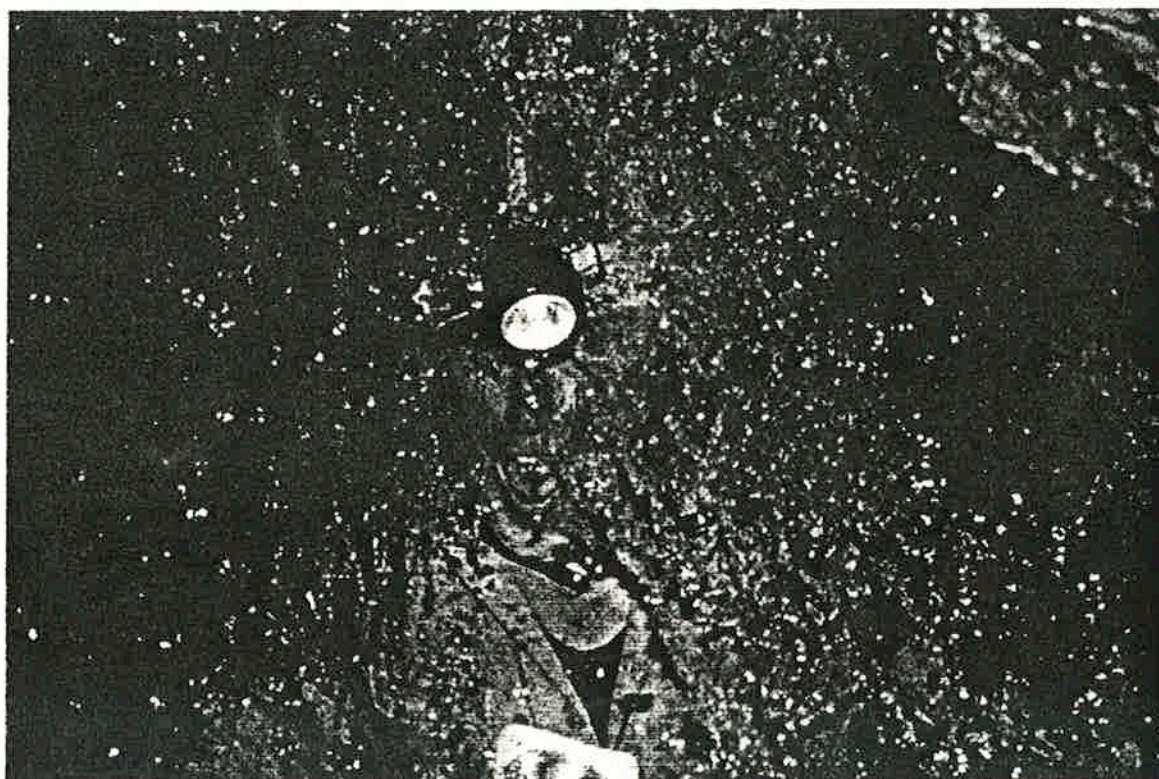


# *F U S S I*



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The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Flinders University Speleological Society Incorporated

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# Editorial

Well, another issue has come to be - only just though. Due to study constraints June did not exist as far as FUSSI went. So this is a combined June September Issue.

Abseiling off the Uni footbridge should continue with Clare and myself this semester - on Wednesdays if the weather is fine (Mavis notwithstanding).

If you want to organize a trip during the mid-semester break - then DO IT. People are itching to go to Naracoorte and Corra-Lynn - they just need someone to get them motivated.

On the subject of motivation, what about writing something for the magazine, even if only a page or so.

Jonathon Walsh

P.S. Give Di a pat on the back for her excellent New South Wales trip report - It's the stuff this magazine is made of.

Mavis,  
A hole in the ground,  
Where-ever you least expect me.

The Editor, FUSSI

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest in the strongest possible terms against a libellous and defamatory article which appeared in a recent edition of *FUSSI*. I refer, of course, to that disgusting piece of gutter journalism 'Mavis: an unauthorised biography'. Not only was this article poorly written (no doubt by some illiterate drop-kick), it also contained much conjecture which was stated as fact. As the subject of that article, I wish to clarify certain points, and refute some insinuations.

First, although I admit to causing FUSF members a lot of trouble over the past few years, there is a tendency within the society for members to blame me for some of their own stupid acts. For example, would I *really* bother to steal an oil-filler cap? Would I *really* bother to put on a John suit and draw poor maps? The answer to both questions is yes, I would. However I cannot take credit for particular acts. Some FUSF members are quite capable of disrupting their own lives without my help. Of course, that doesn't stop me from causing further havoc.

Secondly, although it's true that Clare did persuade me to retreat from society, I can state categorically that I *never* seriously considered abandoning my so-called wicked ways and striving for "peace and justice by doing good deeds" as the author of that scurrilous article suggests. Get Real. Causing chaos is FUN, especially with you guys, and I've got no intention of changing my ways. It *still* makes me chortle to think of Nathan, Simon and Clare walking through rain, mist and hail for days on end.

Thirdly, certain insinuations are made in the article about my sex life. The 'writer' (and I use that term loosely) suggests that the gnome corrupted *me*. What a laugh. As if I could be corrupted any further! I corrupted that gnome and I bloody well enjoyed it.

And yes we did practise safe sex.

The so-called biography also raises questions concerning my relationship with that young groover, Simon. If Simon had played his cards right (ie, not shaved his beard off) I could have shown him a *very* good time. However, I'm simply not interested in men with hairless faces. Heiko, on the other hand, is very interesting. The main reason I hang around speleologists is that so many of the men have got beards. But that's all irrelevant because I've got something pretty good going with the gnome (I love that white beard). By the way, I do occasionally adopt the guise of Simon and I'll continue to do so. Haven't you noticed that mischievous glint that sometimes appears in his (my) eyes?

You guys needn't think that just because you celebrated my birthday I'm going to let up on my program of terror. I've got every intention of continuing the process of havoc and disruption which began several years ago. Nevertheless, things could get much worse unless you observe a few rules. First, I expect my birthday to be celebrated *every* year. And how about leaving a few more interesting objects lying around next time. I can only use so many spondonicles. Secondly, given that I am now a god, I think a bit of worship would be appropriate. Perhaps you could have some sort of wierd ceremony, and sacrifice some speleologists (preferably virgins) in my honour. Thirdly, you'd better proclaim a date for International Mavis Day some time soon, or else I'll get angry and I think you know what that means. Also, you should approach the UN about the International Year of Mavis. Fourthly, I think FUSF should print badges and t-shirts with a new motto. Something like 'Mavis is Lord' would be appropriate. Finally, I might consider being kind for a while if you find out who wrote that drivel in the last edition and do something really horrible to him or her. The editorial suggestion that this jerk might be someone intimate with me was quite disgusting. The editor had better be careful about what he says about me in future. Remember your journey to the Flinders Ranges last Easter? I'm sure you do.

