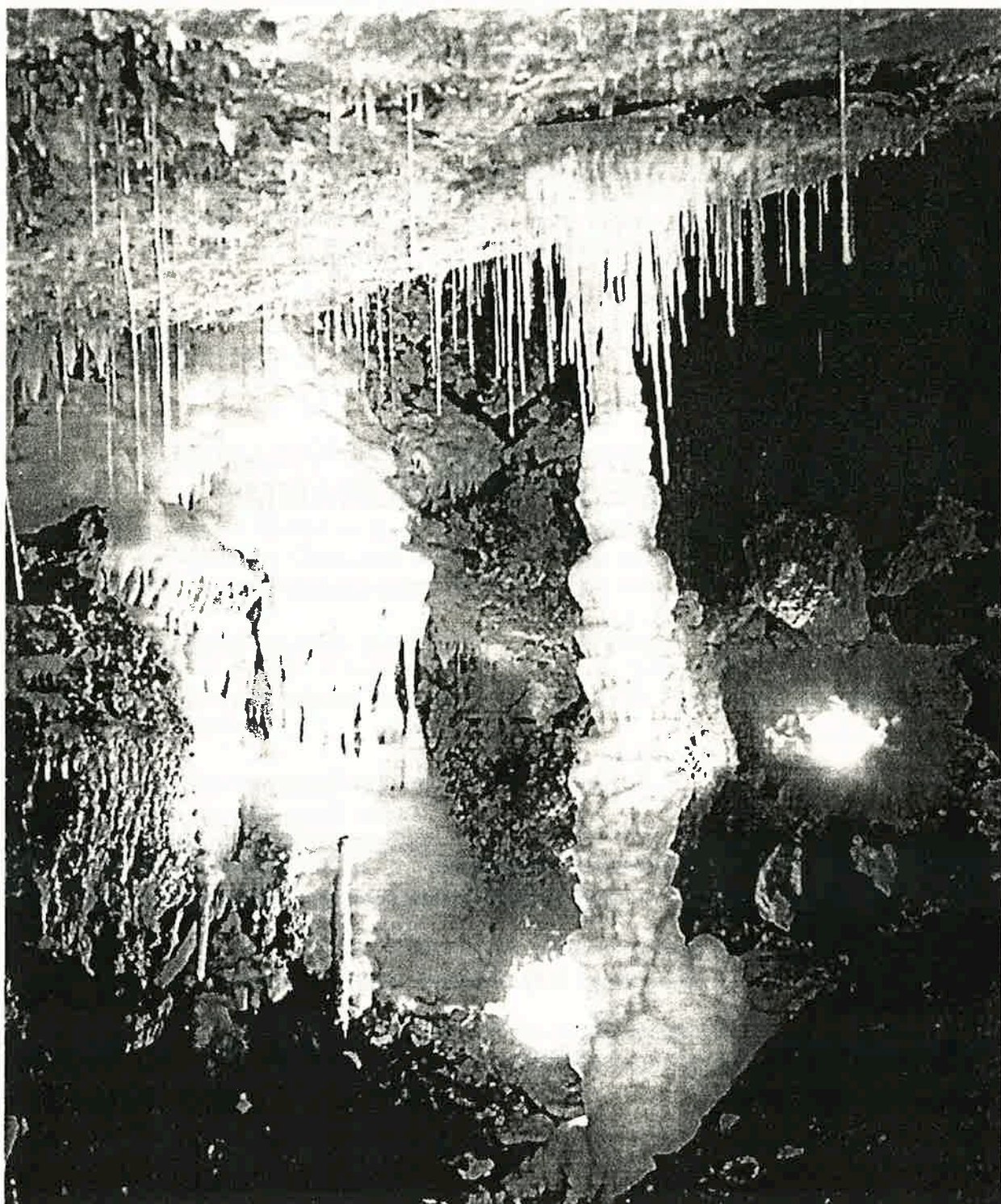


F U S S I

Vol. 9. No. 1. 1997



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

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FUSS meetings:

First Tuesday in the month.
At 6.30pm in the Kelly
Morris Rm. Plaza Level
Union Building.

