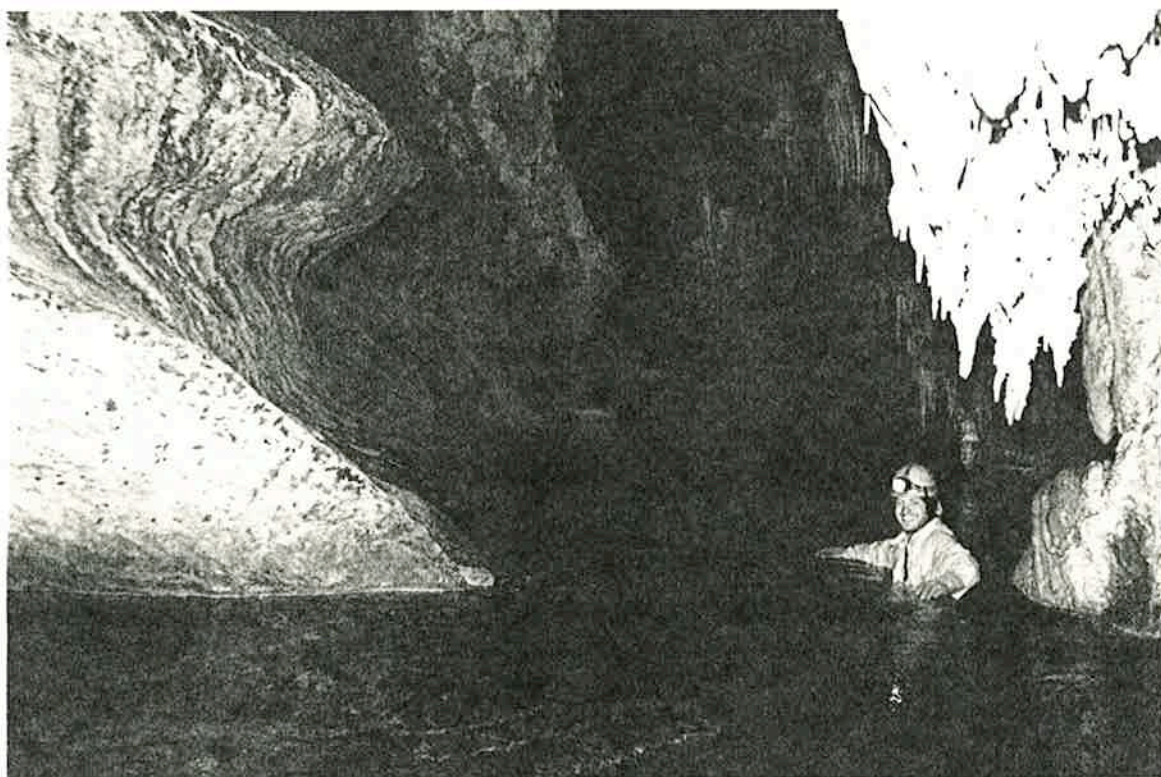


# F U S S I



*Vol 8 No. 1 1996*



The FUSSI Temperature Sensor. The colder it gets, the bigger the grin!

**The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Flinders University Speleological Society Incorporated**



# SEMESTER PROGRAMME

Tue 27th Feb 6018	5pm-9.30 etc. Ring Clare if you are intending to come to this	SRT practice off the Uni foot bridge. BYO light, drink practice. Ph:353
Tue 5th March	6.30pm Nullarbor.	AGM with wine and nibbles, and slides of the
9-10th March		<b>Naracoorte trip.</b> Jonathon Walsh Co ordinating. Ph: 390: 3010
17th March	1.30 - 9pm Foot bridge.	<b>Joint Club Fun Play Day.</b> Flinders University
2nd April	6.30pm	<b>General meeting.</b> Guest speaker: Bat Person
5-8 April	Easter:	<b>Flinders Ranges trip:</b> Jonathon Walsh co ordinating. Ph: 390 3010
5-8 April	Easter:	<b>National Bat Conference.</b> Naracoorte .
5-8 April	Easter:	<b>ASF Council Meeting.</b> Wellington

## Mid Semester break. 15-28. April.

13th-21st April.		<b>Yarrangobilly Caves NSW.</b> Clare Co-ordinating. Ph: 353 6018
7th May	6.30pm	<b>General Meeting.</b> How to take great cave photo's.
11-12th May		<b>Training weekend.</b> Adelaide Tim Payne co-ordinating
2nd June	9.30am	<b>Car Wash</b>
4th June.	6.30	<b>General Meeting.</b>

**Membership fees are due:**  
**\$20.00 for Students. \$45.00 for everybody else.**

## Editorial

Well, here we have another fine letter of the squeezed-a-minute-out-of-the-day type. We really used cut-and-paste techniques. (For the computer literate of you, this means scissors and glue!) When you're moving house and changing jobs at the same time there's not a lot of time left in the day; and then some totally inconsiderate government goes and has an election! Oh well, now to mis-quote some respected author... and possibly an earlier newsletter: 'Read on, MacDuff'

Introducing the first

**FUSS ORGANISED**

# **Joint Club Vertical Fun and Play Day**

**FLINDERS UNIVERSITY FOOT BRIDGE  
17th March. 1.30 - 9pm**

**Instruction will be available from 2-4pm only.**

Come for some of the time or all of the time.

If you need gear, ropes, ladder, harnesses etc then get in contact  
with your club equipment officer, or the nearest gear freak.

BYO Food, drink, as **none** will be available on campus during the day.  
BYO sun screen, first aid kit.

Park in car park Six. See Map.

**Please note: The bridge is a public path and must not be blocked.  
Therefore FUSS members ask all participants to stagger their time of  
participation, and work only off the east side of the bridge.**

The use of the foot bridge for SRT practice is only available to members of Flinders  
University and security gets nervous if anybody and everybody jumps from it.  
**Do not practice on it outside organised FUSS practices.**

For the day in question every person will need become an honorary FUSS member.