Anyway, if you follow my instructions I might not cause the usual havoc during the next few FUSF trips. I'm not giving any guarantees, though. After all, I don't want you to become complacent.

Yours in anger and disappointment,  
MAVIS (Lord of FUSF)

## STOPPRESS

It has been rumoured that Mavis intends to travel to China in 1993 - so then is the time to go caving in Australia.

Also, Mavis, if you are reading this (which I doubt, being illiterate I'm sure - not to mention illegitimate) it might interest you to know that the biography WAS written by someone close to you. Suffice to say that he is a close personal friend of a West - Australian caver.



**PLACE:** Bungonia and Yarragobilly, N.S.W.

**DATES:** Sunday 12th January - Friday 24th January 1992

**CREW:**

Clare-Simon-Nathan-John-Roz-Debbie-Paul-Netta-Melissa-Leila-Jonathon-Guy-Matt-Dave-Di

\*\*\*

**Sunday 12th January**

"What the \*\*\*\*\* hell is that guy trying to do?"  
"Stupid \*\*\*\*\* idiot, if he thinks I'm letting him pass, he can think again".  
"Not again, what the hell is going on?"

Oh boy! Was Dave ever doing his block. Cursing and swearing at the vehicle behind us as we approached the campsite at Bungonia.

On looking back through the vehicle I was able to alert Dave to the fact that it was our 'friends' that he was swearing at. Nathan had decided to try and squeeze past the Forerunner with his car in a very awkward situation. As we pulled off the track and Nathan came alongside, there was a fit of laughter and a 'WELCOME GUYS'. It was great to see them.

The mist was settling, so we decided to get camp underway. A look around the area was a big surprise. A large communal kitchen, with hot running water, and the best bit of all - a shower that didn't have to be taken 5 miles into the woods and hung in a tree.

The aroma of a large pot of soup greeted the Callison tribe a little while later, they sure knew when to rock up. They made camp and we all sat in the

kitchen, ate tea, strapped Clare's injured ankle and had a damn good evening catching up with everyone, planning the next day's programme, and learning how to juggle 'stress balls'. Watching people try that was one hell of a tonic, it was great fun.

**Monday 13th January**

The morning was quite fresh and misty. Kangaroos greeted us as we arose.

While Dave fixed the car, others went to get supplies and John, Paul, Jonathon and myself went in search of the caves. Holes everywhere - you had to watch your step. We found several of the caves that we intended visiting whilst here. Excitement was building. Back to the campsite to organise our caving gear.

As we were hunting caves we came upon a beautiful gorge - Bungonia Lookdown. It was such a sight, that we decided to take everyone to have a look before going caving. Unfortunately the quarry really spoils the breathtaking view. We carried on to Grill Cave.

Grill Cave is an old tourist cave, so it was well sign posted, very easy to locate and steel ladders were already in place. The cave was very wet and muddy and quite slippery. Not a great deal of decoration but certainly a couple of nasty sheer falls if you didn't watch your step. In this cave there are two sumps. John, Nathan, Simon and Melissa ventured downwards and came across foul air - they retreated! (They assured us it was the cave foul air and not that of anyone else!)

Back to camp for showers and tea. After tea some ropes were set up in a tree and ascending gear was 'tuned up'. We worked until dark, and everyone hit the sack at approximately 10.30p.m.

**Tuesday 14th January 1992**

The wind blew quite well last night. People were a little drowsy (more so than usual) due to lack of a good night's sleep. The morning was a little misty and crisp although the sun was trying very hard to show its face. Five kangaroos greeted us again. John, Roz, Netta, Dave and myself went for a walk down the Green Track before breakfast. We thoroughly enjoyed this refreshing start to the day.

The aim for the day was to practice ascending in a cave. The cave explored was Fossil Cave (B4-5) - some cave this was! Some parts were quite a challenge. The traverse was 'hairy' - not something to take lightly

to, the chain section left a bit to be desired - if you didn't look to your right and what was not there, kept your belly to the surface and gave the chain a 'hug' as you slid like a snake across, you would be O.K. Some pulses were at their capacity after that little episode. The surfaces at some stages were very smooth, and there was little decoration. Nathan decided to test our reaction to setting up a search - but thank goodness, everything turned out fine and we continued our exploration. Five hours later we poked our heads out of the cave to daylight. A cave worth exploring.



Returning to camp, we passed a group of scouts heading for the cave, with only two adults and approximately 20 boys, they were in for a treat!

Back to camp for a shower, jog, tea and some story about a gigantic goanna that visited the campsite while we were away. Evidently this monster walked past the kitchen door, had a look and decided to retreat to the safety of a tree. Can't blame him, Clare, Roz and Netta were after him with their cameras. The tale goes that

**GRILL CAVE - B44**

Two entrances; this entrance (B44) is cave type, dry, connects to intermittent internal flow, connects to perennial standing water; development is deep and complex; large cave with several low level siphone; some poor decoration; length 610m; vert. range 127m; pitches 13m; hazards: getting lost, foul air, sump(s); systematically explored, no obvious leads; prospects: further leads possible; 90% mapped. Contains many bats, insects, accidental troglomenes; important for recreation, history, bat maternity colony; insect control, biology, geology, meteorology, speleochronology

**FOSSIL CAVE - B4**

Three entrances; this entrance is pothole type, intermittently part-submerged, intermittently active inflow, connects to intermittent internal flow, connects to perennial standing water; development is complex and extensive low-level cave with stream passages; some reasonable decoration; length 1720m +/-20m, survey plan length, vert. range 131m +/-10m, surveyed; pitches 3, 7, 5, 6, 4, 9, 12, 4, 6, 4, 9m; hazards: floods, foul air; required: extensive crawling; reasonably explored, some unexplored leads, prospects: further leads likely, damage: some; 95% mapped; air 18C; wide moisture range; contains fossils, lake(s) Important for recreation, hydrology, meteorology.

the goanna, with its shoulders as large as Arnold Schwarzeneger's, lumbered up the tree with its claws just about meeting around the trunk, its tail was the length of the tree, plus a bit more! Oh yeah! Pre-historic I presume. Clare nicknamed him 'Bruce'. I hoped that he would return, I have never seen a prehistoric monster!