P.S. A rumour has it that Mavis is moving
to Sydney

SAFETY OFFICERS REPORT 1996

The process of implementing ASF Leadership Accreditation confined to grind along at a state and club level. To this aim FUSS hosted three cross club training sessions at the University Foot bridge which were reasonable well attended by Cavex, CEGSA and FUSS members. This gave members a chance to see how the other clubs train in SRT and the techniques used.

Within the club, training took on a minimal level of activity due to lack of time on my behalf to organise things and also a lack of time and commitment by members to attend organised events. However, what caving trips did occur were held in a safe manner, apart from a leach wanting to see the sights of Balldocks cave in Tasmania attached to Kylea's eyeball.

The trip to the Mole Creek karst area gave many of us not only a great time, but a broader caving experience, requiring a thorough understanding of the need to prevent hyperthermia by keeping warm and dry, (very difficult to do in the likes of Croesus cave), efficient caving practice and competence in Single Rope Techniques. I must add the Mavis did attempt to undermine our efficiency by making sure that the lock on the gate to Kubla Khan was stuck for three quarters of an hour before we finally got it open. (But hey, that was all Mavis managed to do for two whole weeks!)

1996 saw a loss of skill level for the Society in that some of our more skilled and long term members, finished degrees and headed either interstate or overseas. This is a re-occurring problem for not only FUSS but for most university based Speleological Societies. The advent of the Leadership standards, although helping to stream line the training process, causes serious difficulties for FUSS if we loose our accredited leaders and instructors every 2-3 years. It is therefore important that all members of FUSS deepen and maintain their caving skills so as to be able to maintain the high competence and training levels that we have managed to build up. The need to have accredited leaders and instructor level trained members is critical as increasingly government legislation is requiring accreditation before permission is granted to enter caves on Crown land.

Put simply, if FUSS doesn't have any accredited leaders both horizontal and Vertical then FUSS limits its options on where it can cave as a club. So if you've been around for a while don't hang back, get in there and train and become a leader or and Instructor. After that, who knows, you could even take Brian Clarke job over!

Clare Buswell
Safety Officer for FUSS 1996.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPELEOLOGICAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT for 1996.

The South Australian Speleological Council has spent most of 1996 concerning itself with the Australian Speleological Federation's Conference held during Easter in Quorn of 1997. Final figures are not out yet but it is believed that the event will make a small profit.

Victoria Fossil Cave: the project is nearing completion for the third of the cave that is being mapped. Tracked marking is being carried out.

Cave Managment: A land owner liaison policy has been developed to help clubs get access to caves. A copy of this policy is available in the FUSS library.

GPS: (Globle Positioning System, tells you where you are via the use of satalites). Two GPS' have been purchased, as a result of work that the SASC did with Optus. One of the GPS' is on the Nullarbor with Max Meth, the other is held in Adelaide and is available to all clubs. The GPS can be picked up from Simon Kendrick at the Scout Shop in Rundle St. Any cave positions obtained during its use are to be given to the Speleo Council.

Caver Leadership Standards. These have nearly been finalised, we are awaiting the completion of the vertical standards.

The Report on Cave Crickets of Naracoorte: this report has been finalised and has been sent to the SASC and National Parks and Wildlife. The SASC copy will be held in the CEGSA library, with clubs able to obtain access, or borrow if desired. FUSS has a copy in its library.

The SASC Charter has been finalised and distrubuted to all member clubs.

Jonathon Walsh.

FUSS SASC Represenative and SASC Secretary 1996

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1996

Taking on this position resulted in increasing my stress levels to where I thought my health would be seriously affected. Little did I know, that my addiction to gear freaking, which after years of enforced poverty, lay dormant waiting to resurface in a most insidious and calculated manner. The very act of having to go and get the gear out for a trip would find me sorting through all the ropes, all the tapes and harnesses, all the karabiners, all the ascenders and all the descenders. I would vainly try and ignore any ladders!