**Hope to see ADDICT, CAVEX, CDAA, CEGSA, FUSS AND SCG MEMBERS. YAY TEAM!**

**Contacts: Clare Buswell: 353 6018  
Marle Chol: 322 0895**



# 7<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALASIAN BAT CONFERENCE

NARACOORTE, 9-12 APRIL 1996

Including Australasian Bat Society General Meeting

## Call for Registration and Papers

At the last conference it was decided to hold the 7th Australasian Bat Conference in a rural setting that was an interesting area for bats (and close to some wineries!). Naracoorte fitted these criteria perfectly with the opening of the new Bat Interpretation Centre at the Naracoorte Caves, where infra-red video cameras have been installed in the maternity chamber of the large Common Bent-wing Bat colony. Naracoorte is in South Australia, close to the Victorian border, about 350 km from Adelaide, and 500 km from Melbourne. The venue for the conference is the recently renovated Naracoorte Town Hall which is in the main street.

Previous conferences have attracted people with wide range of interests and levels of expertise. Anyone with an interest in bats is welcome to attend. If you know of anyone else that may wish to attend the conference, please give them a copy of these papers.

**Dates** Registration and welcoming function on Tuesday 9th April 1996; conference papers and workshops on Wednesday 10th - Friday 12th April; field trip to Penola Friday 12th (overnight).

### Organisers

**Lindy Lumsden**

Arthur Rylah Institute  
P.O. Box 137  
Heidelberg VIC 3084

ph (03) 9450 8694

fax (03) 9450 8737

Email [lll@dce.vic.gov.au](mailto:lll@dce.vic.gov.au)

**Terry Reardon**

South Australian Museum  
North Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000

ph (08) 207 7460

fax (08) 207 7222

[treardon@zoology.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:treardon@zoology.adelaide.edu.au)

### Program

Contributed papers, in both spoken and poster format, are invited. Spoken papers will be for 12 minutes with 3 minutes for questions. In addition to the general sessions, we are proposing to hold a number of workshops to stimulate discussion on various issues. There will also be plenty of time for informal discussions. A general meeting of the Australasian Bat Society will be held on Thursday afternoon.

### Workshops

Workshops will be chaired by a convenor and will begin with invited 'points of view' talks. The aim of the workshops is to have practical outcomes and it is planned to publish the findings in the ABS Newsletter. In view of the controversial nature of some of the topics, the convenors will run a tight line on discussion and keep to the aims of the sessions.

*Microbat rehabilitation:* To provide the opportunity for bat carers to meet one another and exchange ideas and knowledge, and to summarise guidelines for rehabilitation of sick and injured bats.

*Artificial roosts for bats:* To exchange ideas, results and strategies for the provision of artificial roosts for microbats. Please bring box designs, results and ideas, from which a summary for the newsletter will be prepared.

*ANABAT call library and call exchange:* The aim of this workshop is to decide on a range of issues associated with an ANABAT call library.

*Bat survey methods and standards:* This workshop stems from recent discussion on BATLINE and disquiet from some bat researchers about poor quality surveys based on the misuse of ANABAT call data. Issues for discussion will include: what constitutes a reliable bat survey; how should bat call data be used and analysed; and should there be an accreditation scheme for expertise in ANABAT call analysis.

*Bat conservation:* Two key questions will form the focus of this workshop.

How do we evaluate the conservation status of a bat species?

Many bat researchers believe that the IUCN criteria for assessing the conservation status of species are inappropriate for bats. This workshop will aim to determine a more relevant set of criteria. The discussion will focus on the criteria rather than the status of any particular species.

What are the primary threats to bat conservation?

This will aim to identify the most critical conservation threats to bats and to suggest what research, management, educational and political strategies should be adopted to counter the identified threats.

## **Abstracts**

Abstracts for papers (both spoken and poster) are to be submitted to Lindy **no later than 29 February 1996**. Abstracts (including the title etc) are to fit into half a page which allows for approximately 200 words of text. It will be presented in single line spacing in 10pt Times New Roman or similar font. The first line contains the title in capitals; the second line left blank; the third contains the author/s; the fourth the address/s; and then the fifth line is blank before the start of the text. Abstracts should be as informative as possible giving a summary of results to be presented. Please indicate on the registration form if the paper is to be presented as a spoken or poster paper.

If possible, abstracts should be electronically submitted, either via Email to [lxl@dce.vic.gov.au](mailto:lxl@dce.vic.gov.au) or on a 3.5" floppy disk. The preferred format is as a MSWord for Windows file (IBM), however most IBM and Macintosh formats can be read. A submitted disk should include the name of the author, and the name of the computer program and system. People that do not have access to Email or computers are welcome to submit a typed copy.

A hard copy of the abstract should be included with the registration form regardless of how else it is sent.

# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1995**

FUSS has had another great year of caving and fun. This was no doubt in part due to the fact that the club had two Presidents in 1995. Sally Harper filled the position for the first six months and as the position was so demanding she decided to leave the State and go West. Sally has joined the group of FUSS members in exile in Perth and set up a Mavis free FUSS cell which consists of all the past FUSS presidents since 1989.

Kevin Dixon was talked into filling the position for the last six months of the year. He did all the right presidential things (free lunches etc), but found the job so onerous that he left the country. He is believed to be in India, but we have no forwarding address. There is a rumour that he is intending to meet up with a past FUSS treasurer. The Club is investigating.

**Mavis.**

## **Safety Officers report**

This year has been a busy one, not because of accidents but because of standards and training. Courses have been conducted in Leadership, Search and rescue, Abseiling and laddering, SRT and Rigging. Many of these activities have been organised to allow members from other clubs to attend and without exception they have all been a great success. Unfortunately most of my time this year has been spent on my responsibilities as part of the SA speleo councils training committee. We have had numerous meetings drafting competency standards and courses which you will all hear much more about in the new year. I'd like to thank all the instructors, members and trip leaders of the club who have made my job relatively unstressfull by not killing themselves.

Tim Payne

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 1995

This year has been most orderly for the FUSS library. Everything, except for the actual location of the library, being well sorted and in control.

We have conducted one and a half library working bees (the half arising due to a brake malfunction and the difficulty in reaching the librarian in this time of trouble) and hope to bring this rather odd integer up to a natural number in the near future, with the aid of as many cavers as possible.