Talking of taking photographs, who were the two men that were in the ladies' showers supposedly watching a female member taking photographs of a large spider? Come on fellas, you can do better than that! The sign on the door definitely said 'WOMEN - SHOWERS'.

Netta decided to make a telephone call to Ron (her husband). On her return she informed us that she would have to cut her holiday short as they were going to move house to McKay, Queensland. What a shock.

### Wednesday 15th January

John, Simon, Clare, Jonathon and myself went to Serpentine Cave to do some ascending work, and fine-tune equipment whilst under pressure. Dave, Matt, Debbie, Paul, Nathan and Leila went to Holland's Hole, but unfortunately due to water and the 'Hip Hugger' could not continue their exploration.

After we completed our work out, we all returned to camp for lunch. After lunch we split into two groups, John, Simon, Clare and Jonathon went to Acoustic Pot (B22). Nathan, Matt, Dave and myself were the second group. Roz, Netta, Debbie and Melissa went to the waterfalls and they had a great afternoon.

Caving completed at 9pm., everyone had tea together and talked until the late hours. B22 had a great abseil entrance, then a snake-like squeeze into the cave. Some fairly decent decoration.

#### **ACOUSTIC POT - B22**

Entrance is pot hole type, intermittently active inflow; development is deep vertical shaft; a little reasonable decoration; length 104m +/-1m, surveyed; vert. range 68m +/-1m, surveyed, pitches 32m; hazards: foul air; required: extensive vertical work; reasonably explored, some unexplored leads; prospects: further leads possible, good location. 100% mapped; air 18C; damp environment; important for recreation.

### Thursday 16th January

Everyone, except Roz, actually slept in. A bushwalk was planned for the day. Some people were going into Goulburn to do some shopping and then it was time to sort out gear, ready to move on tomorrow. The weather is really beautiful today, kangaroos came as per usual.

The bushwalkers, comprising of John, Roz, Netta, Melissa, Debbie, Paul, Dave and myself, set off at 10.45a.m. with the intention of getting to Shoalhaven River - the map we had was quite old as we found out later. We covered approximately 10 kilometres, up hill, down dale, back up the hill etc. The scenery was great, absolutely fantastic. We had lunch on the top of a hill, shading ourselves with the branches of trees - great stuff. We saw snakes, goannas and so many different sorts of birds.

Arrived back at 5.15p.m. We all really enjoyed the day's bushwalking. One thing for sure we all know the letters of the alphabet forwards and backwards - we played games to take our mind of the grading of the hills and the heat and our tired aching bodies that wondered what the hell we were doing to them.

Who were the 'cavers come bushwalkers' that took a 'fishing rod' as company on a 10km bushwalk and didn't even get the hook wet?

We all had dinner together, John brought his dart board along so we had a game and a good laugh for our last night at Bungonia. A place well worth visiting again.

### Friday 17th January

Breakfast finished, packed up camp. Kangaroos galore this morning, some were quite large. We were able to get so close to them, it was great.

John, Dave, Simon and myself went to Blowfly Cave (B16) - aptly named. This cave we classed as a 'hard' cave - not so much physically but the surface was hard the whole time, there was no soft silt to walk on at all. It is classed as a 'through' cave, in one end and out the other.

Abseiling in was quite different, never abseiled before whilst 'hugging' the rock face going through a bit of a squeeze. Great fun. We found the 'adytum' but unfortunately ran out of time to complete the cave, so we called it quits and headed for home.

Back to camp and showered, packed the last little bits and headed for Queanbeyan.

We went for a meal - I'll correct that - a feast, at the 'Central Cafe'. I Would thoroughly recommend this cafe for a feed, the servings were huge and the cost very reasonable. Walked around the town for awhile and then back to camp for sleep.

### Saturday 18th January

Today was a tourist bit - visiting Canberra. The usual places were discussed but we mainly stayed in the shopping centre.

As this was Netta and Melissa's last day with us before heading home we decided to do some shopping. Canberra is a very colourful place, lots of entertainment and exciting things to see. The traffic goes round in circles - just as well John and Roz knew where they were going, otherwise we would still be on the merry-go-round.

We watched a very colourful Fijian Band in the mall, and many colourful characters that paraded before us. People watching is great fun, if you have never tried it - do it - it's fascinating. Back to camp and meals prepared.

Saying for the day. Roz: "Have you seen Matt's Flies?"

Roz, what colour was red?

P.S. If you want an explanation of this ask Roz.

### Sunday 19th January

Packed up campsite, went sight seeing. Parliament House is such an expensive project, but very interesting. Time was so short for the tourist bit, but we promised ourselves to return to finish looking at all the things we either missed out on or just didn't have time to really have a good look at.

#### **BLOWFLY CAVE - B16**

x-ref 51; 2 entrances. this entrance is pot hole type, intermittently active inflow; development is complex and joint controlled bed cave with several vertical shafts; a little reasonable decoration; length 152m +/-1m, surveyed, vert. range +/-1m, surveyed, pitches 12,7,8,5,6,24; hazards: foul air; required: extensive squeezing, extensive vertical work; systematically explored, no obvious leads; prospects: further leads possible; 95% mapped, contains, insects. Important for recreation, geology, geomorphology, meteorology.



Back on the road and off to Yarrangobilly.

"Welcome to the Hilton".

This welcoming sentence came from dear Matt, who else?

The 'Hilton' was a sort of run down house, but so very welcome with a roof over-head and a verandah that surrounded the house. Several small rooms with inbuilt 'air-conditioning' (holes in the walls) and a fairly decent sized kitchen with a long table and cupboard that mice live in - but who minds sharing with a few mice when the skies were looking so dark and threatening?

'The Hilton' was set back just a little off the road, with a river running through the site and beautiful hills surrounding the area. What a country we live in, absolutely great!

#### Monday 20th January

Richard and Guy arrived late last night.

Matt directed us to Coppermine Cave (Y12), a very enjoyable walk through the countryside and then we had to change into our gear due to this

being a 'wet cave'. The decoration was astounding, absolutely amazing, the colours, the atmosphere had to be seen to be believed. The river that wound its way through was quite cold, but great fun to walk through. The only way to understand about this cave is to go and see it.

Afterwards we walked a little further down the track to the river - one person decided it was good enough to skinny dip - others just sat in the water and cooled off.