So the year continued in this terrible and stressful manner. Then somebody said that I had to go and buy some more helmets and lights so as to be able to remain on track with the club's replacement policy. I saw no option but to seek immediate counselling. Off I went and spent many hours seeking professional advice from the Scout Shop's consultant set up to deal with these things. But alas, I felt that our relationship was light hearted and I needed a more head strong type, so I experienced a degree of solace at Mountain Designs. These counselling sessions over the year, managed I feel, to save the club a great deal of money, in that I only managed to purchase a rescue system. But, oh!, what a rescue system! It has ropes, pulleys and karabiners. I felt satiated, and my stress levels declined.

But then somebody said, "we've lost two helmets, has your club got then?" So once again I had to go back to the club gear. Alas, my stress levels rose, I got dust and aluminium on my hands searching through all our gear. I drove the office staff mad and the people who were trying to photocopy learner documents ran away when I had to take out our 30 odd helmets and lay them out on the floor and check every one of them for our name. But against all odds I found these two helmets and even managed to return them to their rightful owners, without substituting them for a couple of our older, totally bashed up and useless ones. Once again I had come through, I had kept control of my addiction and the club remained solvent.

Then a little whispering voice said "the job's not over until you have delivered the end of year report." I knew at that moment that I would never beat my illness. The following week was grave indeed. In an effort not to repeat the helmet episode, Clubs and Societies kindly gave me a room to myself, a key and walked away saying that they would see me when it was over.

This was my chance, I went through everything: silk screens, notice boards, chamios, ladders, creates, first aid kits, sleeping mats, carbide lights, harnesses. You name it, I pulled it out and looked at it! It was not until I got to the ropes that I knew that something was wrong. We had lost half a rope. It was the club's oldest and most fondly remembered rope, it had been on many trips with us and was now looking forward to a long period of retirement. I searched and thought about what had happened to it, had it been roped - napped, or did it remain locked in a cave somewhere? If it was the latter then it seemed a fitting end for it. But I do not know where it is. I last remembered it going off to a search and rescue weekend or was it O'Day.

How do I tell the members of this great and tragic loss? There was only one thing to do, seek immediate counselling. So I locked the door and off I went and bought those Petzel lights.

Clare Buswell
FUSS Equipment Officer 1996

P. S. A complete list of the club gear follows.

GEAR LIST 1996

Item	Quantity	Year Purchased	Comments
HELMETS			
Cassin	10	1990	
Petzel Vertical	2	1992	
Edelrid Ultralight	2	1994	
Bump	6	1989	
Hard hats	13	1978-83?	Retired
LIGHTS			
Petzel Zoom	4	2x93,1x94,1x95	
Dolfin Torches	2	1983?	
Carbide Miners	9	1978	
Lamp Clips (zoom)	4x4	2x1993,1x94,1x95	
ROPES			
Bluewater 2 Static	1	1989	Cut in two 1995
Now 1x25m			Retire.
1x20m	Missing	1996	LOST mid 96.
Bluewater 2 Plus	1x50m	1991	Brown tag
Bluewater 2 Plus	1 x50m	1992	Blue tag
Bluewater 2 Plus	1 x50m	1995	Red tag
Bluewater Static	10m.	1994	For drag Mat.
Dynamic	1	1978	Sold 1994. Except for a small length used for demonstration purposes.
Rope Protector (carpet)	10	1993	\$5.00
Rope Protector red	4	1993	\$10.00ea
Rope Protector green	2	1995	\$10.00ea
KARABINERS			
Screw Gate Stubai steel.	2	1989	
S/G Alum Alloy DMM Large D.	2	1991	
S/G Alum Alloy Stubai colored D	1	1990	
S/G Alum Alloy DMM Med D.	2	1992	
*S/G Alum Alloy Cassin	6	1994	1 Lost 1997 at O Week.
S/G Alum Alloy Bluewater D.	2	1992	
S/G Alum Alloy Kong D.	4	1995	
Snaps	5	1978	
Snaps on Cowstails and safeties	10	1994	
Maillon Rapides Alloy 10mm D.	2	1992	
Maillon Rapides Alloy 10mm D.	2	1994	
Maillon Rapides 6mm wide mouth	4	1993	
RESCUE PULLEYS			
Riley	1	1989	
CMI	3	1993	
Pulley Blocks	2	1996	
Pulley cord	6mx8mm	1996	
Prusik cords	3x 1/2m		
Prusik cords	1x1m		

