist cave. Clare and Tania latter visited 'Flat Roof Chamber', a non-tourist section of Jewel. Both took lots of photos but Kodac managed to stuff Clare's film so she has got zilch to show for it.

Easter Cave: In an earlier trip report in Fussi Vol 2. No 4, Jenny and Lee said, "Easter Cave sounds like it would be worth going to". This was something of an understatement. Easter Cave was the highlight of our trip. Clare, Sackie and I spent eight hours in Easter with Ann McLaren (from the Highland Caving Group), Stefan Eberhard (from TCC) and our guide, Rauleigh Webb (WASG). Easter is a long, heavily decorated

FUN AND FRIVOLITY AT MARGARET RIVER

cave in which one has to be extremely careful to avoid causing damage to the plentiful decoration. Easter is full of wonderful decoration: stalagmites, stalactites, straws, thrusts of helectites, and much, much more. (The use of the word "thrust to describe a group of helectites was coined by Stefan). After repeating such words as 'wow', 'fantastic' and 'amazing' many times, we tried to come up with some more original adjectives to adequately describe Easter cave. A collection of straws with the most amazing helictics was named by Clare as the Kiss of a Hoori, (translation: the kiss of a hoori is like an orgasm that lasts for a thousand years.) With all this going on it is not surprising that the trip was also characterised by conversation about sex and sex lives. Whenever we stopped for a rest the conversation would inevitable return to this seemingly fascinating topic.

Winjans: Sackie and I went into this cave with David Londopn, (WASG). Although not as large or extensively decorated as Easter Cave, Winjans is nevertheless very well decorated. Winjans hasn't been trogged a great deal, and one of the main purposes of this trip was to decide on a suitable track through the cave. (Both Easter and Moondyne caves have well marked tracks.) Decoration in Winjans is more dense than in Easter and one had to be *extremely* careful to not damage formation. It isn't exaggerating to say that Sackie and I both found caving in Winjans stressful, simply because of the concentration and effort required to avoid touching the formation. Despite this, I'd highly recommend a visit to this excellent cave.

Gaints Cave: Although this cave is open to any adventurous people it is not a tourist cave as such. Jenny and Lee explained in their report that this cave is regarded by the rangers as a "sacrificial lamb". That is, it is open to anybody who wants to have a go

at non-tourist caving. There are stairs at the main entrance which lead into several large chambers. It is likely that most inexperienced cavers won't venture beyond these chambers because the chimney which leads to a different exit, via a couple of more large chambers is not easy to find. Although much of the formation has been destroyed, this is still a fairly well decorated cave. As J. Aardvark and L. Coshell commented in their report: Not bad for a "sacrificial lamb".

Strong's Cave: This cave, like Easter Cave has limited visits per year, (four or six per year and six members to a group). It apparently contains the world's longest straw and a piece of formation known as the Judge's Wigg. Members of the WASG in moments of non sober consciousness, will tell you a long story about how they dismantled the Judge's Wigg, hid it at an unremembered destination, then made a replica using recycled stals (sic) Aryldited together. This replica is now the one on display in Strong's Cave. Clare, Heiko, Tania, Chris Dunne and Peter from SRG went into Strong's to check out the story and found that the Wigg is indeed made of paper mache and held together by junk bonds.

Apart from this time spent underground, we also found the time to see a good deal of the Leeuwin Peninsula and to enjoy ourselves in the usual Fuss style. We spent most evenings eating well and drinking wine and more often visited by people from a nearby camp full of speleos from various caving clubs. We also spent a bit of time at Contos Beach - very beautiful and fairly isolated spot conveniently located near the caves.

Other highlights included Devonshire tea, (which Clare never managed to get to, as she was too busy looking for Old Kadarup cave), a Visit to Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse and, on our final evening in the Margaret River area, dinner at a restaurant with some members of WASG who had taken us caving and shown us the sights: David

London, Ros Lindsay and Carol. This was followed by an hour or two of singing songs around the campfire.