Some of us then walked downstream to locate another cave set high in the mountain side. The markings on the side of the cliffs were fascinating. The people who scaled the steep hillside to get to this cave reported that it was a fairly small cave with no decoration.

We then trekked back to the camp site to get ready to meet up with the Ranger. We were requested to assist with some digging in Jersey Cave. We all worked for 3 hours lugging rocks/dirt from one end of the cave to the other and dumping it on the path outside. By the time we had finished we were ready for the Thermal Pool - what a treat! We swam and laughed and had a great unwind.

Once again the skinny dipper struck!

The path to and from the Thermal Pool was quite a hike - back to the campsite for another late tea.

#### Tuesday 21st January

The sun greeted everyone this morning - what a great way to start any day.

Usual things to do before we go off to enjoy ourselves - showered, breakfast, clean up and off we went.

Innstable Cave (Y9) was the cave today.

Trekking around for a while before locating this cave - it was one of those situations that we actually were at the right cave and didn't realize it due to unsuspected circumstances. Oh well, it all goes with locating caves.

After some discussion it was decided to explore a cave that someone else had located - The Bath House (Y8)

Some people went to Tumut whilst others caved.

The caving group came back full of fun and laughter, they had to negotiate a very wet entrance.

Another feast was consumed, then some people sat in the river, it was lovely, really refreshing. Paul and Debbie sat on deck chairs in the middle of the stream - sure did look different. Oh well!!

#### Wednesday 22nd January

Up and about early today - Cooleman Plains was the target - John, Roz, Simon, Nathan and Di set off to explore the countryside to locate Barbers Cave (CP14). Unfortunately, through injury in Blowfly Cave, Dave was unable to cave, so he went bushwalking and sightseeing in the area.

#### **COPPERMINE CAVE - Y12**

ref 191. 2 entrances. this entrance is cavetype, perennially active outflow; development is active horizontal outflow cave with high level passages; some good decoration; required: wading; systematically explored, no obvious leads; prospects: draught; damage: some, class: outstanding, locked, keep to existing routes, prior permit needed, 100% mapped; takes water from 45; Important for geomorphology, hydrology.

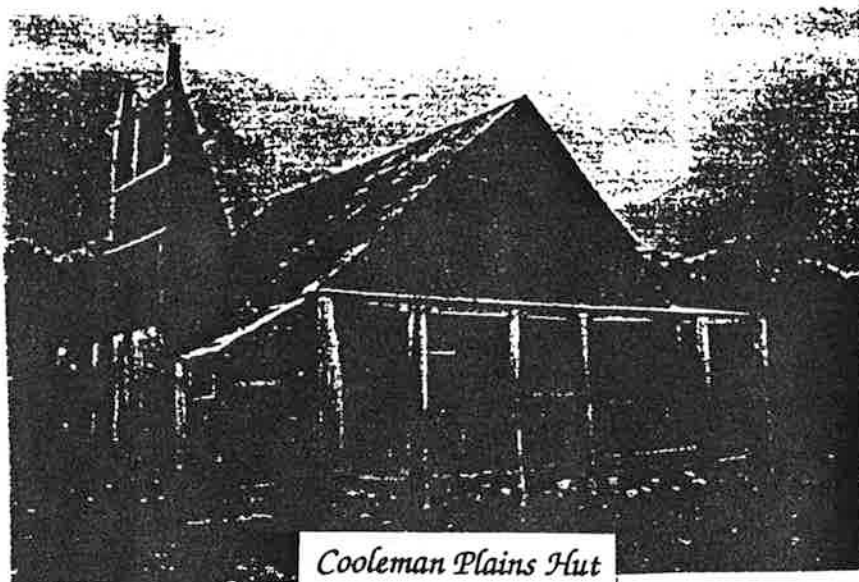
#### **THE BATH HOUSE - Y8**

Entrance is pot hole type, perennially active inflow; development is steep inclined cave leads to terminal system section; length 150m, surveyed; vert. range 53m, surveyed; pitches 5m hazards: waterfall pitches; reasonably explored, no leads noticed, class: wild, 100% mapped, contains fossils, important for hydrology, paleontology.

#### **BARBERS CAVE - CP14**

5 entrances; this entrance is cave type, intermittently active inflow; development is long mainly horizontal stream cave. some good decoration; length 335m +/-5m, surveyed. vert range 25m +/-2m, surveyed. pitches 3m; 1200m ASL; systematically explored, no obvious leads; prospects: further leads unlikely, damage: extensive, class: adventure, access seasonally prohibited, easy public access; 100% mapped. wet environment. Important for geomorphology, hydrology.





*Cooleman Plains Hut*

Barbers Cave is located on a steep incline - quite a bit of trogging to do, but was eventually located. It is quite small, with minimal decoration and a few squeezes. Went back for lunch before setting off again on a fairly long hike to locate River Cave (CP6).

This was certainly a hike - if you are anticipating locating this cave make sure you have a certain level of fitness and plenty of water - it is quite an arduous task. Unfortunately after locating the cave we could not explore because the time ran out - we were due back at base at a certain time - so this was put on the books for the next visit.

The cave locating exercise became quite a map and compass exercise also!

On the way back Nathan and Simon decided to test out their ability to stay in freezing water and sat in the river, boy were they cold - icy - they both had wetsuits on and they had to keep their hands out of the water because it

was so cold - they really enjoyed their little sit.

On the way back to camp it started to rain with thunder and lightning - we were all pleased to get back on the bitumen.

Whilst trekking back to the river, Roz made a comment that she had worked so hard and was so hot that she would put some shorts on and wash her hair in the stream - just because it was pouring with rain when we got back, she didn't think that I was going to let her get away with that sort of statement - I made sure that she carried out her promise.

Off we trogged to the stream that was flowing quite strongly - we were surprised at just how warm the water was, we laughed so much we couldn't stand up properly - The shampoo decided to take off down the stream and was returned a little later by some children at the camp - water nymphs at Yarrangobilly! Oh well.

Back for tea - today was Mavis' birthday. We had a super duper party with a birthday cake as well. In the middle of the table was a large present (wrapped with newspaper). In it was all the things everyone had been looking for for a few days:

Underwear, cups, cutlery and the last present was a 'new' boot for Clare. Well it was nearly new!

Party attire was quite unusual - dickie bows, t-shirts that said 'Up yer kilt', floral tights, hats etc. Mmmm, an unusual bunch of cavers - but great people.