We have been the lucky beneficiaries of a mystery donor who periodically seems to acquire arc-folders, and have managed, in each case, to recycle and reuse them in a much more useful manner than that to which they had previously been put. Any more mystery donations by this or other donors would be greatly appreciated.

The library has also purchased (or will in the near future) a couple of new books, namely

- "The Lower Southeast Cave Reference Book"
- "Vulcon Guidebook"
- "Vulcon proceedings"
- a book with details of Lechegilla cave in New Mexico

we could also consider the purchase of

- "Jenolan Caves when the tourists came" by Julia Horne
- "Caves of North-West Thailand" by John R Dunkley
- "Thailand Caves Catalogue" by John R Dunkley

are there any other books that people are interested in obtaining?

All in all the only real foreseeable problem for the library could be its location, as the shelves in the computer science reading room do seem to be filling up, are there any possible new (or emergency) locations known to any members?

Thankyou for your support .

**Kirsty Kitto. FUSS Librarian 1995.**



# EQUIPMENT OFFICERS REPORT 1996

During the last year there were a number of equipment purchases. We maintained our helmet replacement strategy with the addition of two more Edelrid Ultralight's. The four S.R.T. sets were completed with the purchase of one Croll chest ascender (with Maillon), one cow's tail and two 10 mm Maillon Rapides. A fourth Petzl Zoom (and helmet clips) was purchased, contributing to the four sets of S.R.T. equipment. A big purchase was a new Bluewater 2 plus 50 m static rope. The oldest (1989) static rope was cut in two, removing a damaged section and resulting in two shorter (25 & 20 m) ropes. Four Kong karabiners and 20m of tube tape were also added to the list of purchases. We also acquired lots of car washing implements during the year. We were kindly donated two more canvass rope protectors and an old fire hose for the construction of many more.

Eric Schulz  
Equipment Officer

25/2/1996

## GEAR LIST 1995\_1

Item	Quantity	Year Purchased
<b>HELMETS</b>		
Cassin	10	1990
Petzl Vertical	2	1992
Edelrid Ultralight	4	2x94, 2x95
Bump	6	1989
Hard hats	13	1978-83?
<b>LIGHTS</b>		
Petzl Zoom	4	2x93,1x94,1x95
Dolfin Torches	2	83?
Carbide Miners	9	78
Lamp Clips (zoom)	4x4	2x1993,1x94,1x95
<b>ROPES</b>		
Bluewater 2 Static	1x25m	1989
Bluewater 2 Static	1x20m	1989
Bluewater 2 Plus	1	1991
Bluewater 2	1	1992
Bluewater 2 plus	1	1995
<b>KARABINERS</b>		
Screw Gate Stubai steel.	2	1989
S/G Alum Alloy DMM Large D.	3	1991
S/G Kong Coloured D	1	1990
S/G Alum Alloy DMM Med D.	2	1992
S/G Alum Alloy Cassin D	6	1992
S/G Alum Alloy Bluewater D.	2	1992
S/G Alum Alloy Kong (plain)D	4	1995
Snaps	5	1978
Maillon Rapides Alloy 10mm D.	4	2x92,2x95
Maillon Rapides 6mm wide mouth	4	3x93,1x95
<b>RESCUE PULLEYS</b>		
Riley	2	1989
Rescue Systems	3	1993
<b>BELAY DEVICES</b>		
Stitch plate (Salewa)	1	1989
Stitch plate (Cassin)	1	1992

<b>DESCENDERS</b>		
Fig 8	1	1989
Whaletail	4	1989/3x1992
<b>ASCENDERS</b>		
Jumars	2	1979?
Expedition Petzl	2	1992,94
Chest Ascender (croll)	4	3x92,1x95
<b>TAPES</b>		
Brown 50mm x 5 meter	2	1993
Black 50mm x 5 metre	5	???
Tube Tape 10 x 4 metre	3	???
Tube Tape blue 10 x 6m	1	1992
Tube Tape red 10 x 4m	2	1993
Tube Tape purple 10x 3m 3	1993	
Tube Tape purple 10x 4m 3	1995	
Tube Tape purple 10x 7m 1	1995	
<b>HARNESSES</b>		
Spelean Multifit	2	1994
Wayatt's Astro-Harness (red)	4	1994
<b>HARNESS ACCESSORIES</b>		
Cow's Tail's	4 sets	1x94,1x95
Safety	2	1x94,1x95
<b>LADDERS</b>		
20 feet	2	1978
50 feet	1	1992
20 feet	1	1992
Traces 8 feet	2	1990/2
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
Compass Suunto	1	1992
Spelean gear bag large	1	1992
Backpack canvas small	1	??
25lt water Containers	4	1991
Drag matt	1	1989
Foam Mattres	2	1992
Electric Lights camping	2	197?
Card Index Boxes	2	given
Plastic Crate	1	1987
Wooden Crate	1	1976
Leather Gloves	3 pair + 1 left hand	1990
Carbide Rock	kg	1990
Carbide Granules	20kg	1989
Carbide Light reflectors etc	10	1985
Fire hose (for rope protectr)	??	
Rope Protector (carpet)	8 ??	1993
Rope Protector red	4	1993
Rope Protector green	2	1995
<b>LIBRARY</b>		
<b>FIRST AID KIT</b>	1	??

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT 1995**

The South Australian Speleological Council, known as the SASC, is a meeting of all the six caving and cave diving clubs in the State. Each club has two representatives on the Council and this year FUSS was represented by Tania Wilson and Heiko Maurer. The Council has two Standing Committees, one of which deals with cave management issues and the other cave safety. Clare Buswell and Tim Payne represented the Club on these two committees respectively.

One of the great things about caving in South Australia is that all the clubs talk to each other. So when we have a gripe about keys to caves, or the fact that all the caving clubs decided to visit the same cave on the same day at the same time, then we can tell our SASC reps to take up the issue at the Council meeting. The Council is needless to say, an arena where clubs talk frankly (O. K., sometimes we waffle) but things get done.