By this time, most of the other caving groups had left Margaret River for the Nullarbor. We spent our last morning in Margaret River at the laundromat, (very exciting) and that fabulous fruit and vegie shop near the caravan park. We then drove to Albany via some very tall trees and wondered why we live in a state with such stunted vegetation. The next day, in a marathon effort we drove and drove and drove from Albany to Madura - a *bloody* long way. At Madura we met up with some of the other caving groups and, the next morning, we drove with them to the campsite near Webbs Cave on Mundrabilla Station. Heiko and I (perhaps a little foolishly) elected not to go caving that day. So while Sackie and Clare went into Thampana with a large group we stayed above ground and cooked in the Nullarbor heat. It was 45 Degrees plus, and it felt like it. With little shade and limited water supplies, the heat was close to unbearable. Fortunately, Alan Warild, a fellow caver who returned from Thampana and was on his way to Witches Cave. Heiko and I travelled with Alan to Witches, the hottest car journey of my life, (70 degrees recorded on the dash board), and then spent most of the rest of the afternoon sitting inside the entrance to Witches. The contrast between this entrance and the outside world was quite incredible. It was like stepping into a room with air-conditioning. Indeed, after being far too hot above ground, we were almost too cold in Witches.

I returned to Witches the next day with Sackie, Clare and various other cavers, this time venturing a good deal further than the entrance. Witches is another excellent cave, containing interesting formation and many stegamites. Clare, myself and Michael (from Macquarie Uni Caving Club) managed to get lost while we were searching for stegamites. Although

MARGARET RIVER

Continued

this only lasted for a short time, it was a sobering experience as we hadn't moved very far from the main part of the cave and we'd been careful to take note of where we'd just been. We eventually found our way back to the rest of the group after trying various routes that looked as though they might be right.

That afternoon, while most people went into Webbs, FUSS members spent a couple of hours relaxing in the entrance of Webbs reading books, taking photos and eating biscuits.

We left the camp at 7am the following morning, surely a record time for FUSS members. We drove from Mullamulang to Streaky Bay, stopping along the way to walk to the Eucla beach. We couldn't find a campsite at Streaky Bay so, using the fact that Sackie was feeling unwell as an excuse, we decided to stay at a motel.

The trip from Streaky Bay to Adelaide was uneventful, although we did stop at Port Augusta to steam clean the engine which had somehow become rather dirty. The day after our return we spent several hours cleaning the car which, despite the fact that we'd managed to avoid all dirt roads (even on the Nullarbor), was very dusty. And that was the end of an excellent three week jaunt to Margaret River.

Some cavers from Sydney spent some time in Adelaide on their way home, so we entertained them with a party at my place (ostensibly to honour Sackie's return to Adelaide), a day of wine tasting in the Southern Vales and dinner at Heiko and Clare's house. The next ASF conference will be in Launceston in 1993 and, assuming it will be at least as half as good as Cave Leeuwin, can be thoroughly recommended.

Richard Ewart.

TOWN WELL CAVE ... OR BUST !!!

EARLY TEAM: John Callison,
Trevor Arnold, Ray Brice, Di Brinsley
LATE TEAM: Jonathon Walsh,
Ralph Richardson, Peter Storer

This was my challenge for the year, after three other attempts at caving in this particular cave, here I was again having another go. My other attempts failed due to the fact that the first time I had the bug that was doing the rounds, but I came in handy sitting at the top guarding the entrance, having coffee with the farmer, his family and sketching.

The second time we went there it bl___y poured and it was flooded out. The voice from above, with the same initials as one of our other illustrious cavers, informed everyone that there was no way we were going in the cave. The third time we all arrived to find that the cave had this almighty bl___y gate that was welded and locked with wire etc. all over the entrance.

Guess who was feeling as if she were a jinx with this cave?

Well, come the 25th of the month, I was warned, if anything stopped everyone else going down this time I was never allowed there again, so guess who was praying just about all the way over there.

Clare unfortunately could not make it on this trip so she decided it was time I learned some of the ropes and passed everything on to me. Thanks Clare, I'll get even later.

We arrived with the \$100, forms and lots of enthusiasm, paid the money, got the key, and off we went.

Arrived at the cave, no-one else was there, put the key in the lock,nothing.

"Oh sh___", I muttered.

Trev was watching very closely,
"Don't forget what I said", I heard.

My mind was in a whirl, then the key opened the lock. GREAT STUFF. Trev was told where to go in no uncertain manner.