GEAR LIST 1996

BELAY DEVICES

Stitch plate (Salewa)	1	1989
Stitch plate (Cassin)	1	1992

DECENDERS

Fig 8	1	1989
Whaletail	4	1989, 3x1992

ASCENDERS

Jumars	2	1979?
Expedition Petzel	2	1x92/1x94
Chest Ascender (croll)	4	1x92/1x95

TAPES

Brown 50mm x 5 meter	2	1993
Black 50mm x 5 metre	4	??
Black 50mm x 1.5 metre	2	??

Tube Tape blue 1" x 6m	1	1992
Tube Tape red 1" x 4 metre	2	???

Tube Tape red 1" x 3m	1	1993
Tube Tape purple 1" x 3m	3	1993
Tube Tape purple 1" x 4m	3	1995
Tube Tape purple 1" x 7m	1	1995

HARNESSES

Spelean Multifit	2	1994
Wayatt's Astro-Harness (red)	4	1994

HARNESS ACCESORYS

Cow's Tail's 9m dyanamic rope	4 sets	1994
Each set has: 1xMailon ea	4	2x94 2x95
2xSnaps ea	4	2x94 2x95

Safety 9m dyanamic rope	2	1994	
1set has: 2xSnaps	4	2x94/2x96	Snaps Kong (Green)

LADDERS

20 feet	1	1978
50 feet	1	1992
20 feet	1	1992
Traces 8 feet	2	1990/2
Wooden cable holder	1	1997

SURVEY

Compass Suunto	1	1992	
30m fiberglass tape	1	1996	Komelon

GEAR BAGS

Spelean gear bag large	1	1992
Backpack canvas small	1	1978
Blue carry bags	2	1987
SRT kit bags	4	1996

GEAR LIST 1996

CAMPING

25lt water Containers	4	1991
Foam Mattress	2	1992
Electric Lights camping	2	1976
Wooden spoons	2	1995

MISCELLANEOUS

Blue Tarp	1x6'x6'	1996
Plastic Crate (brown)	1	1987
Wooden Crate	1	1976
Leather Gloves	3 left hand	1990
Leather Gloves	4 right hand	1990
Bib and Brace overalls	1	1994
Plastic Oversuit	1	1994
Caver Impact kits	3	1991
Soccer Ball	1	1993

Carbide Rock	-kg	1990
Carbide Granules	20kg	1989
Carbide Light reflectors etc	10	1985

In Physics store

FUND RAISING AND ADVERTISING

FUSSI Banner	1	1989
Silk Screen	1	1989
Notice Board	1x4'x3'	1989
Plastic Buckets	2x4gal	1995
Chamois	4	1995
Signs: 'car wash'	2	1995

Cloth
With Club logo.

Car washing

FIRST AID KIT

	2	1x88/1x96
Drag mat	1	1989

Maintain at 50.00 per yr



Australian Speleological Federation Representative's Report 1996

Background:

The Australian Speleological Federation is the national body that represents the interests of cavers across the country. The Federation was founded in 1956, its members meet once a year and hold a conference every two years. FUSS is a corporate member of the ASF and over the years some members of FUSS have been on the ASF executive, edited its newsletter, Australian Caver, and generally stirred the pot so to speak.

It all began on a clear summery day at Quorn, home to the 21st Australian Speleological Federation conference.

As a person new to much of the history of the ASF I was feeling a little out of it when trying to make sense of the banter and positions taken by many of the more experienced ASF club representatives. Some of the positions appeared out of left field until the more ardent lobbyists gained voice. At times the floor of the conference had the feeling of a pit fight. There were a number of 'pit bull terrier' like behaviours, in that the position they took could not be shaken by reasoned argument no matter how well put.