The standing committee on Cave Management had long negotiations with Optus when it placed its fibre optic cable across the Nullarbor. They were particularly concerned not to lose a D9 bulldozer down any cavities they accidentally took the top off. As our data on location of caves has an accuracy of give or take 1km or so, Optus donated \$1200.00 to the Council so that it could purchase a GPS (Global Positioning System). This will aid greatly the data accuracy. Many thanks to Clare Buswell, Alan Jevons, Graham Pilkington and Max Meth for such input. By the way, the Optus cable was laid a couple of metres away from the already existing Telecom cable.

The committee also worked on a land owner liaison policy for the council. This policy aims to help those people who spend time talking to land owners, farmers, Councils, National Parks and Wildlife, understand the responsibilities that they have. This ranges from respecting the farmer's wishes to leave the gate shut if found shut, to explaining to club members the reasons why the club restricts the numbers of people on a trip into Dead Sheep cave. Currently the policy is still in its draft form and should be finalized by the end of May.

The Safety committee spent heaps of time writing courses for the Leadership Accreditation Scheme. The safety officers of each club would gather with their computers, switch on their carbide lamps and write about the importance of prior learning being recognized within the scheme. I think that the members of this committee did do some caving but I'm not sure.

The Council itself is gearing up to run the next Australian Speleological Federation Conference here in South Australia at Easter of next year. The conference goes for six days with caving trips either side of it. At present the venue for the Conference is the Flinders Ranges. The conference is a great opportunity to meet cavers from all over the country and swap ideas and information on all things speleological. All clubs will be involved in the organisation of the conference and calls are being made for help in setting up the organising group.

The Council also kept the Sellicks Hill Quarry Cave issue on the boil. Many hours were spent writing submissions to the Parliamentary Environment, Resources, and Development Committee (ERDC). The result was that the committee has recommended that the cave be re-entered and further investigations occur. The Government has to respond to the recommendations of the ERDC, but so far it has not, no doubt due to the campaigning needed in the Federal election.

**Tania Wilson and Heiko Maurer. FUSS, SASC Representatives 1995.**

# INCIDENT IN MY CAVE. MC. 114

Clare Buswell

Date: 3rd Jan. 1996.

Number of people on the trip 9.

## Cave Description:

My Cave is an active in flow cave with an average temperature of 8 or 9 degrees. The entrance to the cave is via a hand line down a 5 metre climb. This is followed by a short crawl until one meets the stream proper. The main route follows the stream passage till it sumps. Height of the stream on this trip ranged from ankle deep to waist depending on if one walked into a deep part of it. The cave requires warm clothing and a rope for the climb down the entrance. The cave entrance is in thick wet scrub.

## Personal equipment of the group:

All persons were wearing Peter Storm thermals, boots (leather or wet suitboots), rubber or thermal gloves, beanie under the helmet, a plastic oversuit. (South Australians are always cold bods in Tasi caves.) All carried 3 sources of light, first aid kit, museli bars and chocolate.

## Description of the Trip:

The group left camp at 9 am. Drove in two cars to the Baldocks Reserve. A good hour was spent finding the entrance to the cave by our great leader. Once the entrance made itself known, we trogged up and preceded to descend via the hand line. Whilst waiting to descend some people took up the long famous sport of leech hunting. Heiko burnt at least 6, Chris knocked off a couple and most of the rest of us looked vigilant.

We all quite happily reached the stream passage and wandered at the wet stuff in it, were was the normal dust of S. A. caves? Shock none to be found anywhere, Mavis had been busy! Chris at this stage left us to find our own way on and took Ariel, his 7 year old son out, as the water was far too cold for him.

Around an hour and a half had passed since we entered the cave and we wondered along the stream passage

taking photos and generally enjoying ourselves. Kylea stopped in the passage and rubbed her right eye, but couldn't get what was in it out so she asked Eric to have a look in it. Eric soon discovered that a leech had attached one end of itself to the white of the eyeball. Eric immediately set to trying to extract it. He spent about a minute trying to grip the leech in between his thumb and index finger, using his other hand to keep Kylea's eye open. I joined him at this stage. Kylea was managing to stay calm, and we reassured her that she was doing fine. Eric continued to attempt to remove the leech, I dug into my first aid kit to find some saline solution. I then poured about 5ml of it into Kylea's eye, whilst Eric continued to keep the eye open and grab the leech with his thumb and index finger. This procedure worked. We reassured Kylea, then walked for about a minute to a section in the cave where we could sit down, let Kylea recover, rest, eat some chocolate and talk about dusty S. A. caves. I gave Kylea the saline solution so she could put it into her eye if she needed to.

We continued on through the stream to the sump, about another ten to fifteen minutes and then made our way back to the entrance crawl, enjoying ourselves and taking photos. We exited the cave without any further incident and made our way back to the car in time for lunch. Time underground 4 hours.

## Evaluation:

### The Group:

The group consisted of eight experienced cavers and a seven year old boy who is familiar with Tasi caves. All were well equipped, but as this cave was the first cave of the trip for the South Ozzies, it was a bit of a "let's get used to the conditions and see how our gear holds up" event. Maybe we were too pre-occupied with the cave temperature to be concerned about taking a leech into the cave. One result of this incident was that for the next few caves of the trip we would do a

leech check of our clothes.

Normally we would not cave with such a large group, in fact this was the only cave in which we did, but as the cave is not difficult route wise the size of the group was not a problem. The group was spread out along the stream passage with every one in sight or ear shot of each other. This worked well as it meant that there was very little congestion in the crawlway and exit climb.

## The Proceedure:

It appears that the leech came into the cave with Kylea's clothing and decided to hang around on her beanie until it fell into her right eye. Trying to "catch" an end of it, meant that the leech could not either move on to somewhere else or begin to suck any blood. Maybe we should have left it alone, but who wants to stand around in a cold streamway waiting for a visiting leech to have dinner on one's eye ball or lid? the major reason that Eric could not get a hold on it was that it was so slippery.

Kylea was able to keep calm under pretty exacting conditions, i. e., two people poking at an eye ball. She stood this for what seemed like 2 minutes, but it was not timed. After the leech was extracted and we'd sat down to rest, she was quite O. K. and was happy to continue with the trip. Her eye was itchy for some days.