Finding change rooms around Town Well cave can present a few problems, so on finding a rather large tree, I took off without saying too much about where I was going BUT a very curious horse decided to be nosey, so he paid a visit behind the tree... I decided that was enough and found somewhere else to change.

We set up the abseil line and John decided to stay at the top to watch the gear etc., Trevor, Ray and myself went for a scratch around.

It was a very wet, muddy, slippery, fun filled, interesting cave. Decorations were in just about every section. A few really tight squeezes. It was great fun.

My camera recieved the same usual rough treatment but hopefully worked well. The photos will tell.

John's turn finally came to abseil into the cave, Trevor and Ray relaxed at the top, they were feeling a little under the weather from the ascending!! (have since heard that both Ray and Trevor have been attending the Gym, Saunas, Spas and Squash to build up their fitness level. Good on ya guys.)

I stayed in the cave so John could have a scratch around too. I saw a bit more of the cave than the first time round, J.C. and I are of similar (no offence J.C.) build therefore could get through a few more squeezes.

This cave would have to rate as the best I have ever been in. It's really alive and just so much to admire in a fairly small cave.

At the entrance and with some energy left for the ascending, we met up with Ralph, Jonathon and Peter, who had just arrived to have a look at

TOWN WELL CAVE OR BUST!!!

the cave. Unfortunately they were quite late in getting there so they had limited time in actually exploring.

On arriving at the top and looking like I had just been involved in a mud wrestling match, I heard some comments like "Why didn't she have to stop like I did", or "Where's the camera?" (On hearing this they were threatened with all sorts of action if I so much as saw a camera.) I was met by two very wet and cold friends who advised that it had been uh! raining. (Not the word they used) J.C. ascended, and guess who was sent off to get the coffee? Not him that's for sure.

We packed up the gear, handed over the keys, forms etc. to Jonathon and headed for Minlaton to return the key and get some money back - no problems, the gentleman was very obliging and gave me the money.

He was very interested in what we had been doing in the cave and what it was like. He also decided it wasn't for him and couldn't understand why people would want to do such things!!! I decided to have a little chat to make sure we put a good foot forward, he welcomed us back anytime!

I really enjoyed my day to Town Well, My face was aching from all the laughing that we did whilst travelling, and I can only thank the guys that I went with for making the day such a memorable one, especially as it was my fourth time there. Thanks a heap fellas.

Di Brinsley

A5 Sellicks Hill Cave

EARLY GROUP: John Callison, Di Brinsley, Trevor Arnold, Ray Brice (Beached Cave Diver)

LATER GROUP: Clare Buswell, Jonathon Walsh, Ralph Richardson

Holiday Monday or any holiday is a dangerous time to visit A5, the road is crowded and the trip across the road from the car park is like trying to cross Brabham Straight ahead of Senna.

Having overcome our terror we wrestled the gate into submission and the trip was on.

My previous visit was some years ago and my memory of the cave was somewhat hazy, I did remember it went down, down, and then some more down.

Having anchored the ladder and belay line we set out. Trevor did the honours as Belay, myself and Di and Ray were soon at the bolt ready for the long pitch to the bottom. Some time was spent setting up and getting the additional gear from the top. The ladders decided to have a Monday, so after some work and patient relaying we were ready.

Ray went down first, as a diver we reasoned he would recognise water if it was there. I followed, Belayed by Di, and we explored to confirm we had indeed reached the bottom.

Using Ascenders we self lined out to the bolt to find that Di had to leave for another appointment, and Clare, with Ralph and Jonathon, were ready to come in. I belayed them to the bottom and descended to meet and explore further. The cave is decorated and live with water dripping all around, the fissure adds excitement and bridging techniques being employed to reach the lowest point. The ascent was self lined and Clare and I cleared the equipment. Trev did a great job on the top maintaining that vital link, a quick sort out of gear and we were off. My caving watch was three hours late as usual, how my wife laments.

Future trips be aware that the second pitch is hard on communication, we used rope pulling signals, but a whistle, or ideally, staged communicators, will be needed to link belayer to caver. A5 is well worth a visit.

EQUIPMENT:

2 x Bluewater II x 50 metres

2 x Stitch Plates

Tape / Rope Slings

2 x 50' and 2 x 30' Ladders (you need all of it)

Karabiners / Harnesses

John Callison

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FRIEND OR YOUR
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\$5.00 /BOTTLE

RING CLARE

Suzuki to the Flinders : One way Traffic ?