Apart from my personal feelings there were some more important issues at hand. The ASF is a national body which is made up of caving clubs as corporate members and through the clubs, individual members. The major consideration to be initially addressed was what is the ASF, what is its' business, how can it do this business better, what do the member clubs wish to see the ASF do in the future, and the inevitable membership issue of: "what do we get for our money?"

Some of these issues were addressed by a SWOTN (strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats and needs) analysis of the ASF. To cut a long story a little shorter, the group exercise resulted in a reasonably common theme of a need for improved communication, a greater commitment by the office bearers (with less negative harping on shortcomings by the bystanders), accompanied by greater support by the average members. It became apparent that the future strength of the ASF will only come from a greater open support from the corporate clubs and the ongoing commitment from the individuals in the executive.

The conference itself, was not all speeches and positions, there were a number of papers given. Some involved a well articulated geological history of the Flinders Ranges and its morphology, this wonderful paper was backed up by an interesting bus trip through the Brachina Gorge, with commentary by a geological person, Ken Grimes, who was roped in for the occasion. At the end of the Gorge trip, we split up and went our separate ways to do some caving. Some went to Yellow Foot Rock Wallaby cave, Thunderdrum cave and others went to Orraparrina Cave.

On the whole the technical papers given, were both of a high standard and extremely informative. One in particular by Gary Smith on the measurement of CO² in caves was a multimedia event. His argument and resulting experiment attempted to quantify the effects of using burning material as an indicator of 'foul air'. I have the paper on the subject and it will be available for perusal from the FUSSI library.

On another of the organised caving trips during the conference I went with Athol Jackson (of coat hanger fame), Luke Netherton, Paul Merton, Don Glasco and others, (how my memory fades for names yet I can remember the cave location). We went to Eyre Cave, which we were told was perched close to the top of a cliff face on the top of a hill. As usual the location mapping left something to be desired. After scaling a huge mountain in the early noonday sun the only person

who had been there before decided after much scrabbling around the top and bottom of the cliff face that it was the other peak which was taller than the one we were on. So it was down to the bottom of the mountain and up the next. We started at about 11am and entered the cave at 2.20pm. For a detailed description of the cave wait for the trip report from Heiko as FUSS members went back out to the cave over the ANZAC long weekend. All I can say is that it is amazing views in a 360 degree all the way out to Andamooka.

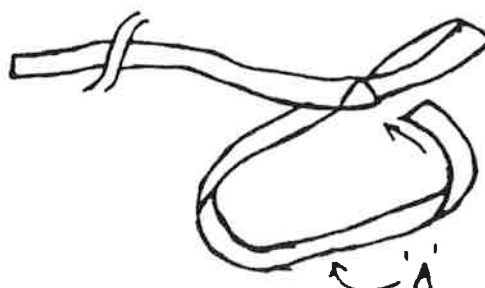
This was only some of the highlights of the conference which was efficiently run by the organising committee. The members of the committee came from all caving clubs in S. A. They were roundly congratulated for the efficiency and skill in presenting the 21st Conference. Another edition will follow with more discussion of the papers given.

Keven Cocks

FUSS ASF Representative 1996

(A) A very safe and simple improvised free style harness can be constructed from between 4 and 5 metres of 50mm rated tape.

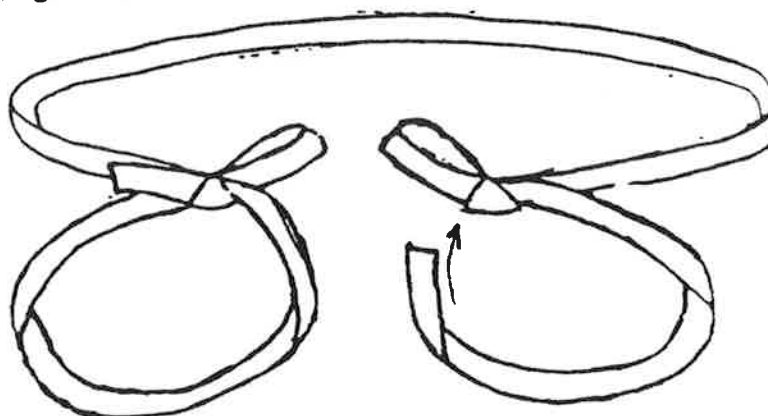
(B) As shown in Figure 1, a Tape Knot is tied on the bight to form a loop with a diameter of about 50mm. Sufficient tail should be left out of the knot to pass around the thigh, then feed completely back through the knot (in Tape Knot pattern) so as to lock off the leg loop. Once this action is completed, around 75mm of free tail should be left out of the knot.