The eye wash solution was Visine and this proved an excellent repellent. I carry it in S. A.'s dusty caves as grit in the eyes is a possible problem, but I've never had cause to use it in those conditions. I'd thought about removing the small bottle from the kit before I left for the trip, as there is no problem with dust in Tasmania's wet caves. Glad I didn't.

**Early in January 1996, fresh (?) from New Years Eve, FUSS ran an 11 day trip at Mole Creek in Tasmania. During that time Clare, Heiko, Eric, Paul, Deb, Marie, myself (Kylea) plus Chris and his son Ariel (ring-ins from the Northern Cavanaughs caving club) visited an amazing 11 caves- wow!**

**Tuesday the 2nd of January was the day of arrival and no sooner had everyone gathered at the Northern Cavanaughs hut (which they kindly donated for the two weeks) when it was time to whisk Eric away to the doctor to remove his plaster cast. Hmmm, an interesting start to a grand adventure.**

**On Wednesday we were up bright and early (thanks Clare), all raring to go and start exploring the underworld of Tasmania. "My" cave was first on the agenda for all except Chris and Ariel and after a slight delay of stumbling around lost through leech infested territory we hand-lined down into an underground stream- our first exposure to what was to be a nearly everyday occurrence- FREEZING water. Wetsuit booties and pants are a definitely recommended! We ventured downstream about 400 metres through some very pleasant passages. The sound of running water was a nice backdrop. What happened in this cave you may ask? I came out with a red eyeball, Clare came out dripping and Deb surfaced showing more than a little leg. Well, it was all to do with leeches, deep water and sharp rocks.**

**It was about this time that Heiko's dislike of leeches became apparent and he was commonly seen to be roaming the countryside with a box of matches and a strange glint in his downcast eyes - and just what was it that happened to that fly in Victoria?**

**After lunch we visited "Cyclops" cave that involved a hand-line down then a short walk along a comparatively dry, spacious passage. The cave branched off to a connecting internal flow which few people braved as it did involve a sharp intake of breath (yes the crutch got wet). There was a bit of nice decoration down that passage and also a bit in the other direction in a small chamber reached after a short climb up.**

**And then home to the relaxing strains of Ariel chopping wood, burning matches and sharpening knives, and yes, he was adept at throwing prickles that were exceptionally good at irreversibly attaching themselves to every bit of clothing you own. However Eric's threats and Marie's promises seemed to abate him a little.**

**Thursday dawned and we split into two groups. Clare, Eric, Paul, Deb and I braved the cold waters of "Lynd's" cave, while Marie, Heiko, Chris and Ariel braved the muddy passages of "Tailender".**

**"Lynd's" Cave is a beautiful, quite extensive stream cave with some amazing decoration. The entrance is through the outflow of the cave followed by a short climb up a waterfall and then along a lovely winding passage, which did include a couple of low sections resulting in refreshing, intimate ?#\*\*@\$%# encounters with the water. It led us past some incredible decoration including such wonders as alligators' teeth and some very extensive sections of flowstone.**

**"Tailender" is in many ways reminiscent of caves in South Australia although it did contain mud instead of dust, it did have some decoration and the sound of dripping was to be heard whilst reclining on a rock with lights off eating chocolate - but we did have to crawl, wriggle, slide, squeeze! The main passage led us down some sandy slopes (nice on the knees) to a sump. A side passage led us to some quite nice decoration including an unusual area that Eric thought looked like desiccated dog turds.**

**That evening in a moment of madness, Clare, Eric, myself and Mavis decided to have a**

look at "Haile Selassie", described by Heiko as the anus of a leech. In spite of this forewarning, or maybe because of it we persevered even after Mavis attacked all of the party and played havoc with our gear. There is a 10 metre pitch at the entrance to the cave leading into a fairly small, partially unstable chamber with some nice decoration, including a miniature palace. Only Eric ventured on a climb-down to a further 2 similar sized chambers. After exiting this cave we raced home to an already cooked dinner - Thanks guys.

On Friday, all except Clare, Chris and Ariel went to "Genghis Khan" , a dry cave that is basically one large viewing chamber full of some rather lengthy straws and some impressive flowstone, or was it a giant octopus. After a little trouble initially trying to work out where to tread, we passed down the chamber into a rift passage where the walls were covered with excellent aragonite formation.

Saturdays cave visitation were the reverse order of Thursdays effort, except for Paul who decided he didn't quite get enough photos last time and so went back to "Lynd's", or maybe he received inside information about the mud.

"Croesus" cave was on the agenda for Sunday (supposedly the day of rest!) except for Clare who knew from experience how cold it was and decided to visit Marakoopa with some local cavers, and Chris and Ariel who opted for tinkering with a bathtub that smoked too much.

After an epic trek through once again leech infested rainforest (yes we missed the path) we reached the wet beginning to what was to be a wet cave. We followed the stream up through a winding tunnel and along large passages, walking on rimstone nearly the whole way. Sections of the cave consist of fairly deep water, at which point Eric was employed as our depth gauge. He was sent on ahead and even when out of sight he was still an effective measure, as the pitch and intensity of his squeals gave us an accurate indication of water depth. A good idea in this cave is to try and keep a jumper dry for use after the deep water section, as the icy water does seep into the bones! It is a fairly long cave with wondrous decoration in abundance. We reached The Golden Staircase (a majestic sight) at which point it was time to jump in the dinghy and float across the deep clear waters to the last section of the cave. All in all a magical experience although I still think that pool ponies would be the go.

We spent Monday sleeping in, washing , shopping, drinking copious cups of tea, eating raspberries and generally avoiding anything that resembled a cave. But an insidious thing was lurking in the background which in our blissfully ignorant state we failed to recognise until it was too late, yes hut disease was descending upon us all.

After a rather leisurely start to the morning the group set off to tackle three caves. Alas due to our slight geographical displacement and the remnants of hut disease we only managed to see one -"Diamond" cave. The entrance required belly shuffling down a fairly narrow tube and then a mad scramble in every direction to see the sights. A fairly small, dry cave with some good but worn out decoration .