Thursday March 28

2100: Final checking with Ralph of all that is required for the "Trip to the Flinders Ranges"
 Fuel ... check
 Water ... check
 Food ... check
 Money ... cheque
 Do I really want to take the Suzuki check

Friday March 29

0600: Time of meeting at Ralph's place, packing and leaving - pity we were both still asleep.
 0615: Ralph wakes up.
 0635: Ralph tries to ring me, but doesn't know my 'phone number.
 0710: Ralph leaves for my place to try to find me.
 0720: Ralph taps on several windows, not knowing which is mine.
 0738: I wake up.
 0800: I leave for Ralph's place to pack his gear in the Suzuki.
 0825: Packed and ready to leave.
 0830: I remember all the stuff I had forgotten, so back to my place.
 0855: We leave (only three hours late - so far).
 1315: All going well, E.T.A. to the Flinders about 1700.
 1316: 'Tinkle, tinkle', from underneath the car.
 1318: We found a loose nut on the muffler support, so we took it off and proceeded.
 1319: The noise is still there.
 1324: The Universal joint on the drive shaft is slightly loose, so we proceed to Orroroo at forty-five kilometers an hour.
 1415: Arrive at Orroroo and go looking for a garage (bearing in mind it was Good Friday).
 1420: Can't find one, so we head back to the roadhouse we saw on the way in.
 1422: 300 meters from the roadhouse, and a really nasty noise starts from the driveshaft. Sounds like a noise it made twelve

months ago, just before it broke and cost me \$300.

1423: Push Suzuki to roadhouse.

At this point we did the same thing every-one else in the same situation would have done, we sat down and thought about things for a while.

After some consideration, and a hamburger, I took off the drive-shaft, got out from under the car, and shook out several bits - Oh oh. I sat down and thought about things for a while. Time to call the RAA. The woman on the 'phone said she didn't know where the mechanic was, and so he might be a while getting to us - Oh oh. "About five minutes.", she said - Phew.

The RAA chap soon arrived, took one look under the car, and said, "The oil seal from the transmission has gone, and the transmission has run out of oil." - Oh oh. "If you keep the oil topped up, you should be right, though." - Phew. We then bought all the transmission oil the roadhouse had, put the car back together, filled the transmission with oil and set off again - at about 1700hrs. We travelled at about 60 kph or so (this was at least better than 45 kph!), and stopped every 50 kilometers to top up the transmission, making it to Cradock at about 1930 hrs. At this point I decided to ring home to let the folks know that we had made it, well almost. "A few problems with the car Mum, but nothing too serious."

After about 20 minutes driving towards Holowilena homestead, we came to a cattle grid, but the map said we would come to a fork in the road first??? Looks like Callison got the map stuffed up a bit (and he's the safety officer!). We travelled on for a while and passed a homestead - oh it was Yednalua, that must mean we have 29 kilometers to go, before we get to the junction - This time we used the printed map!

At the 29.5 kilometer mark, Ralph was worried. At the 29.6 kilometer mark we came to the junction. Now (with some trepidation) we turned to

Callison's map. 'Take the left fork, then the first track on the left.' O.K., we did that, and drove on.

"Lights up ahead! Bewdy - we had found them.", not quite. "Do you know where the caving club is?", I asked the total stranger coming towards the car. "Just up ahead.", he said, glad to be rid of the noisy two-stroke.

Next Campsite: "Do you know where the caving club is?", "No but a four-wheel-drive is a bit further on, just go back to the track, turn right, through the gate, across the creek, turn left, then keep going." - Oh boy! We finally came to a blue four-wheel-drive, and asked the driver, who had been enjoying the peace of the bush sitting at his campfire. "I'm not sure if it's them, but a couple of long haired gits...", "Yes, that's them", we told him. "Ah, then they are no-where near here. How DID you get here then?". We showed him our map and he confirmed that we were exactly where the map said - which was no-where near where the group actually was. He gave us the correct directions, then casually mentioned as we were leaving, that he hadn't seen anyone at the campsite that afternoon - Oh oh.

We then backtracked several kilometers, topped up with oil AGAIN, and took the correct turning: 'Take the right fork, then the first track on the right'...Success, we had found them - and we were still in time for a glass of port.