Tape Knot

Figure 1

(C) Whilst in a sitting position, the remainder of the tape is taken around behind the body at mid-buttock level. A second thigh loop is formed, once again with a 75mm tail. Both of the 50mm loops should be positioned in front of the body, about 50mm apart, and just below belt buckle level. (Figure 2)



TIED HARNESS

So where did you go on the weekend?

Flinders Ranges ANZAC weekend. 97.

Members present: Heiko Maurer, Alan, Gaynor Bryant, Keven Cocks, Clare Buswell, Liam Dwyer, Kate ? and Glenys Crane.

Set alarm clock for 5.30 am. It duly went off. Got out of bed at 6.05am. Left Henley Beach at 7.20 (scheduled departure: 6.00) with Keven and Clare. Got to Hawker at 11.15 (scheduled arrival time of 11.00), passing the HiAce of Liam, Kate and Glenys at Quorn. Evaded speed trap just outside Quorn. Joined in Hawker by Alan and Gaynor at 11.45 in their combi.

Drove on to Willawillina Gorge car park and walked into the Gorge, looking for caves. I let them. Found a few holes (promising and pretty) and set up camp at sunset. Had a stir fry, chocolate and fruit for dessert and talkies till midnight (don't these people get tired?).

Saturday was spent finding Eyrie cave. Actually went straight for it, but spent some time changing the map grid on the GPS and then crossing a ravine to get there. Couldn't drive there so we had to walk 1.5km (as the budgie flies). The last little bit is STEEP. Arrived about 2 and had lunch. Good cave, magnificent views. Excellent walk. Drove into the setting sun on the way back to camp: where did that track go?

Cooked a great meal of spag bol for tea, accompanied by wine,

muscat and more talkies till midnight (don't these people EVER get tired?).

Woken by delightful flute playing from Kate welcoming the morning sun. Actually got away by 9.05 Sunday morning and drove south to Carrieton and Buckalowie Creek.

Took a wrong turn while Alan was leading - rather unfair on him, since it was his first time there and the map wasn't all that precise. There was a lot of dust and he couldn't tell that we'd stopped. He turned around when the next intersection (10km away) told him he was in the wrong place. When he caught up with us his engine was overheating due to a defunct fan belt. (Mavis) Fortunately he had a spare, tools and a manual (these geologists are well prepared) and we changed the belt without bother.

Drove onto Buckalowie Creek and Clare St. Dora cave. Spent about two hours in there. Checked out a few nooks and crannies which turned out to be pretty and Keven even found (planted) some new cave fauna. Alan's eyes glinted and a beatific smile crossed his face as he gazed on the calcite crystals. We had to restrain his geological passions!

Dusted ourselves down and left at 5pm for the drive back. Got the RAA out at Carrieton to get fuel for Liam. Got back by 10pm after pizza and coffee in Clare. Keven's MG hadn't been stolen, but the muffler was still noisy.

Trip was full of dust but totally lacking in rabbits. Nearly collected a kangaroo which skidded to a halt inches away from our front wheel.

Everyone had a good time. Keven was in a good (but sometimes quiet) mood. Liam stirred them up and Alan did disgusting things with rubber masks. Gaynor played the riding on the bus scene from Priscilla. Kate sparkled with Vegan good cheer. Glenys strung herself up in a tree and learnt some SRT and Clare insisted on checking out any little hole in the limestone.