Wednesday was the day we had been waiting for, the day we did "Kubla Khan", and what a brilliant adventure- one that lasted 12 hours! Such a magnificent cave. Chris, Clare, Heiko, Marie, Eric and myself set off reasonably early (by FUSS standards) on

our designated tasks. Alas, all was not going to run smoothly, the first hurdle being a rusty padlock in the gate, a slight hitch to our plans. However, enough cursing on our parts and some clever manoeuvring (brute force) on Heiko's part set this right. After squeezing through a relatively small, awkward opening we abseiled down a .... metre pitch comprised of some lovely flowstone. This was followed straight away by the second .... metre pitch. In the aptly named "Waiting Room" we discovered the down side to a cordalette system, yes Clare had to ascend and rearrange the knot. Moving on we crossed the "Hairy Traverse" which involved edging around a rock face by means of some good handholds but not so good footholds, and then down into the "Opium Den" which contained some really wild aragonite crystals. On and on we walked past enormous mind blowing formations of an amazing array of colours, scrubbing our boots at every turn. We viewed the dazzling sights the silk shop had to offer (when we found it), marched through the "Forbidden City" and eventually on to the "Khan" (a huge stalagmite), our lunch stop. Rejuvenated, we pushed on until we reached ... traverse at which point all except Eric and Heiko opted to abseil down. Next we arrived at Sally's folly where without a handline (in the case of Eric and Heiko) the recommended technique is to slide uncontrolled down an inclined plane (with a drop at the end), and stop at the lip by bracing feet on the opposite wall! Followed by an awkward climb-down. The rest of us used the handline although Clare did try to amputate her wrist. On we walked, climbed, scrubbed, feasting our eyes on the glorious sights surrounding us. After our next abseil (which included trying to reason with the rope on why it should stay on the right) we were at last at the river. After a quick stop at "The Pleasure Dome" which was indeed most pleasurable, we waded and swam our way to a final treacherous climb up (climb for Eric, SRT for the rest) at which point we reached a massive mud pile that went up and up forever (luckily steps had been installed). And then ... the final ascent up, 6 hours overdue! Paul and Deb who had spent their day discovering the joys of being clean, devouring devonshire teas and sightseeing were at this stage thinking rescue thoughts, luckily they heard our voices in time.

Thursday afternoon, by which time we were finally moving again; Paul, Deb, Marie, Clare, Eric and I looked at Marakooa, a tourist cave. The cave is lovely although formations had been moulded to fit the paths, lights, etc- a pity- but the glowworms were good. At the end of the path we jumped the path and explored some of the nether-regions of the cave. A climb down ( at which point I had to be coaxed down) took us out to some lovely formations, and a not so lovely building site for a water tank to be used to keep the tourist rimpools full. A nasty smell was lurking near this site, encouraging us to hurry on our way.

On Friday, our final day, all but Clare visited "Baldock's" cave with the best dressed award going to Heiko. An old tourist cave, it was a bit trashed but would have been beautiful in its day. Decoration was in abundance with much of it resembling a miniature kingdom. By this stage however most of us were a little caved out, our eyes having feasted on too many wondrous splendours, so the thought of muddy crawls and climbs to see one lovely heligite proved to be too much for all except Chris and Deb. Besides, Heiko didn't want to get his outfit dirty.

And so the end of our adventures. Saturday was a day of packing and cleaning and the hut was ceremoniously handed back once more to the possums. Definitely a trip to go on if you get the chance!

# TROG DELIGHTS

**New Caves Chronicles.**  
**Newsletter of the Newcastle**  
**and Hunter Valley**  
**Speleological Society.**  
**Vol. 6. January. 1996.**

This issue contains a number of trip reports to Bendethera, Walli, Cliefden and Wellington Caves and write ups of two accidents.

The first accident was during a canyoning trip that resulted in the rescue of one of the party due to snake bite. The person who was bitten had no idea that she had been, (three sets of puncture bites were found on her legs), the report states this could be due to the fact that one tended to be regularly scratched on the legs and arms by the prickly vegetation. She complained that she felt dizzy and sick at around 12.30 pm and by 12.45 she was unconscious. The subsequent rescue took six hours to get her, on a stretcher made of poles, ropes, harness webbing and wet suits, through 1.5 km of thick scrub and up cliff faces to a waiting ambulance. A helicopter could not be used due to rain and thick mist.

Between the time she complained of being sick and loosing consciousness the group with her asked her some important questions such as: "What is your blood group", "Are you allergic to anything", "Did anything bite you"? On finding the bites on her leg they suspected snake bite and bandaged the legs in case the bites were.

Once in hospital it was determined that she had been bitten by a Tiger snake, was given anti venene and was conscious 20 minutes later. She currently has no feeling below the bite and some nerve damage in her lower leg. Doctors think that some feeling may return in time.

The second accident occurred in the snow, when one of the members of the party on a cross country ski trip, broke their Tibia and Fibula. It took the group 3 hours to cover 2kms out of 7kms, hauling a stretcher made of

skis. The group did not reach a shelter before night fall, but with the help of other skiers, camped in tents and a snow cave with the injured person. A helicopter winched out the patient the following morning. The leg was splinted using expanded aluminium gauze lined with 3 mm high density foam.

**Speleo Spiel. Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. No. 292.**

An issue in which very little caving seems to have occurred and the cover has a photo of a cave diver on it. What is going on here?

The Tasmanian Outdoor Leadership Council has started to offer, Core Leadership Skills, Instructional Skills, River Crossing, and Weather Interpretations courses. All costing \$\$\$\$ depending on the length of the course. Mmmmm!

A report of a trip to Kubla Khan "for the photos" and a report of a let's go and have a look at Mt Anne karst walk that really ended in walking to nowhere in particular and back again the following day through what could only be described as a swamp! Another couple of days spent looking for old holes with the locals which was great for reminiscing but not much caving was done!

**Speleo Spiel. Newsletter of the Tasmanian Caverneering Club. No. 293.**

The Editorial tries to put the ASF's Cave Leadership Accreditation into some sort of perspective for cavers. This perspective ranges from having no effect if you just want to go caving, to if you are to lead a group of novices, scouts, or a school group you will now have to be accredited. At present anybody can be employed to take a group of people caving with no skills at all.