#### Thursday 23rd January

The 'skinny group' (consisting of John, Guy, Clare, Jonathon, Leila and Di), went to Bath House to do the 'Wiggle Woggle' squeeze.

Far out! What a squeeze! We had no idea what we could do to our bodies, the swearing, the grunts and groans that took place were certainly worth all the effort, then of course we had to come back through the b---y squeeze. This prospect didn't do too much for me I can tell you, but with some help from Guy, we all made it through without too much trouble.

Guy was able to manouver his body through the squeeze just right so he was the front man to go through to assist if necessary. It was good to have him there to be able to see where you could put your feet without too much trouble. The bruises on our bodies were evidence enough of the type of squeeze it was and what it could do to us.

Dave, Roz, Richard and Paul, visited Y10 cave

We all arrived back at 2.30pm. with thoughts of having lunch, changing and preparing to meet Neil at Y1-2 at four o'clock. The time was brought forward so we had a quick bite and drink, changed into our thermals and wetsuits and met Neil at 3.30.

Y1-2 is a through cave and only a certain amount of people are allowed to go through this cave per year. We were very fortunate being invited and what a treat it turned out to be.

John, Simon, Matt, Nathan, Leila and Di were the group for this cave. After exploring Bath House for five hours we were hoping that this cave would not be too arduous.

We met up with Neil and Greg, our tour guides as is necessary for this cave. A small misunderstanding on the distance to travel to the cave was

#### **WEST EAGLES NEST - Y1**

x ref 2,3,192, 193. 5 entrances. This entrance is pot hole type, dry, connects to intermittent internal flow; development is complex and extensive low and high level passages with many rockfalls; extensive excellent decoration; length 3600m, surveyed, hazards; getting lost, exposure (cold), reasonably explored, no leads noticed; prospects; further leads likely; class, outstanding. locked, keep to existing routes, prior permit required, 100% mapped, contains periodic ice, important for tourist potential recreation, biology, geomorphology, hydrology, meteorology, speleochronology.



*Clare's Boot*

soon to be realized by the people who had thermals and wetsuits on underneath their overalls. After walking for approximately 45 minutes through the countryside we felt like we were having our own personal sauna.

The first section of the cave (Y1) was classed as the sporting section, some interesting climbs - like being hauled by your overalls from the top whilst someone is shoving you up from the bottom, through a squeezey bit. Some low crawls and rock piles to attack.

In the centre of the cave we sat down for a little while for drinks and munchies. After that Neil decided to show us 'the pretty stuff' as he called it. WOW we have never seen decoration like this before, it was absolutely incredible, even these words do not describe the absolute fascination that this cave held for us all. The only way to have the experience of what we saw was to actually get in there yourselves.

I said this before about one of the other caves, but this was the tops. Such as large pure white flowstones; red and orange crystal floor beds; straws that were so fine you were frightened to breathe anywhere near them; pools of water that crystals had formed on top to create fine swirly patterns. Absolute fantasy stuff.

We were shown the different reactions to the wall of a cave where the bushfires had gone through the area and the effect that it had on the ground. This had been so very interesting. The layers of silt that were so vastly different in colouring.

We had only explored the middle of the cave, this took 4 hours, it was a fairly fast trip through, all of us wishing we had time to totally explore this cave before heading for home. Unfortunately this was not to be so, but we would all dearly love to have the chance to revisit Y1-Y2.

Back to camp for another late tea, only to find the other group in fits of laughter as we arrived. It turned out that it was a set up job because they were sure that we thought they would not be enjoying themselves back at camp. After a wash and change into some fresh clothes, we had tea and a good laugh. As this was our last night here we had a very late night.

Some cavers headed for home, others stayed on.

## Friday 24th January

It rained right throughout the night - packing up was made difficult due to this but it made it right for a good laugh as we were all trying to avoid the heavy downpours whilst packing vehicles.

Packing up finally completed, then it was off on the road again to head for home at 11.30a.m.

Goodbyes all said, and promises to meet up with everyone later was done. This trip certainly will hold a lot of memories of absolutely indescribable decorations, company, memories and fun.

Thank you to all concerned.  
Where do we go next time?

Luv Di.



'AYE'

The information contained in these grey boxes was taken directly from the Australian Karst Index 1985, Edited by Peter Matthews. Copywrite: Australian Speleological Federation, 1985

## Naracoorte, or Bust!

On the 20th March a group of about twelve set off for the South East in search of excitement underground!

The majority of us left in about three cars on Friday night, arriving at various hours of the night. It was warm and balmy with a touch of rain as we began to set up the "Fez-Top" (an eight man tent), while early arrivalists - consuming large portions of port and red wine - laughed as they watched us struggle with numerous tent poles of unmatched design.

The next morning after breakfast we were joined by a further two intrepid underground explorers, making up two groups of about six in each. The first group descended via ladder into "Stick Tomato" while the others explored "Wombat". The latter contained a marvelous array of varying stalagmites and tites, fascinating and colourful.

After a brief lunch we exchanged caves and then the second group, eager to go on, descended via abseil into a large cave known as "Cathedral", where church services are said to once have been held. The abseil proved a challenge as some hadn't descended in such a fashion for a while, or never before.

Saturday night involved a big feast consisting of a delicious curried vegetable and rice dish, and lots more red wine and port. As we consumed these delights, the clouds lost their temper, so we transferred to the kiosk, where some of us drank the night away, and others went to bed.

After a mozzie-ridden night, and strange night noises, we arose. Some of us went on to explore our last cave for the weekend. This was "Bee-Keepers" on private property, with a drop of about twenty-five feet. The cave certainly lived up to its name, as we crawled and slithered through various chambers and tunnels in search of the big black stal!

Having satisfied our appetites we all piled into cars after a relaxing lunch, and drove back to Adelaide, catching a superb sunset en route.

Sally Gardner



# Update: Caver Assessment Scheme

In July, Alan Jevons attended the National Recreation Leadership Training Symposium, in Devonport, Tasmania. What follows is a summary of what has been proposed for the Caver Accreditation Scheme.

The Symposium was funded by the Standing Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Sport (SCORS).

The goals of the symposium were:

- a/ To facilitate co-operative consultation between representatives of each state and territory,
- b/ To explore the development of a national leadership training strategy.