I wish it could have gone on for another week, though the wash and sleep when we got home was very welcome. Mavis took revenge in the form of two punctured tyres on the way home. One on the Combi and the other as a slow leak on the Colt. As all the car problems occurred on the way home, we can only assume that Mavis missed her lift up there and stayed in Adelaide helping Richard move house, got sick of nicking his boxes and hitched a lift to join us. If this is correct, then Hitch hiking has become exceedingly hazardous!

See you all on the next trip.

Heiko Maurer.

TROG DELIGHTS

Mavis has been busy in the library recently. Those of us visiting the compactus have noted that our library has been tidied up and is almost in order! Gad!

Western Caver. Vol. 36. 1996. Journal of the Western Australian Speleological Group.

The front cover has a photo of a rather exhausted looking Rauleigh Webb exiting out of old River cave in WA. It all looks like just too much hard work for him. Anyway, the issue contains reports of the year's adventures of WASG.

Most interesting are some reports of the cave accidents that occurred in Bell Cave in the Cape Range National Park in 1994. The four persons involved in the accident used a 25mm rope with knots tied in it at 30cm intervals to help them with barefoot climbing. They had no protective gear. All entered the cave OK. The leader of the group exited with no difficulty. The second person up became fatigued and fearful. He lost his grip on the rope and fell 17m to his death. The leader of the group then went for help and a rescue ensued. The time taken for the rescue was five hours.

The analysis of the rescue notes that a shortage of experienced caving personnel limited the ability of rescuers to attend to the many things they had to do. In particular, the two in-cave people had to contend with the two very upset remaining members of the caving party as well as to take charge of the removal of the body from the cave. The rigging system gave no mechanical advantage at all, as it was a 1:1 system, further, the rope had to go through a tunnel and it appears that there were a number of rub points which were not eradicated. Transportation of the body was a problem, as

ambulances do not transport the dead. As a result the body was transported in the SES vehicle along with all the rescue gear. However, given all these problems the remaining two members of the party were hauled out of the cave without incident and taken to hospital. Moral to the story: go caving with a caving club and train using the right equipment.

The second accident reported involves a rock coming down the entrance pitch and striking a member of an ASF caving group. This resulted in the persons head being cut, dizziness and the helmet taking most of the impact. The group completed a self rescue after ascertaining that the injured member of the party was OK and could exit under his own steam. Moral to the story: **DON'T STAND AT THE BOTTOM OF ANY PITCH!**

The issue also contains a list of cave fauna found in caves in the Numbung National Park. The survey of fauna has occurred over a couple of years and the group has also recorded rainfall for the area but, it appears, not cave temperature. Most of the fauna listed are spiders (27), cockroaches (6), isopods (6), millipede (1), sap sucking insects (2) and the odd ant and termite. The survey covered 13 caves.

The issue then goes on to report on the numerous trips of the group for the year. A good read by the fire on a winters night if you want to go caving in the West.

Nargun. Newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association Inc. Vol. 29. No. 10. May 1997. 30th Anniversary Edition.

The long time editor of Nargun has done it again. This time with colour on the front cover, a first in Australian caving magazine production.

The issue contains reflections by its long term members (and some newbies) on 30 years of VSA.

In many ways this reflection shows the development of caving gear, diving techniques, caving documentation as well as telling the stories of VSA members. We learn for example, of the use made of yachting ropes before the caving rope was available: The problems of water proofing Oldam's miner lamps and trying to prevent acid spills from them:

Going diving without the use of buoyancy compensators and too much lead weight: This resulted in scraping along the bottom of a sump at 6-8 metres depth, silting up the area in a really bad way, going upwards by over inflating one's lungs then finning like hell, and of course over using one's air supply.

Surveying and documenting caves before computers were invented and or widely available: Peter Matthews, the Chair of the ASF's Commission on Cave Documentation writes"

"On 1972, a visiting caver from the USA talked Digital into lending the school where he worked a PDP-8E minicomputer. He showed me his very elementary BASIC programme for cave surveying. The computer had no disk. First you fed in a paper tape with the operating system on it, then you fed in a paper tape with BASIC on it, then you fed in your paper tape with the survey programme and the survey data on it at the same time as it printed the resulting co-ordinates on a roll of paper on a clacking 10 char/sec Teletype machine."