A copy of the article re-printed in FUSSI's last issue on Kylea and her

bug collecting activities at Naracoorte. Seems that the article was printed in a national education newsletter as well as the Flinders Journal where it first appeared. Things get around!

Stefan Eberhard goes diving in Scotts Rising, the source of the Mole Creek town water supply. By the sound of it he is not overly impressed by the fissure jammed with timber, silt, rotten rock and zero visibility. He spent about twenty minutes diving, returning to the surface to be asked by a passer by if he could collect some spring water from the stream he was just in. He did so, but Stephan would not have drunk it for the world, knowing of all the cow shit that goes into the system.

**Nargan. Newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association. Vol. 28. No. 7. February. 1996.**

Rather than attend the hot air ASF Vulcon Conference, the "young turks" of the VSA trundled off to Tasi and ended up in Growling Swallet [JF36], Cauldron Pot [JF2], Dwarrowdelf [JF14], Tasi Pot [JF223] and Midnight Hole [IB11]. This was to lead to one of them becoming 'demented' whilst attempting to dig his way through a drafting rockpile, (it must go!), whilst the other "senile" member of the party decided that they were in the wrong cave. They would have been better off at Vulcon. Anyway the demented one was sorted out by the senile one and they retraced their tracks to find the right cave (Dwarrowdelf), a day later.

They kept up this type of confused activity in Dwarrowdelf by missing the bolts placed for rigging from. This resulted in strange physical contortions that cavers are well known for when they are sure 'that this is the way on' despite the fact the crawl is 6" wide and has the long lost Bunyip howling from the end of it! Despite all of this the group did manage to sort out some problems with the surveyed length of some of the pitches. This



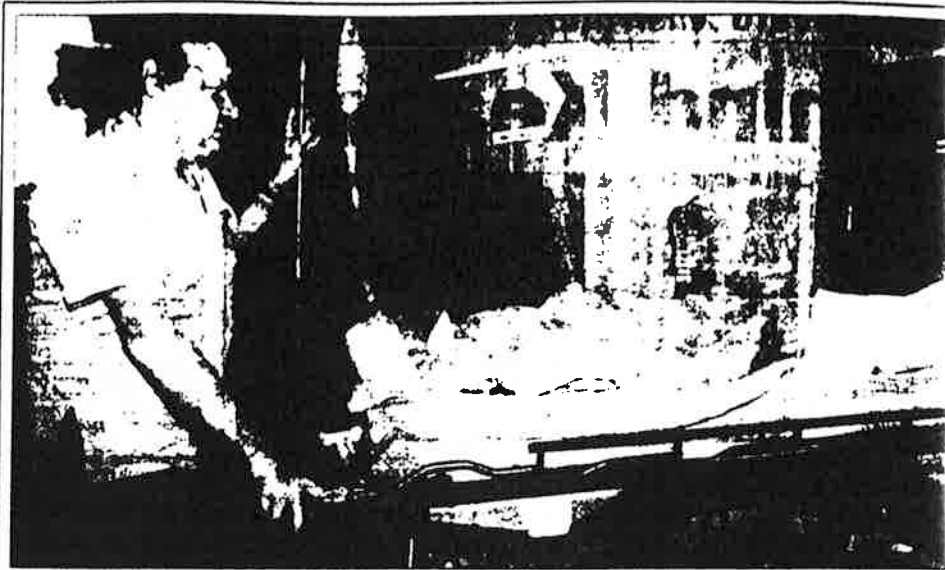
## TROG DELIGHTS

trip sounds like the classic mainlanders' trip to Tasmania. Always find the wrong cave entrance - wasting half a day in doing so, never quite sure if you have enough rope, and suffer from mild hypo whilst waiting for somebody to rig, or exit a pitch.

An analysis of how helmets are meant to work and what a person should look for when buying one: standards set by industry, types of shock absorption, types of testing for shock absorption and penetration and how to fit your helmet so that it stays on one's head at all times.

Report on the rescue in Hades Cave in which a school student fell down part of a 15m pitch. See press clippings in this issue FUSSI. The report tells what really happened. It makes for informative reading: lack of detail in the initial call out, a one and a half hour time lapse before the Police Search and Rescue squad and members of the VSA in Melbourne were notified; the importance of an on the ground CRG which dealt with immediate first aid, escorted the uninjured members of the party out to safety and started to move the injured up to the bottom of the first pitch; the time taken to get the person out of the cave and the importance of having lots of people above ground supporting the below ground efforts. A top report. Only issue is how the media got to know of the accident and where able to report what they did. See following pages.

Mavis.



Back on earth: Jason Lau in hospital after his dramatic rescue from Hades cave. Picture: IAN STEVENSON

# Miracle thanks for cave rescue

By LAINE BARNES

THE parents of a Melbourne teenager saved from deep inside an East Gippsland cave yesterday thanked God for guiding rescue workers to their son.

Eighteen-year-old Jason Lau was enjoying an end-of-VCE camping adventure on Tuesday when he fell eight metres down a shaft in Hades Cave at Buchan.

The Donvale Christian College student suffered severe head injuries and was unable to move, prompting a massive rescue operation involving the CES, uniform police, ambulance and police search and rescue officers.

The 15-hour ordeal ended at 9.50am yesterday when the emergency team finally hauled him out.

Jason was rushed to hospital in Bairnsdale where he had surgery for cuts to his face and skull and a broken nose.

Parents James and Sarah Lau, who drove from Melbourne to be at their son's bedside, said they knew Jason was in good hands.

"I want to thank God for sending all the people to help Jason out of the cave - the police, ambulance and SES workers and everyone else involved," Mr Lau told the Herald Sun.

"I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart who worked through the night to help him.

"I knew he was in safe hands and I knew how bad the situation was with all the rain.

Rescue efforts were severely hampered by drenching rain which hit Gippsland on Tuesday night. Cascading water created an underground waterfall in the 50-metre cave. Rescue workers put sandbags around the mouth of the cave and dug a trench to stem the flow and pumps cleared the water.