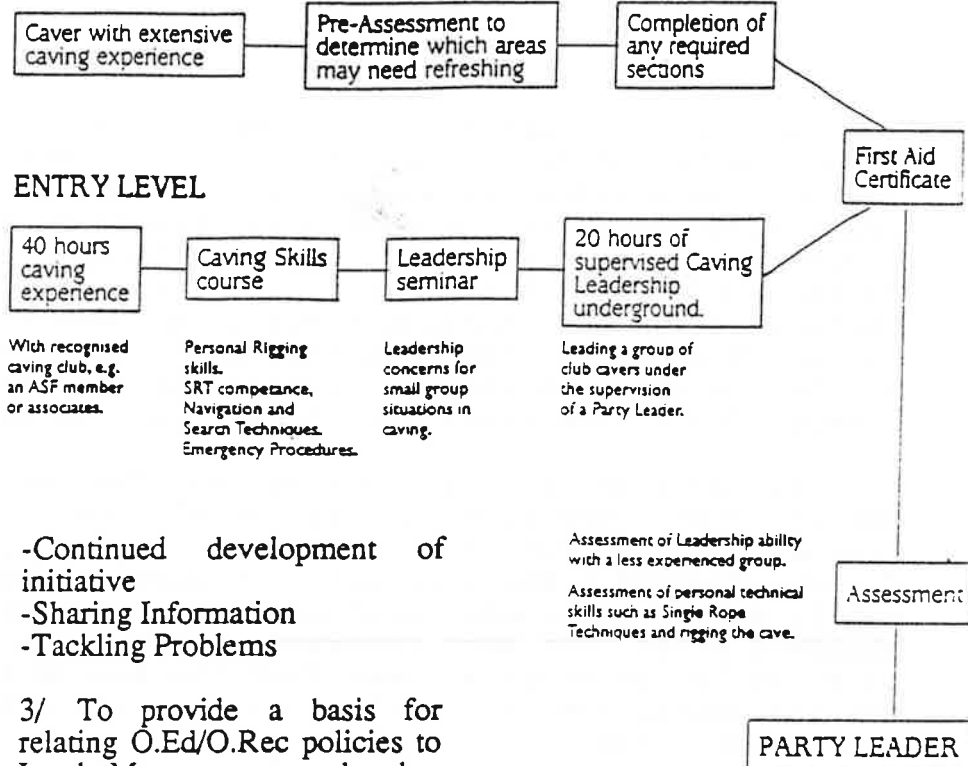
The symposium concluded with the following:

## NATIONAL APPROACH:

- 1/ To establish agreements on Core Competencies and common practices in Outdoor Education / Outdoor Recreation Reasons:

- Portability
- Standard Setting
- Credibility / Consistency
- Quality
- Safety
- Public Profile / Image
- Provide basis for relating to industry training system
- Basis to empower O.Ed/O.Rec (eg insurance negotiations)
- A unified approach to O.Ed/O.Rec which emerging groups can draw upon / join.

- 2/ To provide a forum for Communication & Cooperation between all involved in O.Ed/O.Rec



- Continued development of initiative
- Sharing Information
- Tackling Problems

- 3/ To provide a basis for relating O.Ed/O.Rec policies to Land Management and other policies

- Industry Health and Safety / other Health and Safety
- Educational Curricula
- Australian Standards Association
- Insurance
- Tourism

*What does all this have to do with Caver Accreditation ? I here you ask.*

As Cavers were represented from each state (except NT), it was a good opportunity to put what had been discussed into practice, and try to develop a National Caver Accreditation Scheme.

The following diagram gives an outline of the sort of form the scheme would take, with two ways of entering the

program. The first would be for those who have been caving for some time and do not require attending a Caving Skills Course. This method would only be available for the next two years, after that all cavers must go through the second scheme, involving the Caving Skills Course, the Leadership Seminar etc, to be accredited as a Caving Party Leader.

The Scheme would also involve a number of specialist modules, such as Vertical and Rescue Training, and Regional Packages.

At the moment an Instructors package is still being discussed, but will probably be an expansion of the Party Leader Scheme

## Sediment Analysis of Old Homestead Cave Nullarbor Plains

Written by C.R. Williams  
Assisted by T.C. Wilson

A number of samples of cave sediments were collected from the floor, walls and ceiling of Old Homestead Cave on the Nullarbor plains. These sediments were collected for the purpose of analyzing their mineral content, with special regard to possible content of wind blown red quartz sands that have been found in other caves of the eastern end of the Nullarbor Plains. In a study carried out by A.P. Spate et al in 1983 anomalous red sands were found in the caves N97, N98 and N99. He hypothesized that these sands were of aeolian origin due to their smooth rounded surface and that the grains had been transported to the caves over long distances by wind.

In the samples from Old Homestead the ceiling and walls contained mainly brown clays with calcite and glauconite also present. No quartz grains were observed in these samples. However, on examination of the floor sediments A small number of rounded red quartz grains could be easily seen. The samples also contained the calcite, glauconite and abundant clays that were observed in the walls and ceiling of the cave. It is therefore assumed that the source of the main portion of the sediments, namely the clay, calcite and glauconite, was the cave environment itself.

The origin of the red quartz grains must be from somewhere else as there is no quartz content in the other samples away from the floor of the cave. As the quartz grains show the same characteristics as those found by Spate et al, It is possible to assume that they are also originated from an aeolian environment some distance from the cave. It is likely that the final deposition of the quartz was by water as the sediments show very good sorting that is associated with being winnowed by water movement. This means that the sand may have been moved long distances from its initial point of entry into the cave.

If the movement of water were able to followed in the cave it may be possible to locate the area that the sand infiltrates the cave. This is unlikely to be possible, therefore it would be a matter of judgment as to the direction of the water flow and the prevailing wind directions of the area to give a possible indication of the original source area of the aeolian sands found within the cave sediments.

This report is just a short precursor so that a longer more detailed report can be made in the area. Further studies must be carried out in the area and a full analysis of the area is needed to make more detailed and complete interpretations of the area and the source of the anomalous red quartz sands found in the caves of the Nullarbor Plains.

### References

- Spate, A.P., Gillieson, D.S., Jennings, J.N. 1984. Anomalous Red Quartz Sands in Certain Nullarbor Plain Caves and Dolines.  
Aust. N.Z. Geomorphology Group, Second Conference. 93.

## Update: SASC

I received a memo from Alan Jevons at the end of May. This is the first opportunity I have had to distribute the information due to the delay of the magazine. Some of this information may already be out of date, or widely known.