What more can one say, apart from the fact that we have come a long way in all these areas.

TROG DELIGHTS

Nargun. Newsletter of the Victorian Speleological Association Inc. Vol 29. No. 8. Feb 1997.

This issue contains some interesting reports on testing ropes that are old, i.e., manufactured in 1985, 1989 and 1995. Different manufacturer's ropes were used: an Australian manufactured Blue Water, a French Rivory Joanny rope and a German Edelrid, all static and one Edelrid dynamic rope manufactured in 1975? All ropes were short sections and were put to a fall factor one test.

The Bluewater and the French rope were set up with no knots and were subject to a load of 80kg. The blue water failed after 17 falls, but the rope showed signs of flattening on the 12th fall. The French rope underwent 20 falls without any discernible change. However, a second 80kg weight was added, and a knife was pressed lightly using "less pressure than that required to cut a sponge cake" onto the tensioned rope. This caused the rope to fail immediately. **Beware rub points when rigging in caves is the message here.**

The remaining two ropes were rigged with knots. The static as a cows tail with 'figure 8' knots at each end and the dynamic with 'figure 9' placed mid rope. The static was subjected to 15 falls and a little fusing of the sheath at the exit points of the knots was noted. The Dynamic rope was put through 22 falls and then stopped. It was noted that the core was found to have 5% of its strands broken at regular intervals of about 50mm along the section of core examined.

The other interesting thing about ropes is that they have a tracer strand or strands woven into their core as an aid to ID. The Blue

Water that was used was cut to find this tracer and sure enough there was; 'Blue Water Limited 1985' printed on a flat tape woven into the core strands.

On a lighter note some members of the VSA are now using the new "Limestone SPF 2,000+" sun screen, with excellent results!

Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association Journal. No. 26. March 1997

Robyn Mcbeath, recently from Naracoorte Caves, has gone and shown the world how things should be done. She is the person who put Keith Tritton's vision into reality and co-ordinated the development of "Cave Works" at Margaret River. This issue documents the development of the interpretation centre and its opening. (Talk to Marie Choi who has just come back from a trip to Margaret River to get the details.) Needless to say Caveworks is a first as a cave interpretation centre with displays, videos and tours to be experienced.

A profile on the newly appointed caves manager for Yarrangobilly caves. Ex-army, ex-expedition leader to the Antarctica for ANARE and ex-business manager has given Michael Carr the pre-requisites for the job. There was also something about mining in there too, but I doubt that it was anything to do with limestone as Bougainville Copper was mentioned. Let's hope that he likes what cavers do.

A report on the sad state of Mandelbrot Cave, which was re-discovered and gated in 1992. The cave, on government land, was placed out of bounds until a management plan had been drafted. In 1995 some VSA members walking in the area noted that the gate had been tampered with. They applied to gain access to check to see what impact and how far

the unauthorised entry had been.

What they discovered appalled them. The cave had been gated and placed out of bound because of its rare small snail type worms, its cave pearls, and its soil sediments. The cave pearls have either been trampled on and or stolen, the area where the worms had been has been completely trampled and no live worms could be seen. Speleothems had been destroyed. The report concludes that the reason for the gating of the cave now no longer exists and Victoria has lost, what was four years ago, a very valuable and pristine cave.

The editorial of the issue reports on the increasing pressures of management organisations such as National Parks and Wildlife Service to privatise and sell off publically owned assets. Buchan and Hastings caves are in the line of sale. Closer to home it appears that Brian Clarke is to build, not only a new visitors centre and entrance to Victoria Fossil cave at Naracoorte Caves but also a restaurant to seat 100 people. The recently built Bat Cave Televue Centre is being upgraded with extra cameras, and an interactive presentation on bats of Australia. This is apparently being undertaken jointly with Flinders University. (Ed note: this is more than likely the Biology Department.)

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Question: When will the age of economic rationalism end?

Answer: Only when you discover that you can't eat money