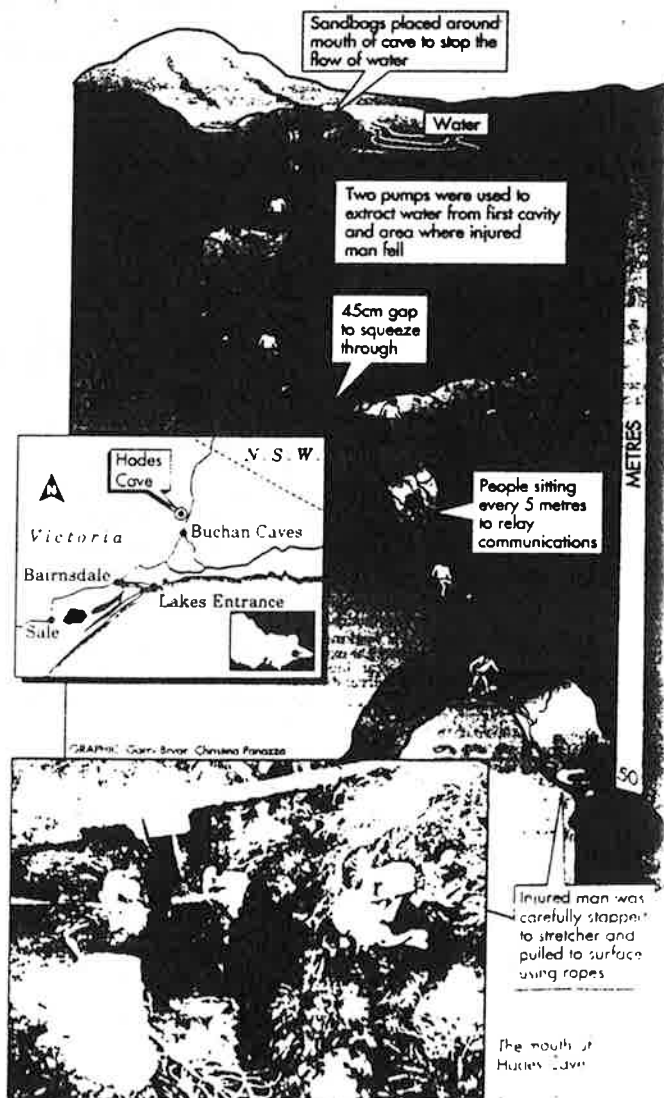
Ambulance and SES workers were at the scene within two hours of the accident on Tuesday afternoon but the rescue was delayed until a police search and rescue unit arrived from Melbourne about 2am yesterday.

Jason was strapped to a stretcher and pulled slowly up steep shafts, around sharp bends and at one stage squeezed through a loam gap.

With radio communications impossible, rescue workers were spared throughout the cave to relay messages.

Supt Bob Haldane of Bairnsdale police said Jason had been "very positive and in good spirits" throughout the rescue.

In Bairnsdale hospital chief executive officer John Amey said Jason was fit and well on morning of the rescue. With the weather forecast for the next 24 hours, it could have been an extremely bleak.



## TROG DELIGHTS

# Injured cave explorer freed after 16-hour rescue effort

By TIM WINKLER,  
police reporter

State Emergency Service volunteers rescued an 18-year-old cave explorer yesterday morning after he fell more than 10 metres to the bottom of a Gippsland cave.

The 14 volunteers, later joined by Victoria Police search and rescue crews, volunteers from the Victorian Speleological Society and ambulance officers, worked for 16 hours in Hades Cave, a sinkhole about 14 kilometres north-east of Buchan, to rescue Mr Jason Lau, from Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs.

Emergency workers constructed elaborate systems of underground ropes and ladders to carry Mr Lau more than 50 metres to the surface.

Mr Lau had received head injuries of unknown severity in his fall and heavy rain caused water to gush into the cave, complicating the rescue. Sandbags were placed around the

Continued: PAGE 2

Picture BILL MEADE



Jason Lau is brought to the surface after his underground ordeal.

## Injured cave explorer freed

cave entrance in an attempt to slow the water flow.

"The amount of rain that we've had last night and this morning and the water coming through the cave entrance made it very dangerous," one SES volunteer, Mr Chris Greenwood, said yesterday.

The accident is believed to have happened about 4.30pm on Tuesday when Mr Lau was climbing with four other cavers, believed to be members of a larger group of cave exploration enthusiasts.

Volunteers from the Bruthen and Buchan SES were alerted about 7.15pm and, after making their way to the sinkhole, 14 members spent the night moving cautiously into the slippery hole while the rest sandbagged the cave entrance.

Once they found Mr Lau, the underground team put in place ladders and pulleys then

### FROM PAGE ONE

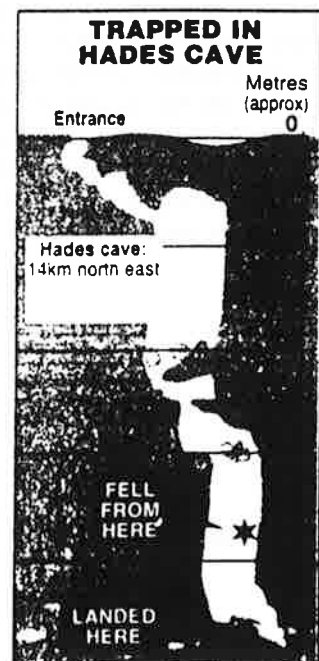
began the difficult task of transporting Mr Lau on a stretcher through the sometimes narrow passageways to the surface.

"It had to be done extremely carefully and extremely slowly," Mr Greenwood said.

About 9.25am yesterday, Mr Lau reached the surface and was transported to Bairnsdale Regional Health Service Hospital, where he was last night in a satisfactory and stable condition. A hospital spokesman said Mr Lau had a fractured nose and cuts to his face and head.

After the rescue, several SES volunteers were reported to be close to hypothermia by the time they reached the surface but all emerged unscathed.

Locals and police yesterday praised the rescue efforts.



p.2.