The inaugural AGM of the South Australian Speleological Council was held on the 26th April. There was a good turnout, with all five South Australian Caving clubs represented. Our own Clare Buswell chaired the meeting.

The Council Charter was passed, and the board is as follows:

### **Scout Caving Group:**

Peter Kraehenbuehl

Alan Jevons (President)

### **Cavex:**

Harry Nagle (Legal Officer)

Luke Netherton

Erik Telmet (Chair 1992)

### **FUSS:**

Jenny Laidlaw (Membership)

Karen McGraith (ASF Liason)

### **CEGSA:**

Graham Pilkington (Treasurer)

Grant Gartrell

### **C.D.A.A:**

Peter Horne

Peter Girdler

The office of Secretary was not filled, however the delegates agreed to fulfill the role of Minute Secretary on a rotating basis, whilst the President will deal with correspondence.

Alan, the President, announced that the formation of a 'single voice' for caving in SA has already had some success with the Council receiving a \$2,500 grant from the Department of Environment and Planning, Wildlife Conservation Fund to help a CEGSA member, Ron Simms, complete a study on the Naracoorte Cave Cricket. Also three parks, namely, Naracoorte Caves Conservation Park, Kelly Hill Caves and the Far West Region have agreed to cover initial expenses to the sum of \$2,500 for the State Caver Accreditation Scheme.

The main areas the Council will focus on will be those that cross the boundaries of a single club's resources or concern all clubs. Suggested areas include: Cave Classification and Management, Speleological Research, Caver Impact, Caver Accreditation, Insurance, Land Owner / Manager Liason, Caving projects undertaken by a club requiring manpower and / or expertise from other clubs, and Expeditions. The Council should be used as a forum to support speleology and caving in this state, and not to "take over" or "manage".

### **Cave Classification:**

The Australian Cave and Karst Management Assoc. (ACKMA) have released a paper to all members requesting input to a review of the "Cave Classification Scheme" adopted by ACKMA in 1981, commonly known as the Yallingup / Worboys et. al. scheme. Clare is willing to coordinate a discussion group on this subject. Her phone no. is (ah) 388 6685.

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## TROG DELIGHTS

News from where-ever Clare's boot found it!

**Nargun.** Vol. 24, No. 10. April 1992. The newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association. Programme for the next few months. Part four of a series of articles on the geomorphology of the Buchan area. Some Uranium / Thorium and paleomagnetic dating of some speleothems has been carried out and their age comes in at about 350 thousand years with some evidence to suggest that the age may in fact be in excess of one million years. Testing of sediment samples also reveal similar ages. A write up of a trip to the Northern Territory which occured in 1984. A more recent account of a trip around Codrington area where cows

seem to cause as much interest as lost caves and tiger snakes! An interesting little snippet of history concerning the earliest known reference to Buchan caves - 1840. The reference is complete with latitude recordings. A notice of the forthcoming AGM of the VSA and some photos of some members of the current VSA executive, with Roger Taylor looking a bit bored by his position as secretary. Couple of other trip reports to Buchan area which include a find of a cave known as Technically Tight (M-302). The account of physical contortions and required body size, Roger Taylor comes in handy for some things, to explore it certainly

gives one the impression that the name at least is well deserved.

**Journal of the Sydney Speleological Society.**

Yearbook, 1991 - 1992.

The Yearbook contains the complete address list of SSS members; the yearly reports of the club's important office bearers. Abstracts from incoming journals; a programme for the rest of the year and a few short notes of interesting information, the most notable being the retirement of John Stoneman from the position of manager of the Bungonia State Recreational Reserve.

**Vol. 36, No 3. March 1992.**

A tagging report of the Wombeyan



# TROG DELIGHTS

News from where-ever Clare's boot found it!  
(and if you dont know what this means, then read the NSW trip report)

area from January to June 1991. Trip reports to Jenolan and what is going to happen over the next couple of months.

**The Cavers Chronicle** Vol 19, No 1. April 1992. Newsletter of the Speleological Research Group WA. An editorial dealing with the need to preserve the bio-diversity of the planet. Notices of up and coming events and who is doing what where. Trip reports to Scandinavia with some mention of -12 degrees C being called warm, particularly when you visit the Arctic Circle where the temp is around -26 degrees if you stood out in the sun! Hence the need for triple glazing on houses. Locally however, SRG visited Boranup to continue the dig at Giants Cave and collect, as it turned out, a few specimens of ants, a complete jaw bone, not yet identified, and a spider. They also visited Crystal and Calgardup caves. A book review of Caseret's work, Ten Years Under the Sun and press cuttings dealing with Exit Cave, the bodies found in Mullamulang, and some Calm news on establishing a threatened species unit within its organisation.

**Caves and Caving**, Spring 92. The Bulletin of the British Cave Research Association. Contains everthing with stories about "depth junkies" getting serious in Slovenia and Spain and the divers doing similar things in France. News of work being done on bats around the Lake Winapeg area in Canada and some local news from around the UK. Equipment reviews of a 'Hotmate', which is a rechargeable instant source of heat that can be carried and used anywhere you go. They are particularly handy whilst waiting out floods of for the evening meal to be cooked and you're in the wind and rain. They tend to last a couple of hours and are recharged by boiling them. You can use them when they are cold to keep the beer at a similar temperature. The issue has also reviewed a 'Firefly Infra-red slave unit' made with the caving environment in mind. It is compact and was tested on a fairly weak flash unit with no problems encountered. Letters to the editors dealing with the presence of radon in caves and the time dis/honoured tradition of dowsing. A letter dealing with the new DMM 8mm resin bonded anchor which asks some questions concerning

long term testing of the resin, the effects of heat, which may cause weaknesses and whether any fatigue tests have been done before. A letter of reply answers all.

**NSS News**, Jan 1992. Journal of the National Speleological Society, USA. A short article on commercial tour operators and how the caving fraternity should deal with them. Main article deals with exploration of caves in Tennessee and a note on headstones and the NSS.

## Feb 1992.

This issue is on conservation and the editor has printed a short story dealing with the revenge of cave life on humans. A good read. More technical however, is a note on the use of Cave Registers to further the understanding of the human effects on caves. The registers are aimed at collecting data concerning age, sex, number of trips to the cave, whether the person is a member of the NSS, light source used, group size, hours in cave and purpose of trip. Also a write up on a discovery of a new karst area in the Philippines.

## March 1992.

An editorial dealing with cutting the red tape to get cave protection. Trip report of Mexico's Master Cave System, including diagrams. Details of the Venture program (sic) of the Boy Scouts of America. A summary of newspaper articles dealing with caves.