Endnote:

The Suzuki is alive and well after undergoing a \$137 extension case transplant performed on a mate's back lawn.

Ready for the next trip: I might even go caving!

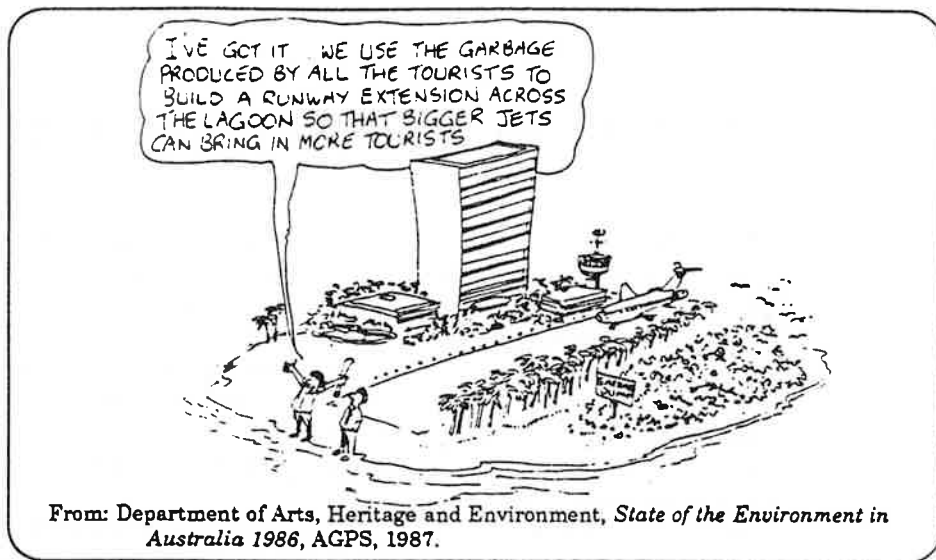
Jonathon Walsh

John and his mate Dave were out on a hiking trip in the Rocky Mountains when they came face to face with a hungry-looking mountain lion.

John froze in his tracks, but Dave sat down on a log, tore off his hiking boots, pulled a pair of running shoes from his pack and hurriedly began to put them on.

"For crying out loud, you can't outrun a mountain lion!" John hissed.

"I don't have to," said Dave. "I only have to outrun you!"



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Edited by Peter Mathews.

This is the book that lists
most known and documented caves in Australia up to 1985.
It was put together by speleos who have spent heaps of their time
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It is the first place to look, apart from under a rock, when planning a trip
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# First Semester Programme

- Sat.-Sun. 25-26 May                      **Yorke Peninsula, Town Well, Corra Lynn and Windmill Cave Project**  
Co-ordinators: Di, (384-4981) and Clare (3886371).
- Tuesday. 4th June                      7pm                      **General Meeting. Rock, Rattle and Roll**  
**A talk on Cave Formation by Pam Storer.**
- Tuesday. 11th June                      6.30pm                      **SRT Practice.** Drama Studio Flinders Uni.
- Tuesday. 18th June                      6.30pm                      **SRT Practice.** Drama Studio Flinders Uni.
- Sat.-Sun. 23-23 June                      **Naracoorte. Mapping.**(Tentative)  
Co-ordinator: Jenny Laidlaw 3536018

**FIRST SEMESTER ENDS JUNE 23**  
**SECOND SEMESTER STARTS JULY 29**

- Tuesday. 2nd July.                      7pm.                      **General Meeting. Nullarbor.**
- Fri. 12/7 - Sun. 21/7                      **Nullarbor.** Meeting up with SRG and WASG?  
Co-ordinator/s: Di, Nathan, Simon.

## FOR YOUR LONG TERM PLANNING

- Jan. 12 - 27 1992                      Yarrangobilly, Bungonia, Jenolan  
Jan. 25 - 26 1992                      9am                      ASF Council Meeting, Jindabyne  
Dec. 1992                      ASF Conference, Tasmania  
1993                      International Speleo Conference in China.

**DON'T MISS ANY OF THEM!**

**If you want to attend any of the above trips ring the trip  
co-ordinator a week before the due trip date**

**New members are required to attend a meeting before comming on a  
trip.**

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