## May 1992.

The president writes to inform members that the NSS is about to make a film, a series of twelve in fact for TV. The NSS is to have a major say in the production process and the emphasis is to be on conservation, cave safety and accurate information. It is not to be like most other films which tended to show them as dark, dangerous places, evil and ugly, and only the irresponsible venture into them. In fact the NSS is to script, film and edit the production. The main article in this issue addresses the cost and benefits that increased publicity has on karst and its managers. For example, media reports of accidents and subsequent rescue operations leave the landowner in a state of anxiety that such an event could happen on his/her property, and what would be the costs if somebody sued them. The author states that this results in loss of access. Cavers must always

ask what benefit is the publicity, to themselves or to the protection of the caves that we have.

**Chillagoe Caving Club**. Annual Report 1992.

As the title suggests this tells of the year's activity of CCC, tagging lists and surveying lists are included, as well as a complete address list of CCC members.

**Australian Caver**, No 130. The quarterly Journal of the Australian Speleological Federation.

Geological Observations from Old Homestead Cave. A discussion on the uses of Powergel over Gelignite. News from the various ASF commissions. Reports from Guy Cave, Katherine, NT. This issue also has a full membership list for the ASF.

## No 131.

This issue includes a number of papers from the Caver Impacts Forum. A discussion on the Code of Ethics by CSS. A report on a cave rescue exercise in Tasmania, giving details of a couple of different stretchers used. An article on Mole Creek, and conservation there-at. A couple of local doctors give some information about heat related disorders in the NT, and how to deal with them. Book review of The Darkness Beckons. Obituary of Ken Lynn.

**The Western Caver**, No 31. Journal of the WA Speleological Group.

Being a yearbook, there are reports from the various office bearers. Many trip reports from all over the country - too numerous to mention. Maps of various caves. Report on the Old Homestead Cave expedition.

**CEGSA Newsletter** Vol 37, No 1

Trip reports to Port Lincoln, Mt Gambier, Murray Plains, Upper South East, Town Well. List of the CEGSA Library. Obituary of Ken Lynn.

**Speleo Spiel**. Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. No 273 Cave Statistics - longest and deepest 50. Trip Reports: Mystery Creek Cave, Growling Swallet (twice), Big Tree Pot, Mesa Creek, Midnight Hole & Loons Cave (twice), and Moonlight Flats (more like a look for a cave report)

**Troglodyte**. Newsletter of the Northern Caverneers. March 1992.

Trip Reports: Kohimar, Maze Puzzle, and Honeycomb. Tas Trog Update.

## SECOND SEMESTER PROGRAMME.

August. 15-16		Naracoorte Cricket Counting Clare Co-ordinating Limited numbers. Max 6 people. Ph: 3886685
August. 18	6.30pm	Executive meeting. Meet in the Tavern.
Aug. Sat 22	9.30	A repeat of the Knoll Tree Planting Party at the Heiko's Block. Promises to be a day of fun as we've got around 400 trees to plant. BYO Drinks, mug, eating impliments, plate etc, warm cloths and <u>something to dig with</u> . Ring Heiko for further details: 201-3138, 388-6685.hm.
This will be followed by:		An evening gathering around the camp fire for <u>Anyone Interested</u> . BYO Something to put in the camp oven. Drink etc. You can camp overnight. BYO gear.
Sept. Tue. 2nd	6.30	General Meeting. A surprise guest speaker talking on Mavis and Cave Management. Kelly Morris Rm.
Sept. 5 - 6		Corra Lynn Trip. Co-orindator wanted
<b>Sept 19 - Oct 5 Mid Semester Break.</b>		
Sept. 19 - 20		Naracoorte Cricket Counting Clare Co-ordinating Limited numbers. Max 6 people. Ph: 3886685
Sept. 30 - Oct 5		A Five Day Flinders Extravaganza. SRT needed for the latter bit. John Callision, Sally Gardiner and Eric co-ordinating.
Oct. 8	6.30	General Meeting. Kelly Morris Rm. Getting into Bondage when you're ill. BYO Bandages.
Some time		SRT, knots ropes, snakes and ladders weekend. Town Well or Naracoorte. BYO Lunch and drink. Ring John Callison for details: 384 1502
Nov. 6 - 8		Naracoorte Cricket Counting Clare Co-ordinating Limited numbers. Max 6 people. Ph: 3886685

### Semester Ends Nov 14.

### Exams and the Earth is Flat Syndrome.

There is to be SRT practice off the Uni foot bridge on Wednesday 12.30 -2pm. Run by Jonathon Simon and Clare. This is to be a practice session for those who attend the Friday sessions.

Also Di Brinsley has kindly offered, or well at least said "yes" when she had her arm twisted, to teaching SRT on Friday afternoons from 4 pm onwards for an hour or so. At this stage we are going to limit the number of people to four per session. Leave your name on the booking sheet in Clubs and Societies, and then ring Di the Wed or Thur preceeding to confirm. Ph 384 4981

### FOR YOUR LONG TERM PLANNING

New Year. 1992  
Aug 1993

ASF Conference: Tas - Trog 93. Tasmania.  
International Speleo Conference in China.

Just in case you have forgotten what certain words mean, here is a refresher for your tired old brain!

ABSEIL : A controlled descent of a rope using friction obtained by passing the rope through a descender.

NOT : "Yahoo, here I come!" and flying through the air with the greatest of ease.

ACTIVE CAVE : A cave which has a stream flowing in it.

NOT : "Oh, I knew I should have gone before I came here".

ASCENDER : A mechanical device used for ascending ropes.

NOT : "Ouch, get off my shoulder".

BLOWHOLE : A hole in the ground through which air flows in and out strongly, sometimes audibly.

NOT : A hole in a caver through which air flows out strongly, sometimes audibly.

CAVE SPRING : A natural flow of water from rock or sediment inside a cave.

NOT : A natural flow of water or sediment from a caver.

COMPASS : An instrument with a magnetic needle which is free to point to magnetic north.

NOT : To be used as an excuse when things go wrong - "Are you sure it wasn't the compass?"

FLATTENER : A passage, which, though wide, is so low that movement is only possible in a prone position.

NOT : Crawling over the top of someone.

WET SUIT : A diving garment of foam neoprene designed to insulate the diver from the cold but which allows a thin film of water to penetrate between the suit and the body.

NOT : A means of disguising the fact that you went to the loo inside your suit.